

1. Introduction

2. Three Instructions For Confronting Sin in the Church

a. Don't be afraid to call sin, "sin." 5:1-2

- i. Paul identifies both the actions of the man and the attitude of the church as morally wrong, as sin.
- ii. What is "sin"?
 - (1) Wayne Grudem
 - (a) "Any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature."
 - (b) Any failure to align with and reflect God's personal character in action, in attitude, or in nature.
 - (2) Bible
 - (a) Is the transgression of the law 1John 3:4
 - (b) Is of the devil 1John 3:8, John 8:44
 - (c) All unrighteousness is 1John 5:17
 - (d) Omission of what we know to be good is James 4:17
 - (e) Whatever is not of faith is sin Romans 14:23
 - (f) The thought of foolishness is sin Prov 24:9
 - (g) All the imaginations of the unrenewed heart are
Gen 6:5, Gen 8:21
- iii. Why should sin be challenged?
 - (1) In our day,
 - (a) sin is not wrong, but calling something "sin" is wrong.
 - (b) So we must ask, why should sin be identified and challenged?
 - (2) **Romans 6:23 (ESV)** ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
 - (a) Physical death
 - (i) **Romans 5:12 (ESV)** ¹² *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*
 - (ii) Death is the separation of the soul from the body and is the universal result of human sin
 - (b) Spiritual death
 - (i) **Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV)** ¹ *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
 - (ii) Unless sin is challenged with both the pronouncement and the application of the gospel, this is the condition in which human hearts and human lives remain: spiritually dead
 - (c) Eternal death
 - (i) **Revelation 20:11-15 (ESV)** ¹¹ *Then I saw a great white*

throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- (ii) Just as the first death is the separation of the soul from the body as a result of sin, so the second death is the separation of the soul from God as a result of sin, an irreparable separation in which there is agony and from which there is no escape forever.
- (3) Sin, like a corrupting infections of the soul, like spiritual cancer, must be excised from the heart and from the church or it will spread death where it is allowed to remain.
 - (a) **1 Corinthians 5:6-7 (ESV)** *⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*
 - (b) Like yeast in bread dough, sin spreads its effects until all that it is involved with is influenced and infected.
 - (c) Sin must be challenged!

b. Deal decisively with sin in love and for love's sake.

5:3-8

- i. **Matthew 18:15-17 (ESV)** *¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

- (1) There is a process
 - (a) One on one conversation
 - (b) Elder intervention
 - (c) Church revelation
- (2) There is a goal: to gain your brother
- (3) There is also an attitude: treat him as a Gentile or tax collector
 - (a) How does Jesus treat Gentiles and tax collectors?
 - (b) As those whose sin is killing them and whose greatest need is genuine repentance and the resulting redemption.
 - (i) **John 3:16-17 (ESV)** *¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*
 - (ii) Jesus is not teaching that separating someone out from the

- body is reason to treat them with contempt
 - (iii) Jesus is teaching that separating someone from the body is reason to do everything necessary to help them realize the awfulness of sin and return with humility and repentance to full faith and obedience to Christ.
 - 1) In a world where the idea of sin is rejected and lives hang in the balance
 - 2) The church is the God-given means for confronting the awfulness of sin and the awesomeness of grace.
 - 3) And the two must go together.
 - ii. Paul's instructions in chapter 5
 - (1) Don't adopt an attitude of resignation
 - (2) Don't adopt an attitude of celebration
 - (3) **Hebrews 12:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*
- c. **Sin in the world is to be expected, but sin in the church is to be expunged. 5:6-13**
 - i. Paul does not instruct the church to physically separate itself from the sinful people of the world
 - ii. Paul does instruct the church to separate itself from intentional sinning among those who call themselves Christians.
 - (1) "Is it not those inside the church you are to judge?"
 - (a) Knowing the moral standard set by God
 - (b) Calling those who identify as disciples to faithful alignment with the revealed moral standard set in the word and lived by Jesus
 - (2) "Purge the evil person from among you."
 - (a) Deal with sin in the world with patience, love, and the hope of the gospel
 - (b) Deal with sin in the church with firmness, conviction, love, and the hope of the gospel.

3. **The key factor that transforms discipline into discipleship is love, therefore, love one another.**

- a. **The key (according to Paul)**
 - i. 1 Corinthians 12: 31 "I will show you a more excellent way."
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 13:13 "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 14:1 "Pursue love . . ."
 - (1) Pursue love
 - (a) The more isolated and rejected I feel, the harder it is to love. Pursue love.
 - (b) The more secure and content I feel, the more "self-satisfied" I feel, the harder it is to love. Pursue love.
 - (2) Pursue love
 - (a) Pursue love for God through love for Christ
 - (b) Pursue love for Christ through love for one another
 - (c) Pursue love for one another through intentional self-sacrifice
 - (i) **Philippians 2:5 (ESV)** ⁵ *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,*
 - (ii) The way of thinking which Jesus sets an example for us is giving ourselves, even our lives, so that others might bow

gladly before the throne of God as His people.

(iii) Love one another

b. As Christ said to His disciples, so we hear once again, “Love one another.”

- i. In this day when people in the world are consumed with hating one another and despising one another over political choices, and social choices, and sexual choices, and financial choices;
- ii. In this day when people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power;
- iii. In this day when God’s truth, God’s word, God’s Spirit, and God’s work are publicly lambasted as “mental illness,”
- iv. In this day and for every day God gives us going forward, discipline yourselves, disciple yourselves, love one another.