

KEY VERSE OF
WEEK 5

"And you are arrogant! Shouldn't you be filled with grief and remove from your congregation the one who did this?"

1 Corinthians 5:2

CONTEXT

This week Paul is addressing some tough issues with the Corinthians. He begins by talking about a specific sin that is permeating through the community of the church. Paul not only talks about the sin, but he addresses the friends of the one who is involved in the sin because they did not address it themselves. Paul then jumps into an illustration about bread that may need some unpacking. Why would he use bread making as an illustration for what sin is doing to this community of believers?

Culturally, this was an illustration that would speak volumes to The Corinthians.. Israelite women used the sourdough process for their bread making. Every week they would separate out a small amount of bread dough and allow it to ferment as a "starter" for the following week's batch. Each week when they made a new batch, they would add to it the fermented portion from the week before. The leaven starter bread would always ferment the entire lump. This process continued for an entire year until the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Ex. 12:15; 13:6) when all the old leaven from the house was removed so that a completely fresh start might be made.

Yeast or leaven is symbolic of sin in this illustration, and the sexual sin that has been happening between a man and his mother-in-law has impacted the whole body of the church, just like fermented starter bread.. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that Jesus is serious about sin. He came to die to pay for our sin, so that we may live in a right relationship with Jesus. And through the power of the resurrected Jesus, we are able to fight sin in our lives. We are able to be made to look more and more like Jesus. But allowing sin to be a part of our life has consequences that go beyond just ourselves. It impacts more than just our "lump", it impacts the whole community. Paul wants the Corinthians to know that if sin is not acknowledged and dealt with, it will spread and affect the whole body.

As you consider this it can super easy to want to look around at your church and small group for sin. However, start with your own "lump" and avoid jumping to other people before you look at your own heart. Ask Jesus to help you see areas in your life that may have sin growing. Consider asking one of your "sisters" in this study to be your spiritual bread buddy. :). I know that may sound cheesy but I bet you will remember it. A bread buddy asks accountability questions to help each other pursue spiritual growth.

Need some sample accountability questions? This is just a starting point for your Spiritual Bread Buddies. These are meant to be asked within a friendship that is between fellow sisters in Christ. These are meant to help check each other's heart and encourage each other to be pursuing Christ. They aren't meant to beat each other up. We all have areas we need to be growing in. The first person we lie to is ourselves, so we have to have others that have been given permission to ask us these questions, otherwise we become like the Corinthians that let sin hide among them.

- How are your relationships doing? Friends? Family? Are you in conflict and who do you need to forgive?
- Are you having conversations with others about Jesus? Are you passing on the good news?
- Are your thoughts, words and actions bringing God glory?
- Are you setting up boundaries to protect your purity?
- What are you praying for these days? Are you making time to talk with Jesus?
- What is Jesus showing you as you spend time in His Word?
- Is there anything you need to let me know about as your sister in Christ?

Praying for you Sis!

Follow us on instagram @girlsministrycollective and use the #girlsministrycollective so we can cheer you on as you study with us in 1 Corinthians!



Kate Downing
GIRLS MINISTER

"SEPARATION FROM SIN BRINGS RESTORATION"

1 CORINTHIANS 5

- DISCIPLINE FROM THE LORD ISN'T FUN, BUT IT'S PURPOSEFUL. HOW CAN GODLY DISCIPLINE HELP YOU GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?
- READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:2. HOW DOES PAUL SAY WE SHOULD REACT TO SIN? IS THIS HOW YOU RESPOND TO SIN IN YOUR LIFE OR IN THE LIVES OF YOUR FRIENDS? WHY OR WHY NOT?
- READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-8. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WOULD CLEAR THEIR WHOLE HOUSE OF LEAVEN DURING THE PASSOVER. IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO JUST NOT USE IT, THEY REMOVED IT ALL-TOGETHER. WHAT EXAMPLE DOES THIS SET FOR YOU REGARDING SIN IN YOUR LIFE?
- SEPARATING YOURSELF FROM A FRIEND WHO HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS BUT IS ACTIVELY WALKING IN SIN CAN BE REALLY HARD, BUT THE PURPOSE OF SEPARATION IS RESTORATION. HOW COULD GOD USE YOUR OBEDIENCE TO SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THAT FRIEND AS A METHOD FOR BRINGING THAT FRIEND TO RESTORATION WITH HIM AND WITH YOU?
- WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL STEPS YOU NEED TO TAKE THIS WEEK TO PUT INTO PRACTICE THE THINGS YOU JUST LEARNED?

PRAY

Before you start to read the chapter of the week, ask The Lord to help you read His Word today. Ask Him to teach you today. Ask Him to see things in your own life you can't see. Ask Him to help you take what you read and apply it.

READ

What verses are you reading from today? _____

What version of the bible are you reading it in today? (Try reading it in 3 different translations. Circle the translations you are reading it in below.)

Formal Translations:

"word for word" translation

New American Standard
English Standard Version
Holman Christian Standard
Revised Standard Version
New RSV

Functional Translations:

"Thought for thought"

New International Version
New American Bible
Revised English Bible
Good News Bible
New Living Translation

Free Translations:

"A Paraphrase"

New English Bible
Living Bible
The Message

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Write out what is happening in the verses you read. Put it in your own words.

APPLY

Reflect on what you just read, and walk through these questions with Jesus.

Is there a sin I need to confess to Him and ask Him to forgive me?

Is there a truth that I need to believe today?

Is there a promise that I need to hear and hold on to today?

Is there something I need to ask The Lord to help me live differently because of what I just read?

QUESTIONS

What questions came up when you read the verses today? Were there words or customs that you didn't understand? Write those out. Those are important to not just pass over. Those are some of the ways He calls your attention to something you need to pay attention to in your own life.

PRAY/JOURNAL

Take some time to pray/journal after your time of reading. Ask God to change your heart so that you look more and more like Him and less and less like the world. Ask Him to break your heart for what breaks His heart. Ask Him to help you focus on Him and less on what is all around you.