



The importance of being different **1 Corinthians 5**

Read 1 Corinthians 5

- 1. Discuss the statement “*It’s not right to judge what anyone else does*” Do you agree or disagree? Are there any situations in which you would change your answer?**
- 2. What do you think are some of the issues that are going on for the Corinthian church in verses 1-2? Are there any similar issues that exist in churches today?**
- 3. How does the world think of Christian churches today? Why do they think of us this way?**
- 4. How does Paul think a Christian that is sinning like this should be treated? (read also Matt18:15-17)**
- 5. What is at the desired hope for this man after he has been disciplined? (v5)**
- 6. Verses 6-8 calls us to leave behind things of the past and to start afresh. What does leaving behind ‘malice & wickedness’ and taking on ‘sincerity & truth’ look like in our context?**
- 7. Why does Paul use such strong language about not associating with Christians who are persisting in these sinful behaviours? (vv9-11) When should we be willing to do the same in our lives?**

8. **How does grace, forgiveness and second chances fit into this strong response to persistent sin?**

9. **Reflect on the list of sinful behaviours (v11) are any of these sins that we gloss over or don't really take seriously today?**

10. **Why must we be ruthless with sin in our lives and in our church community? Why are we sometimes soft when it comes to some sinful behaviour? In what ways can we be dealing more ruthlessly with sin?**

11. **Should we treat those outside the church any differently to those inside the church? What is God's role and what is our role? (vv12-13) Does this mean that we should not speak up when we see sinful behaviour in the world around us?**

12. **What are some of the challenges that we face today when it comes judging and enforcing moral standards inside and outside of the church? Discuss how we can be both loving and not compromising on sin at the same time.**

Prayer: Take time to reflect on and even repent of our own behaviour as individuals and as a church.

Pray for wisdom and discernment when we have to confront blatant and persistent sin within our church community.

Pray for spiritual restoration for those who might be now facing a form of church discipline.

Pray for wisdom and courage for those who are making public stands for biblical standards within our society today.