

Sermon Notes for April 15, 2007 A.M.

Morning: "The Holiness of the Home" I Corinthians 5:1-13 (Pew Bible page 1015)
(The Mind of Christ)

The Holy Spirit now brings the Apostle Paul to the reason for writing First Corinthians. A Church member had been publicly immoral by taking his step-mother (I Corinthians 5:1) without repentance or change of lifestyle. Paul calls this Church member "that wicked person" (I Corinthians 5:13) who is subject of this biographical sermon.

The purpose of "Church discipline" is not punishment but restoration! The "wicked person" was an active Church member. The Church and the world knew of his sin and were repulsed by it, yet the Church had not acted. Public sin called for a public Church response. This discipline must be as the actions of a father guiding and chastening his son, not as a policeman arresting a culprit!

The Church at Corinth had not taken this moral sin seriously and were even "puffed up" (I Corinthians 5:2) at their "broadmindedness." Paul called their "broadmindedness" as a "little leaven that leavens the whole loaf." (I Corinthians 5:6). Leaven is a picture of evil in Scripture. A little sin can affect the whole loaf of bread. A little sin will affect the whole Church and destroy its witness.

Before each Passover, the Jews would throw leaven on the floors of their home and sweep their homes clean of all the leaven and dirt. Only then could they take the Passover. "Christ our Passover" (I Corinthians 5:7) was sacrificed on the Cross for us. The Holy Spirit calls the Church to holy living for the sake of Him Who shed His precious blood on the Cross for our sins.

For the sake of the sinner, for the sake of the Church, for the sake of a lost and dying world, the Church must call all its members to holiness.

- * **The Wicked Person**—His **Rebellion**—I Corinthians 5:1-3 God loved this wicked man too much to **ignore** his sin.
- * **A Wise Proposal**—His Rebuke—I Corinthians 5:4-12 His **Removal**—I Corinthians 5:13 Paul shares the **Mind** of Christ to handle God's errant sheep.
- * **A Wonderful Praise**—His **Remorse**—II Corinthians 2:6-7 His Restoration—II Corinthians 2:8-11, Luke 15:21-24, 15:10 Repentance always leads to **rejoicing!**

Applications for today:

- Our spiritual goal is **becoming** like Christ.
- The Church is a **hospital** for sinners, and the treatment is repentance, faith, and grace.
- Christ's sacrifice on the Cross is a call to run **from** sin, not **to** sin.
- Church leaders must **model** moral living and help all Church members seek the **mind** of Christ in moral decisions.
- Every act of ministry to members of the body must be **redemptive**, to make every lost sheep hear God's call and feel welcome to come home.