

Scandal in the Church

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 5:1-13.
- B. Sexual immorality is an increasing problem in the church.

II. The Corinthians faced the problem of incest.

- A. The Corinthians were boasting in their tolerance of this condition.
- B. The true attitude of the church ought to be grief.
- C. Steps to take when immorality is present.
 - 1. There must be a right attitude of mourning and grief.
 - 2. There must be a right basis of discipline. There are certain things that the Word of God has already judged.
 - a. We are to tell a person what they are doing and if they listen, that is the end of the issue.
 - b. If the transgressor will not hear a person, the issue must go public.
 - c. If he will not hear the church, the church is to change its attitude toward him--he is to be treated as a nonbeliever. (Matthew 18)
 - 3. There must be a right action taken--the transgressor is to be delivered unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh.
 - a. The church is to think of the person as under the domain of Satan.
 - b. He is to be treated as an unbeliever.
 - c. The church is to act regardless of the threat because it is by the power of Jesus.
 - d. The individual is not necessarily to be ejected, only treated differently.
 - e. No punishment is ever assessed.
 - 4. All discipline ceases when the person repents.
- D. Reasons the church must take action.
 - 1. A little evil in the church affects the whole church--the infection spreads.

2. Judgment makes present the demonstration of reality.

3. Judgment allows for the celebration of Christian liberty.

E. The church is only to judge those within, not outsiders. They are to reach out to outsiders.

F. The church is to judge itself on a clear-cut basis.

Application questions:

1. What is the process in which a believer in sin should be addressed by a member of the church?

2. What does it mean to treat someone as a non-believer and under the domain of Satan?

3. When have you seen church discipline exercised? Did they exercise discipline in accordance with the Scripture? Explain.
