

# **The Letter of 1 Corinthians**

## ***Synopsis***

**Written by the Apostle Paul  
To the Church at Corinth, near Athens.**

- Chapter 1:** Division was apparent in the church.  
In His great wisdom, God chose ordinary, not extraordinary, people.
- Chapter 2:** God's wisdom is communicated to inspired men in words.
- Chapter 3:** Those inspired men are servants of God, not leaders of divisions.
- Chapter 4:** Paul was qualified by a broad range of experiences to represent God.
- Chapter 5:** Besides division, they had a problem with fornication. They must act now.

<p>Immorality worse than the pagans.</p> <p>It was defended by the church!</p> <p>And judged by Paul.</p> <p>You assemble . . .</p> <p>. . . and deliver this man over to Satan.</p>	<p><b>1 Corinthians 5</b></p> <p>1. It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.</p> <p>2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?</p> <p>3 Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present.</p> <p>4 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,</p> <p>5 hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.</p>	<p>Reported by Cloe's household? Such a reputation for a church.</p> <p>Incest with step-mother.</p> <p>"Diversity"</p> <p>So fellowship is not a "right." Christians were in a recognizable fellowship, not just visiting.</p> <p>We don't have to "understand" every kind of heinous sin.</p> <p>We are baptized in his name and we may assemble in his name. Jesus approves what the church does.</p> <p>He is formally removed from the church for his good.</p>
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<p>There is danger in doing nothing about it.</p> <p>It's Passover time. Get rid of the leaven.</p> <p>Celebrate with sincerity and truth.</p> <p>He told them before not to have immoral people in the church.</p>	<p>6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?</p> <p>7. Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.</p> <p>8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.</p> <p>9. I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people —</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The church must act to preserve its own members for modeling this sin.</p> <p>Bring what you are practicing into line with what the Lord has made you.</p> <p>☾ Jesus did without what He wanted.</p> <p>There is neither sincerity nor truth in the conduct of this offender.</p> <p><i>Association is different than fellowship.</i></p>
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<p>Avoid this list of wilful sinners.</p> <p>You are responsible for a clean church. God will handle the outsiders.</p>	<p>11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.</p> <p>12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?</p> <p>13 God will judge those outside. "EXPEL THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOU."</p>	<p>His word is God's Word.</p> <p>See word list, next page</p> <p>☾ The "Passover" or common meal?</p> <p>MYOB</p> <p>Deuteronomy 17:7</p>
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MATTERS OF CONDUCT			
The Body Agrees	Opinions differ on what the Scripture says.	Admonishing to proper conduct	Determinedly contrary to stated Scripture
MATTERS OF BELIEF			
All agree	Various views (tolerance)		False Teachers

**Word list:**

**Immoral:** Sexual violators including adulterers and homosexuals.

**Covetous:** Eager to have what belongs to others. Greedy of gain.

**Idolater:** One who worships idols, a Corinthian problem.

**Reviler:** One that abuses verbally.

**Drunkard:** One that becomes intoxicated.

**Swindler:** One that pillages, plunders, rabs, carries off.

**5:7** **A** Burmese Christian tells the following parable: A little banyan seed said to a palm tree one day, "I am weary of being tossed about by the wind; let me lodge in your branches." "Remain as long as you like," was the reply. Soon the tree forgot all about its tiny guest, but the seed did not remain idle. Immediately it began to work its roots under the bark and into the heart of the trunk itself. Finally the tree cried out, "What are you doing?" "I'm only the little seed you allowed to rest among your boughs," came the reply. "Get out!" exclaimed the palm. "You've become too large and strong!" "I cannot leave you now," said the banyan. "We have grown together, and I would kill you if I tore myself away." The tree tried desperately to shake itself loose, but to no avail. Eventually its graceful leaves turned brown, and its trunk wasted away; but the banyan continued to thrive until its host could no longer be found.

Yes, a little seed can develop into a parasitic plant and do great damage. In like manner, a tiny sin that is not confessed and forsaken can grow into an overpowering habit that chokes a Christian's spiritual vitality and ruins his life.

**5:11** Marian Guinn's soul was the issue, church leaders say, when elders of the Collinsville Church of Christ denounced her for adultery before the congregation and forbade 120 members to associate with her. But privacy will be the issue tomorrow when Marian Guinn's lawsuit against the elders goes to trial in state district court. She is seeking \$1.3 million, alleging invasion of privacy and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Ms. Guinn, 36, is a nurse and divorced mother of four children. Her suit says that in October, 1981, three elders publicly denounced her for "the sin of fornication" and ordered church members to avoid her.

In depositions and pretrial hearings, Ms. Guinn has acknowledged her relationship with Pat Sharp, a former mayor of Collinsville. "It doesn't matter if she was fornicating up and down the street," her lawyer, Thomas Frasier said. "It doesn't give the church the right to stick their noses in."

But Truman Rucker, Jr., attorney for the church leaders, said the ban was an internal church matter. "Withdrawal of fellowship was an action of discipline within the Church of Christ," he said.