

1 Corinthians Part One

Lesson #18, Chapter 5:9-13

Review chapter 5 before you begin this week's lesson. Lean on the Lord for wisdom and a teachable spirit.

1. Summarize the contents of verses 1-8.
2. In verse 9 Paul states that he previously wrote to the Corinthians, yet the book we're studying is "First" Corinthians. See what you can learn about the letters of Paul to the Corinthians from a study Bible, commentary, or Bible dictionary.
3. What did Paul write in his earlier letter to the Corinthians according to verse 9?
4. How does this new topic fit in with what Paul has already been discussing in verses 1-8?
5. Define *associate* (NKJV *keep company* [Strong's #4874]). See verse 11 and 2 Thess. 3:14 where it's also used.
6. Define *immoral* [Strong's #4205]. Also see what you learn from its use in Eph. 5:5 and Rev. 21:8.

7. Paul explains in verse 9 that he wrote in his letter *not to associate with immoral people*, which seems fairly straightforward, yet how does he clarify himself in verse 10?

8. What's another name for “people of this world?” See also 1 Jn. 4:5 and 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2.

9. Define *covetous* (ESV, NIV *greedy* [Strong's #4123]). See 1 Cor. 6:10 and Eph. 5:5 where the word is also used. Now look up Luke 16:14 and 2 Tim. 3:2 for a synonym of the word.

10. Paul states that in order for believers to stop associating with immoral people they would have to leave the world. What did he mean by that? See John 13:1 and Gal. 2:12.

11. Apparently, leaving the world isn't an option for believers. Why not? See Matt. 5:14-16; Eph. 5:8-13; Phil. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:11-12.

12. Paul further clarifies his statement about not associating “with the immoral people of this world” in verse 11. What kind of people are we not to associate with? Why? What's one way to put this into practice according to verse 11?

“The church has no right to tolerate evil on the ground of broad-mindedness.”¹
~ G. Campbell Morgan

13. What attitudes or actions would call into question the validity of someone's profession that they are a follower of Jesus Christ, and so gain the title “so-called brother?” See verse 11 and Matt. 7:15-20; 2 Pet. 1:8-11; 1 Jn. 2:4-6.

14. Apparently the Corinthians thought Paul told them not to associate with “sinners.” What did this misunderstanding prompt them to do? See verse 12.

15. Why shouldn't believers spend time judging unbelievers? See verse 13a and Heb. 10:30-31; 1 Pet. 4:17.

16. Who are we permitted to judge according to verse 12?

17. What is the purpose of a believer judging another believer? See verse 13.

18. What are some practical ways to do this? See Prov. 27:5-6; Matt. 18:15-18; Luke 17:3-4; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 5:11; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Titus 3:10-11; James 5:19-20; 1 Pet. 3:1-2.

¹ G. Campbell Morgan, *The Corinthian Letters of Paul* (London and Edinburgh, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1946), pg. 84.

19. Explain the difference between James 4:11-12 and 1 Cor. 5:12-13 when it comes to judging. Be sure to read all of James chapter 4 for the context of those verses.

20. Summarize what you've learned in this lesson about *unbelievers* and how we should respond to them.

21. Summarize what you've learned in this lesson about *so-called brothers* and how we should respond to them.

22. First John 3:10 reminds us, *"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."* How can a love of holiness and a love for our brethren help us to apply the lessons from 1 Cor. 5:9-13? Which area (holiness or love of the brethren) is a greater challenge for you to apply? And what are some ways you can grow in that area?

23. We do have a responsibility to help turn a brother or sister caught in sin back toward the Lord, and yet what must we attend to first? See Lam. 3:40; 1 Cor. 10:12; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 6:1. Do this important task well, my sisters, and *let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God* (2 Cor. 7:1).