

Tuesday, March 10 ~ The Fight of Our Lives ~ 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

We live in a world saturated with sexual promiscuity. If we turn on the TV, browse social media, or open the Internet, we are flooded with sexually explicit or suggestive posts, advertisements, websites, etc. Our young men and women struggle constantly with the pressures of social media and the ever-increasing temptation of pornography. We are in the midst of a war.

I wholeheartedly believe that the family is the heart of the church. Therefore if Satan's mission is to destroy the church, he must begin with the family. Our culture teaches us that if it feels good we should do it. We reject discipline and openly accept pleasure. In many cases our culture openly celebrates pornography or sexually suggestive material. With our smartphones, an inexhaustible supply of sexually explicit material is available at the click of a button. This culture of pornography is an ever-growing burden on the next generation of disciples, the next generation of spouses, and the next generation of parents. Pornography destroys how our young people identify as men and women; it destroys our view of the opposite sex; it destroys how we relate to the opposite sex; and it destroys our identity in Christ. The enemy uses pornography to destroy the family.

As a church, we must join together in the fight against sexual immorality. We must be strong. We must raise up young disciples to reclaim our identity as men and women in Christ. Just like the Corinthians, we must take a stand against Satan's foolish schemes to destroy our church. We must remember that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in us, whom we have received from God. We must remember that we are not our own, we were bought at a price. We must fight for our purity; we must fight for our lives. If we win the fight against sexual immorality, we win the fight of our lives.

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Dealing With a Case of Incest

5 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. ²And 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? ³For 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. ⁴So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, ⁵hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh,^{[a][b]} so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

Footnotes:

- a. **1 Corinthians 5:5** In contexts like this, the Greek word for *flesh* (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit.
- b. **1 Corinthians 5:5** Or *of his body*