

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 March 2018.....	1Cor 1-3	United in Christ
2) 11 March	1Cor 4-6	Glorifying God
3) 18 March	1Cor 7	Keeping Commitments
4) 25 March	1Cor 8-10	Influencing for Christ
5) 01 April.....	1Cor 15-16	Assurance of the Resurrection
6) 08 April.....	1Cor 11	Remembering the Sacrifice
7) 15 April.....	1Cor 12 & 14	Serving God's People
8) 22 April.....	1Cor 13	Understanding Love
9) 29 April.....	2Cor 1-2	Enjoying God's Comfort
10) 06 May	2Cor 3-4	Displaying the Gospel
11) 13 May	2Cor 5-7	Becoming New
12) 20 May	2Cor 7-9	Giving Faithfully
13) 27 May	2Cor 10-13	Finding Strength

INTRODUCTION

- How do we handle severe church problems? Find a new Pastor? Find a new church? Do nothing? Share our woes w/ others? Fervently Pray? Faithfully Serve? Gang up on the leaders?
- Paul tells the Corinthians to kick someone out of church for their immorality. What is the demarcation for when our love needs to cover a multitude of sins (1Pet 4:8) and when we need to stop tolerating sin? Any infraction? Wait till attendance or income decreases
- How militant or casual should we be when dealing with sin?
- Sin is sin, right? Or do we need to treat different sins differently?
- From these 3 chapters we see that the phrase "sin is sin" is not as biblical as many make it out to be. Jesus truly died for all sins, big & small, but God treats different sins differently, and so should we.
 - ♦ In the OT we see many sins warranted a sacrifice to receive forgiveness, but some sins had no sacrificial requirement – only immediate death by stoning or by fire was warranted. These involved murder, kidnapping, & sexual sins (adultery, bestiality, etc.)
 - ♦ In the NT capital punishment is no longer mandated, but we see here that unrepentant sexual sin was the demarcation for breaking fellowship. Remember...Sexual sins are of the body, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, while all other sins are outside the body .. 1Cor 6:18

Passage	Comments
	2. Serious sin in the Camp → Take steps to rebuke, remove, correct, restore 1Cor 5:1-5; 6:1-3
	• v6 – "...learn not to exceed what is written". IOW, stick with the truth and do not trust hearsay & rumors
	• vv8-13. Persecution of Leaders. If God promised not to leave, fail or forsake his disciples (Heb 13:5) how do we reconcile the fact that most of His Apostles suffered hunger, thirst, poverty, homelessness, beatings, brutality and even martyrdom? Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The righteous suffer like the wicked Ecc 8:14 ♦ God's ways are not our ways Is 55:8 ♦ Persecution is promised John 15:20; 2Tim 3:12 ♦ God does what He pleases Ps 115:3 ♦ All things work together for the good Rom 8:28 ♦ God's leaders receive greater judgment ... James 3:1
	• vv14-15. Who's Your Daddy? Paul was their spiritual father but they lost their respect of him.
	• vv16-17. Imitate good Leaders. Imitate those who imitate Christ 1Cor 11:1; Heb 6:12; 3John 1:11
	• vv18-21. The Rod of Discipline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why would a church, which is composed of a volunteer workforce, need to be disciplined? ♦ Remember – We are a precious commodity – We do not belong to ourselves but to Christ..... 1Cor 6:20 ♦ Correction by a godly leader is better than enduring God's correction (recall the churches in Revelations – Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Laodicea – who lost their candlesticks – IOW, their light) ♦ God has the right to take wayward believers home early (1Cor 11); punish harshly; or withhold blessings ("...take from him and give to another")

Passage	Comments
	The Proper View of Church Leaders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. Paul asked these juvenile believers who mocked his Apostolic credentials to at least look at him as a servant of Christ – IOW, consider him in a good light <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ When the honeymoon is over for a new Pastor, do people change their positive opinion of him? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe ♦ Churches need more people like the Angel recorded in Daniel 11:1 who chose to "stand up to protect & encourage" leaders, even if they are not perfect.
	What are the "Mysteries of God" 1Tim 3:16
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Suffering Savior Rom 16:25; Col 4:3 ♦ Rapture..... 1Cor 15:51 ♦ Gentiles are fellow heirs Eph 3:3-9 ♦ The Church..... Eph 5:32
1Cor 4:1-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-7. Judgment of Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Corinthians, for some reason, were very judgmental and critical of Paul. This was reminiscent of when King David's men sought his death for something he did not do 1Sam 30:1-6 ♦ Leaders often take the heat when bad things happen on their watch. Frivolous and unjustifiable criticism against leaders should not be heeded. Be sure to check the Facts. ♦ When is it proper to judge within the church? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church Elders → better have at least 2 witnesses of wrong doing 1Tim 5:19



