MESSY GRACE: **1 Cor wk 5 – You did what?**

**Churches are not programs, they’re people. And people are messy, and so churches are messy. Corinth was a messy place – in need of grace.**

**A church struggling w/ spiritual maturity – like some of us.**

**The flip side to unity. As family we are to be people of grace and unity – but there are times when we have to deal with the tough stuff.**

**Todays passage is very politically incorrect**

**It flies in the face of two western culture values**

**1. No one has the right to judge anyone else - How dare you, tell me I am wrong! And if you do you are a narrow minded & bigoted.**

**Usually taking out of context - quote Jesus said not to judge.**

**2. The right to privacy – What I do is between me and God - I have the right to do whatever I want in my life – it is not your business.**

**American right, but Biblically this is not a spiritual right**

**A passage is ignored, skipped, & misunderstood - 1 Corinthians 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: (Paul is about to deal with 2 big areas in the next chaps)**

**Two areas he addresses - Where we are to draw the line?**

**Hersey – Teaching that contradicts crystal-clear teaching of scripture.**

**Cults – groups that claim to be Christian that contradict the clear teaching of scripture (examples)**

**High handed sin- Someone who claims to be a Christian but repeatedly and blatantly disobeys what scripture clearly says and defends it. Sexual sin, habits, choices, character- those verses do not apply to me.**

**Both deal w/ a defiant contradiction of what the Bible clearly says**

**1 Cor 4:6 "Do not go beyond what is written (in scripture)." (is crystal clear)**

**Keep in mind today is not about those who struggle with a sin in an area of their life, this is about those to set up camp and accept it as part of their life.**

**Paul mentions a sick sin and strange response - 1 Corinthians 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: (Even the world says this is inappropriate) A man is sleeping with (ongoing relationship) his father’s wife. (shacked up w/ stepmom) 2 And you are proud! (Bible says this is a sin, Lev 18:8, Deut. 22:30, 27:20)**

**They were proud of their tolerant and progressive thinking. Remember their culture did not value sexual purity.**

**The Greeks would say: “Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of the body, but wives to bear us legitimate children.” Not only did they do it but think it’s no big deal.**

**This person was someone who claimed to be Christian but proudly ignored crystal clear scripture. Proud and defending it.**

**This is not a Christian struggling in an area, they set up camp.**

**Paul says it is time for some tough love…**

**Tough Love & Discipline (2 Thes 3:14-15, 1 Sam 3:13, Heb 12:11, Gal 6:1)**

1. **How a Christian lives matters!**

**This is the issue of the entire letter – if you are a Christian – what you do impacts you, impacts us – and impacts the world! (Luke 17:1-3)**

**Your soul – and body are the Lords, crafted for honorable works. How you use it – matters to God. Are you making excuses for what the Bible says is sin?**

**I love that Livingway is a “come as your” church… but when you meet Jesus, God begins to work in your life. We want you to learn how to walk in God’s plan, design – and blessing.**

**Referring to this person - 1 Cor 5:2… Shouldn’t you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? (wow - this is tough love)**

**Don’t be proud of it - ignore it – or hide it – deal with it.**

1. **We can’t ignore correction in the body of Christ**

**Heresy and high-handed sin must be addressed – It means addressing issues that are uncomfortable and difficult.**

**1 Cor 5:3 For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. (I’m not with you physically - but I am with you as your authority) As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. (“I have already passed judgment” – is he disobeying Jesus command - Matt 7:1-5)**

**Matthew 7:1 - Some things about this verse - Jesus says…**

**1. We will be judged the way we judge others (Matt 7:1-2)**

**Jesus is warning against hypocritical judging**

**2. We are to judge ourselves first (Ma 7:3-5, speck in own eye… then see)**

**3. We are to judge according to one’s actions and teachings (Ma 7:15-20)**

**4. We are to caringly confront others - (Ma 18:15-17) Life Teams this week.**

**5. We are to judge things the way God see things (John 7:24)**

**6. Paul challenges us to make spirit lead judgment calls on potentially dangers teachers, leaders, and so-called Christians (most of his letters)**

**Like he is here - 1 Cor 5:3: …I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this.**

**How can he “pass judgement” – he does not even know him. How? Well, the man did not deny it, the fact was well known, he is not responding to correction, and the scripture is clear about it. God has already spoken on the issue - it is a sin. Paul agrees w/ God.**

**If God says something is a sin and we think - well maybe it’s not… then we are saying God does not know what he is talking about. You make yourself greater than God. If God has already spoken on it and we say who am I to judge, we are in effect are saying – “who is God to judge?”**

**1 Cor 5:4 So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, (as your spiritual authority) and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, (Jesus is telling you) 5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. (this is not- here Satan possess him)**

1. **Sometimes tough love takes tough decisions**

**Sounds harsh but this is really loving… This is not hateful -**

**this is sending them to do what they want…**

**He says - V2 - “cast them out of the fellowship” and V5 “hand over to Satan”**

**Means = send them out from under the spiritual covering of the body of Christ – to live out in a culture that is driven and motivated by Satan**

**(umbrella) There is a spiritual emotional covering in the body.**

**If they want to live like you’re in Satan’s kingdom, go ahead!**

**(1 Thes 3:14-15, Luke 22:31-32, 1 John 5:19, John 17:15)**

**1 Cor 5:5 hand this man over to Satan (out from the covering) for the destruction of the flesh, (destroy = crush this fleshly behavior) so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.**

