

1 Corinthians 5 Jesus is our Passover Lamb. (13 verses)

1) Excommunication for a case of sexual sin.

v. 1 It is actually reported that there is **sexual immorality** (gk *porneia*) among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: **A man is sleeping with his father's wife.** 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have **put out of your fellowship the man** who has been doing this?¹

Note: The meaning of “excommunication” is to be refused holy communion.

Note: The purpose is to quarantine people who have serious, unresolved sin issues, followed by correction and repentance. You must remove the offender for his own good and for the protection of others in the church.

2) What did Paul mean by saying he “was with them in spirit?”

v. 3 For my part, even though I am not physically present, **I am with you in spirit.** As **one who is present with you in this way**, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. 4 So when you are assembled and **I am with you in spirit**, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,

Col 2:5 For though I am absent from you in body, **I am present with you in spirit** and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

3) Putting someone out of fellowship is turning them over to Satan.

v. 5 **hand this man over to Satan** for the destruction of the flesh, **so that his spirit may be saved** on the day of the Lord.

4) No compromise with sin, represented here as yeast/leavening.

v. 6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that **a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?**

5) Paul refers to Christ as “our Passover Lamb, who has been sacrificed.

v. 7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For **Christ, our Passover lamb**, has been **sacrificed**. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, **not with the old bread leavened** with malice and wickedness, but **with the unleavened bread** of sincerity and truth.

Note: This is a very important interpretative key to understanding why Jesus was crucified in the context of Passover. It also alludes to spiritual Unleavened Bread.

¹ All scripture is quoted from the NIV unless clearly marked with standard abbreviations.

6) **A missing first letter about not associating with sexual sinners is alluded to.**
v. 9 **I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people**— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

7) **Sexual sins are not acceptable among Christians.**

v. 11 But now I am writing to you that **you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral** or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? **Are you not to judge those inside?** 13 God will judge those outside. **"Expel the wicked person from among you."**

1 Corinthians 6 We were purchased to be our Lord's Bride. (20 verses)

1) **Lawsuits between Christians shouldn't occur, because of the bad witness.**

v. 1 If any of you has a dispute with another, **do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment** instead of before the Lord's people?

2) **We "Holy ones" will judge angels and the world.**

v. 2 Or do you not know that **the Lord's people will judge the world?** And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 **Do you not know that we will judge angels?** How much more the things of this life!

3) **Christian's should decide their own issues internally, not in public lawsuits.**

v. 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? 5 I say this to shame you. **Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?** 6 But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this **in front of unbelievers!**

4) **By faith, we should prefer being defrauded to suing our brothers and sisters.**

v. 7 **The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated** already. Why not rather be wronged? **Why not rather be cheated?** 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.

5) **Righteous behavior is expected to manifest in our lives after we are saved.**

v. 9 Or do you not know that **wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived: **Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.**

Note: Male homosexual acts are clearly portrayed as sinful.

6) Some of you were those types of sinners before Jesus saved you.

v. 11 And **that is what some of you were**. But **you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ** and by the Spirit of our God.

7) Liberty doesn't give us license for willing sin.

v. 12 "I have the right to do anything," you say—but **not everything is beneficial**. "I have the right to do anything"—but **I will not be mastered by anything**. 13 You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both."

8) Our bodies were never intended for sexual sin and immorality.

v. 13b. **The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality** but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 15 Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ himself?** Shall I then take **the members of Christ** and unite them with a prostitute? Never!

9) Why is the reference made to the marital union of Adam and Eve?

v. 16 **Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body?** For it is said, "**The two will become one flesh.**" 17 But **whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit**.

Gen 2:24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and **they become one flesh**.

Eph 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and **the two will become one flesh**." This is a profound mystery—but **I am talking about Christ and the church**.

10) Sexual sins uniquely harm us in ways that other sins do not.

v. 18 **Flee from sexual immorality**. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but **whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body**.

