



CHAPTER FIVE

THE MAIN IDEAS

Key Words: Fornication

Key Verses: vs. 7-8

Key Thought: The heinous sins of professed Christians are quickly noted and noised abroad, bringing injury to the causes of Christ. Either the believer chooses to walk circumspectly, or the church is to have no fellowship with them.

SUMMARY

Paul begins a new discussion in chapter 5, addressing the problem of immorality in the church at Corinth. He describes the particular case at hand, one which even pagan Gentiles would find shameful (1). Rebuking them for being "puffed up" instead of mourning (2), Paul then instructs them to "deliver such a one to Satan", giving them reasons why this action is necessary (3-8). Clarifying what may have been written in an unknown earlier epistle, Paul concludes by limiting towards whom such action is to be taken, and describing how it is to be carried out in practice (9-13).

OUTLINE

I. THE PROBLEM OF IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH (1-2)

A. THE PARTICULAR CASE AT HAND (1)

1. Something not even the Gentiles would approve! (1a)

2. A man was living with his father's wife (1b)

B. HOW THE CORINTHIANS WERE HANDLING IT (2)

1. They were "puffed up" (2a)

2. Rather than mourning that such conduct might result in the removal of the offender (2b)

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM (3-13)

A. HOW TO ADMINISTER CHURCH DISCIPLINE (3-5a)

1. Must exercise judgment, as Paul though present has already done (3)

2. When assembled together in the name of Jesus, deliver such a one to Satan (4-5a)

B. WHY CHURCH DISCIPLINE IS NEEDED (5b-8)

1. To save the sinner (5b)

a. By destroying the flesh (its pride and works)

b. That his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord

2. To save the church (6-8)

a. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (6)

b. Christ, our "passover", should be kept with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (7-8)

C. CLARIFICATIONS CONCERNING CHURCH DISCIPLINE (9-13)

1. Not to be exercised toward those who are of the world (9-10)
2. But towards brethren in Christ who remain in sin, with such don't even eat (11)
3. For God judges those outside the church, while we must judge those inside (12-13a)
4. The nature of church discipline: "put away from yourselves that wicked person" (13b)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What was the nature of the immorality that existed in the church at Corinth? (1)
- 2) What was the attitude of the church in this regard? (2)
- 3) Why does a church "deliver such a one to Satan"? (5)
- 4) Why should a church be diligent in exercising church discipline? (6)
- 5) Who is the "passover" for Christians? (7)
- 6) How should we observe our "passover"? (8)

7) Towards whom is church discipline to be administered? (9-11)

8) Who has the responsibility of judging whom? (12-13)

9) What expressions may help explain what it means to "deliver such a one to Satan"?
(11,13)