

SHOCKING SIN!

What would you do if you found out that a member of your Christian Fellowship was in a premarital sexual relationship? In the Corinthian church, there was a much worse case of sexual immorality. Let's see how Paul dealt with it.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5: 1 - 13

A church member was sleeping with his stepmother and the Corinthian church thought it was okay (vs 1-2a)! In fact, they were so proud of how tolerant and broadminded they were (v 2a)! It's hard to say what shocked Paul more - the man's sexual sin which was unheard of even in the extremely immoral Corinthian culture (v 1) or the easygoing response of the church. Whatever the case, strong action had to be taken both for the man's sake and the sake of the church. But for him to be handed over to Satan (vs 4-5)! Wouldn't that just make things worse? No, because Paul believed that only through suffering at the hands of Satan would he repent and return to Christ (v 5b). Expelling the man from church would also ensure that his sin, like yeast, would not spread and infect the whole church (v 6). Having started a new life in Christ who is the Truth, they should have nothing to do with their old sinful ways (vs 7-8). Paul made it very clear that while they should stay clear of people who claim to be Christians but indulge in every kind of sin, they should continue to maintain contact with people who don't know Christ (vs 9-11).

What reason does Paul give for saying that (v 12)? _____

It's not fair to impose God's standards on people who do not know Him. God will deal with them (v 13). But it's our responsibility to deal with people who know God's standards and do everything possible to help restore them when they go against His standards.

Keep God's standards

Before you can confront others with not keeping God's standards, you yourself must be sure you are keeping them. The Holy Spirit will help you if you ask Him.