1. **The ultimate purpose of discipline is to restore a person**

**Caring confrontation and discipline are always about restoration and salvation – not spiritual destruction and punishment.**

**Sometimes someone has to hit bottom, before they can see up. Humbled and broken as the Spirit of God works on them.**

**But - we tend to be spiritual enablers excusing it into a form of acceptance**

**Two reasons God says to do this:**

* **To protect the body – our responsibility**

**I have had to ask people to leave – wolves / destructive people**

* **To restore the individual – our goal**

**We should never be motivated by anger or hate with someone.**

**Accountability is not about being a pious policeman – but being a caring family seeking to restore another family member.**

**It is never loving to overlook self-destructive behavior.**

**Paul is calling for a spiritual intervention. Either stop this – or you need to go. So you will be broken and come back to the Lord.**

**When churches ignore sin / assault / abuse / pedophiles – or try to secretly deal and hide it - they betray Jesus and the people they are called to lead and protect – and they betray the person committing it.**

**LIFE TEAMS - Discipline & accountability process Matt 18:17-20**

**1 Co 5:6 Your boasting (approval of sin) is not good. (look how cool, how loving we are – Paul says this is not loving – this is a cancer) Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?**

1. **When issues are ignored, they spread throughout the body**

**This little pack of Yeast can leaven something for generations**

**Sin in the camp is like yeast in the doe. Ignoring sin is dangerous and it’s contagious. (Joshua 7:1-12 (sin in the camp – Akan, 1 Cor 15:33)**

**When it goes unaddressed it spreads throughout the body**

**like an infection - does not take much to spread it.**

**1 Cor 5:7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch - as you really are. (yeast in Bible is a word picture for sin, referring to Exodus Passover meal - freedom for bondage) For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (Jesus is that meal lived out without sin (leaven) – given for our sin) 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

**Christ is the Passover lamb – we are the festival (party)**

**We are to live unleavened lives in purity and truth – by the HS.**

**Clearing Up Three Misunderstanding and Tough Love**

**1 Cor 5:9 I wrote to you in my letter (previous letter - this is not the first time he has had to deal with an issue like this with them) not to associate with sexually immoral people – (pornia) 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. (the only way to avoid the world is to leave it – die – or live in a hole in the ground)**

**It should be no surprise that the world acts like the world.**

**Paul then clarifies a major common misunderstanding**

* **We are called to infiltrate, not to isolate – from the world**

**(Matt 5:13-16, 1 Pet 2:9-12) – We are not to avoid the world!**

**Paul is not instructing them to avoid contact with unbelievers.**

**Surprisingly this is exactly what Christians try to do – we try to get as far away from non-Christians as possible – a holy huddle bubble**

**We are to be a light of hope in the world not hide from it!**

**This is our primary job – to live it out before others with love – inviting them to know the hope and grace of Jesus.**

**When we isolate from the world, we become just like the people Jesus condemned most, pharisees religious isolationist hypocrites**

**This not just about incest - 1 Cor 5:11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister (claims to be a Christian) but is sexually immoral (pornia) or greedy, (can’t get enough -dangerously selfish) an idolater (false idols – spiritual deception), or slanderer (reviler - violent abusive words or actions), a drunkard (will not address their drunkenness - dangerous) or swindler (violent theft – by force – dangerous).**

**The short list for tough love - people who are dangerous to others and themselves – if they do not respond...**

**5:11 … Do not even eat with such people. (What is the harm in a little meal?)**

**This had a diff weight for them as it does for us - In their culture eating with someone was an expression of partnership and unity. Don’t give the impression that you are in agreement with their choices – or that you support or approve - Facebook, Instagram.**

**BUT - 1 Cor 5:12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? (Christians unfortunately are busy judging those outside the church (God’s job) and then we neglect purity within the church.) Are you not to judge those inside? (yes) 13 God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”**

* **It is our place to judge Christians – not non-Christians**

**1 Corinthians 5:9-13, Matthew 5:14-16 & 9:10-13, 1 Peter 2:12, Luke 17:1-4**

**Stop judging non-Christians by Christian standards**

**Those without Jesus - are not called to live holy lives – but you are. No behavior change, can change the condition of their soul. (Mark 8:36)**

**Don’t step into God’s prerogative, it is not our place or role.**

**It does not mean that the world is not sinning – it is just that it is not our place to condemn them – God will deal with the sin.**

**Non-Christians – Don’t avoid them, don’t attack them, don’t condemn them – reach them**

**We can completely disagree with someone and still love them, you can accept someone, without accepting their lifestyle / sin**

**When dealing with correction (Matt 18)**

**The circle of discipline = the circle of relationship**

**Discipline should be dealt with at the level of the relationship.**

**For example: Leaders should be dealt with publicly – individuals should be dealt with privately. But we tend to turn that upside down – a leader falls it’s kept secret and dismissed quietly – but parade a family or a teen who got pregnant in front of everyone. That is a sinful miss.**

* **Judgment begins with the house of the Lord – with you**

**We tend to do everything we can to sperate ourselves from non-Christians and ignore blatant sins of so-called Christians. We become spiritual enablers…**

**The order of how we are to deal with sin: yourself, the body of Christ – and observe the world, knowing God will deal with them.**

**Take a look in the mirror (get the log out) If you belong to Jesus – live like it. Don’t take the name if your gonna profane!**

**This impacts you, impacts us – and impacts the world!**

**The golden thread in all of this today is – sin is a big deal in the unseen realm – at the heart of this is – what is your little yeast? It can negatively impact not just you – but others too.**