11) Our bodies belong to Jesus and we were bought with a Bride's Price.

v. 19 Do you not know that **your bodies** are temples of the **Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from **God**? **You are not your own**; 20 **you were bought at a price**. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Story: First century "Bride Price"

2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for **I have espoused you to one husband**, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. KJV

Story: Twenty-First century "Bride Price"

1 Corinthians 7 Principles for sex, marriage and divorce. (40 verses)

1) Apparently, they previously had written Paul with questions about sex.

v. 1 Now for **the matters you wrote about**: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." 2 But since **sexual immorality is occurring**, each man should have **sexual relations** with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.

2) In Jewish culture married people would expect regular sexual intimacy.

v. 3 **The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.** 4 **The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.**

3) Married people can only fast temporarily from sex with mutual agreement.

v. 5 **Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time**, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. **Then come together again** so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

4) Paul then seems to wish everyone was single to just focus on Jesus.

v. 6 I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7 **I wish that all of you were as I am.** But each of you has your own **gift from God**; one has this gift, another has that. 8 **Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.** 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

5) Some divorce and remarriage guidelines for believers to consider.

v. 10 **To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. 11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.** 12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): **If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.**

A. **If you are married, do not separate.**

B. **If you do separate, you may reconcile, but you must not get remarried.**

C. **Husbands are not free to unilaterally divorce their wives.**

D. **If a believer is married to an unbeliever that wants to stay married, don't divorce.**

6) What is intended by spouses being sanctified and having holy children.

v. 14 For the **unbelieving husband** has been **sanctified** through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been **sanctified** through her believing husband. Otherwise **your children** would be unclean, but as it is, **they are holy.**

Acts 16:31 They answered, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and all your family.**” TPT

- 7) **If the unbelieving spouse leaves and divorces, we are no longer restricted.**
v. 15 But **if the unbeliever leaves**, let it be so. **The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances**; God has called us to live in peace.

Note: This means that remarriage is permitted under these circumstances.

- 8) **What is intended by the wife saving her husband or husband saving the wife?**
v. 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will **save your husband**? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will **save your wife**?

- 9) **If you get saved as a Gentile, it's unnecessary to become Jewish, etc.**
v. 17 Nevertheless, **each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them.** This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 **Was a man already circumcised** when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. 20 **Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.** 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave.

- 10) **We have been bought with a very high price, the blood of Jesus.**
v. 23 **You were bought at a price**; do not become slaves of human beings. 24 Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, **should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.**

Note: This is a second reference to the “Bride Price.”

- 11) **Paul seems to base his advice on his opinion that the end of the age is near.**
v. 25 Now **about virgins**: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26 **Because of the present crisis**, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But **those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.** 29 What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that **the time is short**. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For **this world in its present form is passing away.**

- 12) **Paul remarks on the “gift of singleness” versus responsibilities in marriage.**
v. 32 **I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord.** 33 **But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—** 34 **and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit.** But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. 35 **I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.** 36 **If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married.** 37 **But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing.** 38 **So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.**

- 13) **Remarriage is permitted among believers who have lost their spouses.**
v. 39 **A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.**

Biblical Principle: the potential spouse of a Christian should be a Christian because, “he must belong the Lord.”

- 14) **Once again, Paul seems to think singleness is spiritually better for believers.**
v. 40 **In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.**

1 Corinthians 8 Some issues with idols. (13 verses)

1) Concerning food offered to idols.

v. 1 **Now about food sacrificed to idols:**

Story: India's Idols

2) Know-it-all's aren't as smart as they think they are.

v. 1b **We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up** while love builds up. 2 **Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know.**

v. 2 **If anyone thinks of himself as a know-it-all, he still has a lot to learn.** TPT

Story: Dr. Reichard and Wade Taylor

3) The Lord loves everyone, but He's interested in those who love Him.

v. 3 But whoever loves God is known by God.

Prov 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

4) The one true God isn't in competition with lesser "gods."

v. 4 So then, **about eating food sacrificed to idols**: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." 5 For **even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords")**, 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

5) Don't let your spiritual liberty offend a weak believer.

v. 7 But not everyone possesses this knowledge. **Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.**

6) We must not allow our choices to cause others to stumble.

v. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. 9 **Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.** 10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? 11 **So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.** 12 When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 **Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.**