

God's Test to the Church (1 Corinthians 5)

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: What is the purpose of a test?

- A. It gives information to both the teacher and the student!
 - 1. Often we need to see where we are. **(2 Cor 13:5)**
 - 2. God already knows. **(Heb 4:12-13)**
- B. An improper spirit prevailed at Corinth among some. **(1 Cor 4:17-21)**
 - 1. They were proud and above authority.
 - 2. They boasted in their knowledge and "originality".
- C. God gave Corinth a test. **(2 Cor 2:9)**
 - 1. How we respond to this test will tell much about how we view the church.
 - 2. How does this church respond to the test?

I. Obstacles in the Way to Obedience (1 Cor 5:1-3)

- A. There was open immorality in the church. **(Gal 5:19-21)**
 - 1. John the Baptist did not hesitate to deal with this issue. **(Mark 6:17-18)**
 - 2. If one does not repent, they are lost!
- B. There should have been mourning in the hearts of these Christians.
 - 1. Somehow they had lost their urgency. **(Jude 22-23; Mat 5:3-4)**
 - 2. When sin is tolerated we are no longer on the Lord's side. **(Heb 1:9)**
- C. They were to remove this one from among them.
 - 1. The term "among you" means: "where association or intercourse is the topic, equivalent to among, intercourse with", Thayer's, p. 402
 - 2. One might cease attending the assemblies but still be "among you."
- D. The hindering spirit was one of pride.
 - 1. Paul uses the term "puffed up". **(1 Cor 4:6,17-20; 1 Tim 6:3-5)**
 - 2. Likely they viewed Christians in light of their party associations and not by the will of God!
 - 3. This pride would in time affect everything they did

II. Steps in Corrective Discipline

- A. A time of warning, teaching and rebuking. **(Mat 18:15-17)**
 - 1. This may start with one and then proceed to others.
 - 2. The purpose of others involvement is to bear witness to the action and become a part of the correction.
 - 3. It is important to involve spiritual men in this process. **(Gal 6:1)**
 - 4. There is a judgment on the amount of time given for response. **(Rev 2:20-21)**
- B. A Public Announcement to the church concerning the condition of this brother.
 - 1. The entire church is made aware of the situation with continued effort to exhort this one to repent. **(Mat 18:17)**
 - 2. Finally an announcement is made to "deliver such a one to Satan."**(1 Cor 5:4-5)**
 - a. Paul emphasised the importance of this action by key phrases: "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ....along with my spirit...with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - b. When an apostle uses this language we need to listen carefully and obey!

(1 Cor 1:10)

- c. The place of this action is very specific “when you are gathered together.”
 - d. When was the last time you witnessed one delivered to Satan in an assembly? When was the last time you witnessed one fall away from serving God?
- C. The final action is an individual withdrawal of social company. **(1 Cor 5:9-11; 2 Thess 3:6,15)**
- 1. A certain kind of association is withdrawn, not all association. We can still “admonish him as a brother.”
 - 2. When this happens we can no longer have simple social company with this one.
 - 3. Many refuse to acknowledge this responsibility thinking they have a better way.
- D. These steps are difficult but essential to our Christian walk.
- 1. We must never stop exhorting our brothers in Christ. **(2 Tim 4:1-2)**
 - 2. There are occasions where I may act as an individual. **(1 Tim 1:20)**

III. The Purposes of this Action

- A. To protect the church. **(1 Cor 5:6-8)**
- B. To cause the erring to repent. **(1 Cor 5:5; 2 Thess 3:14)**
- C. To cause the members to examine themselves. **(Acts 5:1-11; 1 Tim 5:20)**
- D. To show our submission to Christ. **(2 Cor 2:9; 7:12)**
 - 1. God tells us "why" will we argue with Him? **(Rom 3:8)**
 - 2. If any of the above purposes are accomplished God's will is done!

IV. Who is Subject for this Discipline?

- A. Not the world but those who are Christians. **(1 Cor 5:9-11)**
- B. Who should we exhort and rebuke?
 - 1. Those who sin against another. **(Mt 18:15-17)**
 - 2. Those who will not repent of sin. **(1 Tim 5:20)**
 - 3. "Them which cause division." **(Rom 16:17)**
 - 4. "The disorderly." **(1 Thess 5:14)**
- C. From whom should we withdraw social fellowship?
 - 1. Those practicing the works of the flesh. **(1 Cor 5:11)**
 - 2. Those who - "walks disorderly... not after the tradition" **(2 Thess 3:6)**
 - 3. Those who will not work. **(2 Thess 3:10-11)**
 - 4. Those who will not obey the written word. **(2 Thess 3:14)**

V. A Necessary Key to Implementation — Judgment

- A. Are we willing to care for others? **(1 Cor 6:5; Jude 22-23; 1 Cor 3:1-2)**
- B. Some questions to consider.
 - 1. How long do we wait? What is the best way to express ourselves? How will we maintain unity in the congregation?
 - 2. Real leadership is required to take a principled, consistent stand in these areas.

Conclusion: How will we stand? The answer will determine if Christ is our head or not.

- A. Who will care enough to work with these fallen brethren? This is a major responsibility of our Shepherd's. **(Heb 13:17)**
- B. God's way will accomplish God's purposes. Do you believe this? **(Isa 55:8-9)**