- When is it appropriate to ignore, challenge, or discipline someone's sinful behavior within the church? Consider the examples below:

Example Incidences	What To Do
A Deacon uncharacteristically mutters a cuss word after hitting his thumb with a hammer	Ignore (1 Peter 4:8)
A Pastor/Minister is seen drinking beer in a restaurant	Challenge (1Tim 5:19-20)
Two unmarried church attendees (non-members / non-Christians) are living together	Challenge (James 5:20)
Two unmarried church members (presumed Christians) are living together	Challenge (Mat 18:16-17)

- Before tackling chapters 5 & 6, let's recall God's ideal arrangement for sexual relationships → 1 man and 1 woman for life in a trilateral covenant with God called a marriage **Malachi 2:14**
 - The couple should not be closely related or a forbidden partner such as a blood relative, someone else's spouse, someone of the same sex, an animal, or a step-parent see **Leviticus 18**

Passage	Comments
1Cor 5:1-13	<p>Remove Immorality from the church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-8. Apostle Paul did not mince words. He told them to kick the unrepentant "immoral" person out of church and have no further fellowship with him Paul condemned the Corinthians for being proud of how they accommodated unrepentant sinful believers. In brief, they forgave (acted like nothing was wrong) before there was true repentance v5. "Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh." This happened when the sinner was thrust out of the church, which is protected by the Holy Spirit, and had to enter Satan's domain – the secular world Note 1. What comes first, Repentance or Forgiveness? We see in 2Cor 2:5-12 the Church was to forgive the "wicked" person only after he first repented of his sin. Note 2. Even when a Christian sins horribly, his salvation is secure – but his life could be cut short <p>Do Not Associate with Immoral Believers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv9-13. Some say we should be loving, forgiving & generous to all, especially to those within the church. BUT the Bible teaches treatment is based on behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If unrepentant, treat 'em as a heathen..... Mt 18:17 If some are prodigal, leave them alone Lk 15:16 If some are contentious, avoid them..... Rom 16:17 If some don't work, they don't eat..... 2Thes 3:10 vv10-13. We also need to treat immoral Christians different than immoral non-Christians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is OK to maintain friendships with immoral non-believers to possibly win them to Christ – But we are commanded to sever relationships with immoral believers – WHY? <input type="checkbox"/> To shame them to repent? <input type="checkbox"/> To protect the sheep? <input type="checkbox"/> Other reasons?
	<p>The Saints Will Judge the World & Angels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therefore, we should be able to judge matters in the church without airing dirty laundry before the world Yet, we are not to judge others with partiality (James 4:11-12; 5:9), nor judge our leaders without having all the facts (1Cor 4). Remember to take the log out of our own eye before removing splinters out of others Mat 7:1-5 v5. "I say this to your shame" – Proper shame has a way to encourage us to do what's right
1Cor 6:1-20	

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v7. "Why not rather be wronged" – In other words, one should be willing to take a loss for the sake of restoring fellowship. Who should be the first to seek peace? <input type="checkbox"/> The more spiritual one? <input type="checkbox"/> The least spiritual one? <input type="checkbox"/> He that is in the know is the first to go? vv9-11. "Such were some of you..." – The only difference between us and the world is we are repentant sinners who received God's forgiveness. vv12-14. "All things are lawful but not profitable" – We may have the liberty to do many things (drink alcohol, eat meat, smoke, over eat) but we need to evaluate our culture, our testimony, and how our actions may make others slip into sin. <p>Principle of Accommodation. Paul would not eat meat if it caused a weaker Christian to fall into sin, but Paul would not change his behavior to stop offending the religious leaders of his day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timothy was circumcised to win Jews Act 16:3 Titus was not circumcised to please Jews Gal 2:3 <p>FLEE IMMORALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual immorality (sin against our body – which is the Temple of God) is treated differently from all other sins God made the rules. Since we are bought by Him we need to follow his rules to position us for blessings
6:15-20	

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The Corinthian church was a mess, but God called them His saints
- Paul's attempt to help this fledgling church fix their problems quickly, correctly, and gently was to send Timothy (**1Cor 4:17**). They needed a leader, like Ezra, who was skilled in God's word & knew how to use it.
- But the Corinthian legacy is not a good one. In A.D. 96 Clement of Rome wrote a lengthy letter reprimanding the Corinthians for deposing their elders, men who were appointed on apostolic authority and by common consent, and they were not to be regarded as dispensable (The Expositor's Bible Commentary, pg 589)

NEXT WEEK: 1Cor 7. What constitutes a valid marriage where God joins a couple together for life? Are we at liberty to break that joining-together for any reason or only for certain reason or for no reason?

