

Glorifying God in a Sexualized Culture

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

GETTING STARTED QUESTIONS

1. Provide some examples of sexual lifestyles outside of God's design for sex.
2. (optional question) Forgetting about sex issues for a moment, what kind of tricky situations have you encountered that seem to pit the two great commandments of "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" against "Love your neighbor as yourself" with potentially two different outcomes? (This is quite a thinker question, it may take some time to get a response.)
3. Share (perhaps without using names) any tricky situations you've faced in showing love and grace to people in sexual lifestyles apart from God's design within or outside of the church. What have been the debating points you've gone over in your head as you tried to decide what to do?

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS (1 Corinthians 5:1-13)

1. Paul makes a fairly clear distinction of how those in sexual immorality should be treated inside and outside of the church. How should those in sexual lifestyles apart from God's design be treated inside the church based on this scripture? How about outside of the church?
2. Thinking of the different approaches to treating those inside and outside of the church, why does Paul make such a distinction? Why should there be a difference? (verses 6-8 may help you).
3. Do you think Paul's recommendations about the brother in sexual sin described in verses 3-5 is too harsh? Why or why not? How does this recommendation square with Paul's encouragement in Galatians 6:1-2?
4. (optional question) Can you think of instances where it would be justified to judge sexual lifestyles apart from God's design among those outside of the church? What scriptures would you lean on to make those judgments?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How does tonight's discussion change the way you show love and grace to those in sexual relationships outside of God's design inside or outside the church?
2. (optional question) When situations such as these arise, Paul asks us in I Cor. 10:23- to glorify God in all we do. How can brothers or sisters in Christ help you in making tough decisions?