

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

January 8th, 2023

Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

Delivered through Discipline (1 Corinthians 5:1-13)

1. What kind of community practices discipline?

2. Why is discipline crucial?

3. How can we discipline with care?

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper:

2. What sin is being committed within the Corinthian church (v. 1)? How are the Corinthians responding to this situation (v. 2; see also v. 6)? Why is Paul so upset about this situation? What is his solution (see verses 2, 5, 7, 13)? Paul tells the Corinthians not to "*associate*" with this man (or other professing Christians who persist in sin). What might this mean (verse 11; compare 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15)?
3. Paul tells the Corinthians to hand the sexually immoral man, "*over to Satan*" (v. 5). What does this entail (compare 1 Timothy 1:20)? What is the hoped-for result of this action (v. 5)? In what sense will this man's "*flesh*" be destroyed (v. 5)? What does this verse teach us about God's purposes church discipline? How should this impact our motives when correcting other believers?
4. Read vv. 6-8. What Old Testament events does Paul refer to here (see Exodus 12:15-16; 13:7)? How does he connect the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the practice of church discipline? How does the image of leaven help us understand the threat of persistent sin to the body of Christ? Why does our new identity in Christ require us to practice church discipline?
5. Read verses 9-13. Who *aren't* the Corinthians responsible to judge? Who *are* they responsible to judge? How do we reconcile these statements with what Paul said previously (1 Corinthians 4:3-5) and with Jesus' words in Matthew 7:1-2? What kind of judging is prohibited? What kind is necessary?

Application:

6. Jeff said that discipline only make sense in a community that is visible, aligned, and accountable. How might this change our understanding of the church? How does it change our understanding of what it means to be part of the church?
7. Jeff offered a number of biblical principles for restoring people caught in sin (Galatians 6:1-2). Which of these stood out to you? Why?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?