

October 18/19, 2008

Study Questions
Living Like Christians
Dealing With Sin in the Church
1 Corinthians 5:1-13
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever been wounded by a church? Would you share your story?
2. What was or was not done that allowed that “wounding” to happen?
3. Does loving one another mean we just ignore destructive behaviors? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. Also read Matthew 18:1-20. Compare the language and the process in the two texts.
2. What is the sin issue? How widely known is the issue? How offensive is this issue?
3. How have the Corinthians responded? What is the relationship between arrogance and tolerating sin? (hint: think Genesis 3)
4. Why is it loving to the sinner to confront his/her sin?
5. Why is it necessary for the church to confront sin in the body?
6. What does it mean in practical terms to “not associate” with so-called Christians who are living in open sin? What’s the guiding principle?
7. Is there any true community of people that do not in some way protect or uphold their core values that define that community? What are examples in the culture? Can the church be a true community if it does not uphold and protect core values as defined by God?

Application

1. The Matthew 18 text especially reminds us that before sin spreads too far there are always those closest to the sinner who know what is happening. It is at that point, before the sin spreads too far, that the sinner is most likely to be responsive to a loving confrontation. That means each of us must care enough to get involved in other Christian's lives who may be involved in destructive attitudes or behaviors. Is there anyone in your life right now that is involved in something potentially destructive? What should you do?
2. Is there freedom in your group to invite others to speak into one another's lives if there is a concern? Is each person willing to ask, "do you feel the freedom to speak into my life?"
3. When the leadership of the church has to deal with a sin issue the rumors start flying. What should you do when you hear such rumors?