

The Great Omission (Part 2)

(1 Corinthians 5:1-13)

Introduction: 1. As a follow-up on this morning's lesson on "The Great Omission," or "Church Discipline," tonight's lesson is intended to explore a few questions and observations people frequently make.

I. A Review of 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

- A. The Cause - Persistent Sin (1 Cor. 5:1-2).
- B. The Action - Public Awareness & Withdrawal (1 Corinthians 5:4-5, 9-11).
- C. The Purpose - Save and Protect Souls (1 Corinthians 5:5-8).

II. Questions Asked About Church Discipline

- A. Some assert that it doesn't work.
 - 1. I deny that assertion.
 - 2. In fact, I would affirm that it works every time it is properly practiced.
 - 3. Remember, the aim is not just the restoration of the sinner, but also a protection of the church from the leaven of sin (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).
 - 4. Dare we pit our wisdom against God's (1 Corinthians 1:27-28).
- B. Some say it doesn't seem to be very loving.
 - 1. It's only an acknowledgment of what the sinner has already publicly affirmed.
 - 2. What wouldn't be very loving is to misrepresent another person.
- C. Since we're all sinners, who are we to discipline another?
 - 1. Paul said he was the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), yet he is the one commanding discipline to be administered.
 - 2. The difference is in stumbling and persisting in sin (1 Corinthians 5:1).
 - 3. Is it our place to judge (Matthew 7:1-5)?
- D. Shouldn't we let God take care of discipline?
 - 1. (Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43).
 - 2. The field is the "world," not the "church" in this parable.
- E. How are we supposed to treat a person who has been disciplined.
 - 1. Purge out (1 Cor. 5:13); do not associate with them (1 Cor. 5:11); do not even eat with them (1 Cor. 5:11); withdraw from (2 Thess. 3:6); have nothing to do with him (2 Thess. 3:14).
 - 2. However, on the flip side we are to do the following in a way that is consistent with the above regulations – Don't treat him as an enemy but warn/admonish him as a brother (2 Thess. 3:15).
- F. How do we treat the person who repents?
 - 1. (2 Corinthians 2:7-8).
 - 2. Forgive, Comfort, and Reaffirm your love.

Conclusion: 1. Again, If we are serious about being disciples of Christ and restoring New Testament Christianity, we must be willing to do all that he asks us to do, even when it is difficult.