

Questions Posed for Study

Question: When should a Christian be shunned & for how long?

'Seeking godly sorrow'

(I Corinthians 5:1 - 13)

Intro: The Apostle Paul is answering a situation that existed within the assembly of Believers in the city of Corinth. The issue was the existence of fornication which was common knowledge which certainly means these two were not hiding this illicit relationship. It was apparently not only common knowledge with the assembly of Believers, but also without the church. There were obviously some who were concerned hence the mention in this church's letter to Paul.

The city of Corinth had its share of sexual deviances with brothels used as worship to the goddess of Diana and other places for homosexual activities. Even though it doesn't bode well for the moral climate of the city, it does appear they had a line they didn't cross – verse 1. The point of this passage is that our actions and conduct can and do effect those with whom we associate or vice versa as Paul points out in verse 6. The idea being that many were defending the issue at hand in some fashion or other. There is no defense for knowingly choosing to sin. And so, we will answer the questions:

1. When should a Christian be _____?
2. How _____ should a Christian be shunned?

I. When should a Christian be shunned?

- A. To shun is a _____ action in which someone or something is avoided,
 1. It often involves social _____ or refusing to acknowledge or associate with a person or group.
 2. Shunning can be a form of _____, typically for perceived wrongdoing or violation of social norms.
 3. It can lead to feelings of _____, shame, and loss of social standing.
 4. Shunned individuals may face difficulties in finding acceptance or reclaiming their previous status in _____.
- B. Paul, lead of the Holy Spirit makes it clear as to the particulars of withdrawing fellowship from fellow _____.
 1. **Verse 1** – “it is reported commonly” means this person's sin has become _____ knowledge in which the testimony of the church is suffering within the community, and as well within the church- **note verse 6.**
 2. Part of the reason being that one's sinful conduct is _____ and therefore

fellowship should be withdrawn for the sake of the _____ – **verses 6 & 7.**

- a. A younger generation tends to take notice of the church's _____, whether male or female and this is how they learn acceptable or sadly unacceptable conduct.
- b. Our responsibility as elders is to _____ the younger generation to live their lives to glorify God – **I Peter 2:20 – 3:7; Titu 2:1 – 6.**
- c. Words without the _____ of a life to back them up are hollow and useless for the most part. We are to be _____ of the power of godly knowledge and wisdom in action as applied to daily life in a fallen world.

C. The more to the point here, is this person's _____ conduct of sexual immorality which covers adultery, living together, sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, addiction to pornography and all perversions of sexuality, from such we are to withdraw fellowship.

(**I Corinthians 5:9** the word – “fornicators”.)

D. The Holy Spirit takes it even further when it comes to the Believer's _____ in **verse 11.**

1. The list in this verse has to more to do with those whose lives are _____ and these are habitual practice for which they have no desire to change. (Blatantly)
2. These are the very _____ of a true Believer, and the hallmarks of Satan's control.
 - a. **Covetous** – _____ greed, covetous of what other have.
 - b. **Idolater** – one who worships other gods and _____ things their god.
 - c. **Railer** – to assail with vicious, scornful and _____ words.
 - d. **Drunkard** – one who is _____ to drunkenness and intoxication.
 - e. **Extortioner** – one who extorts and _____ others.

3. Of such again the Holy Spirit says to - “**with such an one no not to eat.**” **Vse. 11.**

E. The big question being, “how _____ are to withdraw fellowship?”

1. The answer is found in our text as ‘why’ the fellowship is to be withdrawn.
2. The purpose of the fellowship is not one of punishment, but to _____ godly sorrow in the offending individual with the goal of producing repentance!
3. Which in this case it did do just that and the Apostle Paul had to deal with the way some of the members _____ to this young man's repentance in **II Cor. 2:5-11.**
4. The _____ had swung from being “puffed up” – **I Cor. 5:2** to an unforgiving refusal to forgive and to restore following the young man's repentance, which was the goal in the first place.

F. Unfortunately it takes a strong, spiritually mature Christian who _____ the sinner to be willing to withdraw their fellowship.

1. Some folks _____ the Scriptures on this and feel they need to maintain fellowship with the backslider, which only worsens the situation for the backslider.
2. It will _____ the conviction on the backslider and lengthen the time that repentance may take place because such individuals are coming between God and God's desired outcome.