

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 5:1-5



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read **1 Corinthians 5:1–5** carefully several times. Pay attention to what Paul says about the sin in the church, the church’s response, and the judgment he gives.

Observation Prompts:

- What sin is being reported?
 - How does Paul react to it?
 - How is the church responding?
 - What does Paul instruct them to do?
 - What’s the intended outcome?
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Read the passage and note what you see:

What kind of immorality is reported among the Corinthians? (v.1)

How does Paul describe the Corinthians’ response in verse 2?

What judgment does Paul say he has already made? (vv.3–4)

What does Paul command them to do with the offender? (v.5)

What is the ultimate goal of this discipline? (v.5)

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Paul is confronting a shocking case of immorality and the church's prideful tolerance of it. Instead of grieving and removing the sin, they were arrogant. Paul makes clear that discipline is not about cruelty but about **restoration and salvation** and about protecting the holiness of the church.

Questions to Explore:

Why is this particular sin so scandalous that even pagans don't tolerate it? (v.1)

Why does Paul condemn the church for being arrogant rather than mourning? (v.2)
What does this reveal about their attitude toward sin?

Why does Paul speak so firmly about judgment even though he isn't physically present? (vv.3–4)

What does it mean to “deliver this man to Satan”? (v.5)

How could this lead to repentance and salvation rather than destruction??

What does this passage teach about the seriousness of sin and the responsibility of the church?



Word Study Suggestions:

- **Sexual immorality (v.1):** Greek *porneia* — broad term for sexual sin, here describing incest.
- **Arrogant (v.2):** Greek *physioō* — puffed up, proud, inflated.
- **Deliver to Satan (v.5):** Remove from fellowship, exposing the sinner to the world's realm, outside God's protective covering in the church.
- **Spirit saved (v.5):** Refers to ultimate salvation — repentance leading to restoration on the day of the Lord.

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

This passage reminds us that unrepentant **sin must not be tolerated in the church**, and that loving discipline aims for **repentance, restoration, and holiness**.

Personal Reflection:

Do I take sin as seriously as Paul and God does, or am I tempted to tolerate it in myself or others?

Have I ever confused tolerance with grace? How does Paul help me see the difference?

Am I willing to receive correction from others in the church? Why or why not?

What would it look like for me to lovingly help restore a brother or sister caught in sin?

How does this passage point me back to Christ's holiness and saving grace?

Summary Truths:

- Even the world recognizes some sins as shameful — how much more should the church.
- Pride blinds us to sin; humility grieves over it.
- Church discipline is meant to protect the church and call sinners to repentance.
- Being removed from fellowship is not to destroy but to save — by bringing about brokenness and turning back to Christ.
- Jesus is the one who saves and restores, even the gravest sinner.

Optional Memory Verse:

What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?
— 1 Corinthians 4:21 (ESV)

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, help me not to take sin lightly in my life or in the church. Give me humility to repent quickly and courage to speak truth in love. Teach me to pursue holiness, not arrogance, and to trust You for restoration.

For Further Study:

- Matthew 18:15–17 — Jesus' process for addressing sin in the church
- Galatians 6:1–2 — Restoring a brother in gentleness
- 2 Thessalonians 3:14–15 — Warning and correction with love