

Relationships

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Introduction: One of the more difficult decisions each Christian must decide for themselves is how much to participate in the world. In this lesson, Paul makes it clear that we must engage with worldly people but must also keep ourselves and our congregations unspotted from the world.

Context: Man living with father's wife, church discipline

9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

10 Yet I certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. **11** But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. **12** For what *have* I *to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? **13** But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”

PURITY: Danger of worldly influence

Mt 5:13 “*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*”

1. *We must be holy and look like Jesus*
Don't let world come into the church
1 Cor. 6:20 Not your own, bought with a price
1 Peter 1:16 Be holy as I am holy
2. *What is different from the church and the world?*
Jesus' prayer Jn 17 In world, not of world
1 Pt. Don't be shocked that the world is the world

PRINCIPLE: We are to reach out to the world

14 “*You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*”

1. *There is no impact without contact (salt/light)*
This was known by the Corinthians
(6:11 and such were some of you)
Mt. 28:19 Go into all the world and preach the gospel
2. *But this contact cannot change our nature*
John 8:11 Go and sin no more

PROCLAMATION

16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

1. Our interaction with the world should bring others closer to God
Our actions, words, attitude
Some people only focus at level of sin in the world
Our anger can't be bigger than our compassion
2. This world would be better if there were more Christians
Where do we get them?