

Discussion Questions Set #1

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father’s wife. ” (1 Corinthians 2:6-8)

“Do not have sexual relations with your father’s wife; that would dishonor your father.” (Leviticus 18:8)

1. We live in a world that is highly preoccupied with issues of sex and sexuality. What general implications does this preoccupation have upon those who follow Jesus? How do you understand issues of sex and sexuality as a follower of Jesus?
2. As of late, we have seen quite an increase in instances of sexual immorality within the Canadian church. Why do you think this is the case? What ought our response as followers of Jesus be to this increased incidence of such sin within the church?
3. Paul takes specific aim at a significant instance of sexual immorality within the Corinthian church, but he likely had other more general ideas of sexual immorality in mind too. Why do you think sexual immorality forms such a significant concern within the early church?
4. Do you think sexual immorality occupies a place of appropriate concern within the church today? Why or why not? Discuss.

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Expel the wicked person from among you.” (1 Corinthians 5:13)

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:15-17)

1. In sermon, it was suggested that often followers of Jesus rush to expel those deemed immoral from their lives, rather than diligently working through the steps to restoration presented in Matthew 18. Have you experienced a “rush to expel” in your interactions within the church? Why do you think this tendency exists?
2. Discuss the following statement: *exclusion is intended to accomplish the destruction of fleshly patterns of thought and behaviour, so that the individual might be restored to full Christian community through a process of repentance and restoration.*
3. Is there a point where full exclusion (abandonment) might be a legitimate course of action? At what point do you think this might be a legitimate response?
4. Why is it significant that Paul reveals his advice is meant for application in the church and “**not at all [meant for] the people of this world who are immoral**”? Why are we not, as followers of Jesus, to pass judgement on the sexual improprieties of those outside of the church?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“A man is sleeping with his father’s wife. 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? ... Your boasting is not good.” (1 Corinthians 5:2 and 6)

In sermon, it was suggested that this situation of sexual immorality had become a cause celebre within the Corinthian church and fractured the perfect unity in mind and thought gifted by the Spirit of God to the people of God.

1. What might happen if a church permits such a situation to continue or to allow it to become a cause celebre? How might this cause division and strife within a church?
2. In what ways might unaddressed and unrepentant sin wreak havoc upon the church?
3. Why is it important to emphasize transformation over and above affirmation within the life of the church? What challenges to our present cultural ideals might such an emphasis cause?