



Part 3: *Becoming Who You Are*

INTRODUCTION – When Does Your Sin Become Mine?

Matthew 18:15-17

The Language of Intervention...

- “excommunication” (Catholics)
- “the ban” (Anabaptists)
- “shunning” (Amish)
- “church discipline” (Evangelicals)

DINE IN – Dealing Biblically With a Yeast Infection

1 Corinthians 5

Also see **Matthew 7:1-5; 18:15-17; Romans 16:17-19; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 1 Timothy 5:19-20; Titus 3:10**

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TEXT...

1. The issues seem to be three-fold: the extremity of the sin, the ongoing lack of repentance, and the community's lack of concern. In fact, Paul is ultimately more concerned by the community's lack of concern for each other than he is with the one man's sin.
2. God is king over all things, including Satan's realm and activity. He can use evil, Satan, and suffering to help accomplish his will for us (see **1 Timothy 1:19-20**).
3. Church discipline is never meant to be punitive but restorative; not a way of writing off an individual, but a multi-staged process of attempted rescue and restoration. (Also see **2 Thessalonians 3:14-15**.)
4. Even when sinning and even when Paul is calling the Corinthian Christians to purity, he works from the understanding that in some way they already are pure, untainted, “unleavened”.

ISSUES OF APPLICATION...

- How do we help Western Christ-followers today catch a vision for the sense of family, of mutual accountability, that the early church experienced?
- What size or context of “church” (gathering of believers) is church discipline best practiced? Sundays? Home Church? Other?
- How do we discern between ongoing sin with which people struggle (e.g., alcoholism and other addictions) and willful, unrepentant sin to which people cling?
- How can ‘the ban’ be practiced effectively today when someone confronted by the community can simply leave and go to another church?
- How can church discipline be used to facilitate inside-out change rather than just outside-in legalism?
- Beyond the judgment mentioned in this passage, how should our relationships with Christians and non-Christians be different? The same?

TAKE OUT – I’ll Have That to Go Please

Be who you are. When we give up a particular sin, repent of falsehood, and pursue Christ-like living, we are not trying to become someone new, but allowing ourselves to be who we are. We have already become new people through the rebirth of the Holy Spirit (**1 Peter 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**, etc). That is grace. When we join in this struggle to be who we are, we can experience the power of the Holy Spirit in us and in our Christian friends, and our own spirit, working together within us and through us. That too, is grace.

James 5:16

CONCLUSION – Let’s Clean House

- BEDROOM – Your most intimate relationships.
- BATHROOM – Where we spend our time in front of the mirror.
- KITCHEN – Where we do our chores and serve our family (or not).
- DINING ROOM – Where we eat and drink well, or not so well.
- ENTERTAINMENT ROOM – Where we waste time or nourish our souls with TV, computer, and stereo.
- GARAGE – Where we tinker on our cars and other “toys” and hobbies.
- LIVING ROOM – Where we practice hospitality (or not).
- OFFICE (or other work place) – Where and how you make money.
- PHONE – It isn’t a room, but for some of us, it’s where we live.
- OTHER – What area of your life is God convicting you about?

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Timothy Keller wrote: *“The gospel is not just the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom, but the way we make all progress in the kingdom. ... It is the solution to each problem, the key to each closed door, the power through every barrier.”* Quick review: In your own words, what is “the gospel”?
2. Talk about the “Issues of Application” in your notes.

Look to the Book...

3. Read **1 Corinthians 5**, in a couple different translations if possible. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) What is the role of genuine sorrow about sin in the life of a Christ-follower? (Also see **2 Corinthians 7:9-10**.) c) In what ways have you experienced or witnessed how sin spreads like leaven within your life personally or the church in general? d) Explain how Paul can instruct his readers to clean out their leaven and then tell them that they are already unleavened. e) Brainstorm: In what ways is Jesus our “Passover Lamb”? f) Paul points out some of the differences of how we should relate to Christians and non-Christians. What are some other ways we should relate to each group differently?

So What?...

4. Take time to do the house cleaning exercise described on Sunday. Expand on the list of rooms, however best fits your circumstance. Begin with prayer, asking God to show you areas of your life that need change. Invite his Spirit to fill you and guide you. Then walk through the house of your life, looking courageously at what perhaps up until now you have been avoiding. Identify and name each sin that needs to be removed. Then, a) talk with others about what sin you are repenting of, b) discuss a plan to make the necessary changes you need to follow through, and c) pray for each other, that you may be healed.

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