

The Deep Damage of Sin—and What to Do About It

Building His Church—The Ekklesia (Called-Out) Wall: Part 6

| February 13, 2022

The Erosion that Sexual Immorality Brings

- Sexual immorality clears the path for relational _____.
- Sexual immorality _____ the life God created in me.
- Sexual immorality is a short path for greatest _____.
- We believe that we are seeking freedom but we find _____.
- Sexual immorality invades the _____, not just the body.

How to Navigate the Minefield

- Live out the gospel of _____.
— 1 Corinthians 6:12 *“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.*
- Learn the practice of _____!
— 1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.*
- Confront the adaptation of _____ into my personal habits.
— **1 Corinthians 5:9-11** *I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.*
— **Romans 12:1-2** *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*
- Distinguish _____ from patience and repentance.
— **Romans 2:4** *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*
- Live under the gospel of _____.
— **Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
— **Romans 5:21** *But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹ so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The Promise: 1 Corinthians 10:13



Digging Deeper

(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)

As a group, read and examine...

...1 Corinthians 10:1-12 (15 minutes)

- Briefly remind the group of the context of this letter of 1 Corinthians. Who is it from? To whom is it written? Why is it so different to plant a church in Corinth, compared to churches in Israel?
- What does it mean to “set our hearts on evil”? (1 Corinthians 10:6)
- What are two major categories of unholy behavior addressed in 1 Corinthians 10:7-8—and why are these so deadly to us?
- The passage alludes to the Old Testament story of the children of Israel—God’s Covenant people—as they wandered in the desert. Why do you think they gave in to unholy behavior after having been part of the great miracle of the parting of the Red Sea?
 - What does that say about us?
- What does it mean to “test the Lord”? (1 Corinthians 10:9)

...Mark 7:20-23 (15 minutes)

- Take a brief look at the overview of Mark 7. What major theme is Jesus dealing with in this chapter?
- What is the difference between “unclean” and “clean”?
- What is the distinction between sins that come from *within* us and those that might be *outside* of us?
- Name some of the unholy behaviors that Jesus addresses in Mark 7:21. Discuss how they can be so deadly to us individually as well as to the whole Body of Christ.

...1 Corinthians 10:13 (15 minutes)

- As a group, carefully write out some of the major points made in this verse (please go slowly and don’t miss some of the major highlights).
- How can each of these points be an encouragement to you? (Take your time with this, and reflect personally on how this helps you navigate the unholy behaviors you might struggle with.)

...Psalm 51:1-12 (15 minutes)

- King David had committed multiple “unholy” sins and was found thoroughly guilty. This psalm includes a confession, repentance, and receiving God’s forgiveness and grace.
- Define and discuss *confession* and *repentance*.
- Discuss: how we can have a “clean heart” after such great sin? (Psalm 51:10)

PERSONAL EXAMINATION

Reflect on these questions at home in your quiet time:

- What do I need to confess before the Lord? For what do I need to seek his forgiveness?
- Take some time to reflect and pray over matters in your own heart and behaviors that control your life. Take them to the Lord and seek his forgiveness and guidance. You will find rest for your soul! (look up Matthew 11:29).