



**A PEOPLE IN A PLACE, WEEK 4
“IMMORALITY + ARROGANCE...
IN THE CHURCH”**

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS

DATE: AUGUST 8, 2021

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:
1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13**

This week, Pastor Brad looks at 1 Corinthians 5. In this passage, we discover that something terrible was happening within the Corinthian church. There was some sort of sexual misconduct happening that even those outside the church would have seen as immoral. However, the Corinthians were tolerating this behavior, much to Paul's chagrin.

As we examine this passage, we learn that the issue is less the sin of the individual and more about the lack of transformation within the church. As Christians, we should be people whose morality and worldview are determined not by our own thoughts or the thoughts of our particular culture, but rather by the word of God. Knowing this allows us to maintain inward accountability even while we show love and grace to those who don't yet know Jesus.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What are some ideas or presuppositions that you had earlier in your life that have been challenged as you've gotten older?
2. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
3. Which do you prefer, a paper/physical map or GPS/an app? Why?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. According to verse 1, what was happening in the church of Corinth that was upsetting to Paul? How did he describe this action and why was it so grievous?
2. How does Paul say the Corinthian church is responding to the sinful actions of one of their members? How does Paul say they should be responding?
3. What metaphor does Paul use to talk about this sinful behavior in the midst of the church in verses 6-8? How would you state the point he is making in your own words?
4. What does Paul say he commanded the church to do in a former letter he sent them? Was there any exception to this command? What reasoning does Paul give for this exception?
5. What does Paul say about the judgment of others in verses 12-13?

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LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Pastor Brad said in his sermon that the problem in the Corinthian church was bigger than an individual's sin. It wasn't just the sin itself but the fact that the church was tolerating this sin, illustrating that their lives had not been as transformed by Christ as Paul would have hoped. What are some things that have been tolerated in church history or that are tolerated in churches today that display this same lack of transformation?
2. What are some of the ways that our culture today responds to the sins and wrong actions of others? How are these ways similar or different to what Paul is suggesting in this week's passage?
3. In this passage, Paul warns that the sin of one person impacts the entire church and can harm the church greatly. Have you seen this truth lived out in your own life (either in church or in a family or friend group)? What have been the consequences? What implications does that have for a church/small group/family/friend group? Knowing that people are never perfect, what do you think it should look like to have accountability within a group?
4. Pastor Brad talked about how expressive individualism and moral individualism have impacted our society, often causing culture's morality to be decided by what the majority of people feel to be right rather than any objective truth. Can you think of some examples of ways morality has changed in the last hundred years or so? How has this same philosophy impacted the church? Do you think this is a good or bad thing? Why or why not?
5. Paul says in this passage that Christians should not associate with Christians that are living in a persistent pattern of blatant sin, but that they should not be afraid to associate with those outside the church who might be living similar lifestyles. Is this how Christians today normally operate? How have you seen this principle lived out well (and not well) in today's church?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. As you think honestly about your life and your thoughts, are there any sins that you have been tolerating? Are there places in your life where your presuppositions have not been transformed by the Holy Spirit, but instead follow the pattern of the world and culture around you? How does this passage/sermon encourage you or challenge you in this area?
2. How do you respond to fellow Christians if you discover some area of flagrant, persistent sin in their lives? Is it more similar to how the world responds or how you think Jesus would respond? What have you learned from this passage about how you might respond to these situations in the future?
3. As Christians, we have to balance two truths: that we are influenced

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by the people around us (for good and for bad) and we are called to be in the world around us, not hiding from those who don't have the same thoughts about faith. What do you think it looks like to balance these two truths in your life?

4. What are some ways (either presently or in the past) where culture has determined what you thought was right and moral rather than God and His word? How did/does this way of thinking impact your life for good or for bad? What happened/or what might happen when you took the chance to ask God his views on the subject?
5. Who do you tend to be more judgmental of, people within the church or those outside of it? How does this passage sermon/challenge you? Do you think there are any thought patterns or actions in your life that you might need to change in light of this week's sermon/passage?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. This week, spend some time before God in silence asking him to reveal any places in your life where you are tolerating things you shouldn't be or relying on the world's definition of right and wrong rather than His. Are there any places in your life where you need to seek accountability within the church? If so, don't hesitate to reach out to a Christian friend, family member, or even a pastor.
2. Have you been guilty of judging those outside of the church? This week, ask God to forgive you. Also, be on the lookout for ways that you could positively interact with those you have previously judged.