

Holy Church

1 Corinthians 5

April 12, 2026 | Pastor Michael Foster

A holy church loves God and people enough to take sin seriously. It acts with godly conviction and compassion to restore those ensnared by sin.

⇒ Wise and loving responses to sin

- ◇ Judgment rather than tolerance (vv. 3, 12)
- ◇ Mourning rather than pride (vv. 2, 6)
- ◇ Action rather than inaction (vv. 4-5)

⇒ Wise and loving motivations for action

- ◇ To restore the unrepentant person (v. 5)
- ◇ To protect the church (vv. 6-8)
- ◇ To preserve the church's witness to the world (vv. 9-11)

⇒ Wise and loving process of restoration

- ◇ Private, humble, gentle confrontation (Matt 18:15, Gal 6:1, 1 Thess 5:15, Matt 7:5)
- ◇ Involvement of others (Matt 18:16-17)
- ◇ Removal from fellowship (Matt 18:17, 2 Thess 3:6-15, Titus 3:10)
- ◇ Restoration and reaffirmation (2 Corinthians 2:5-11)

⇒ Applications

- ◇ Invite accountability by joining your church and asking others to speak into your life
- ◇ Practice humility by seeking to understand those who are correcting or criticizing you
- ◇ Take responsibility for encouraging and warning your brothers and sisters in Christ

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 5:11
- Read Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:15, Matthew 7:1-5, Titus 3:10-11
- Read "Church discipline brought me home" – bit.ly/Churchdisciplinebroughtmehome
- Read "5 Questions about Church Discipline" – bit.ly/5Questionschurchdiscipline
- Read "How to help a person get right with God" – bit.ly/HelpgetrightwithGod
- Read "Gentle Admonition" – bit.ly/GentleAdmonition
- Read *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Bridges
- Resources on recovering from spiritual abuse:
 - ◆ bit.ly/RecoveringfromAbuse
 - ◆ bit.ly/SpiritualAbuse1
 - ◆ *Bully Pulpit* by Michael Kruger

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you the most from the message?
2. We said that Jesus loves us like we are, but he also loves us too much to leave us like we are. Share about one way Jesus has changed your life and made you more like him.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-2. What are some reasons why God longs for his people to be sanctified, or holy?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. What do you think of when you hear the words "church discipline"? What images or ideas come into your mind? How do these thoughts compare with what we saw in our text today?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15. Who in the church is commanded to do these things? Share about a time when you sought to obey one of these commands and help another believer in some way. How were you received? What difference did it make?
6. Read Galatians 6:1. What are some of the temptations we face when trying to help others?
7. Why do you think we are tempted to respond so poorly to correction or criticism?
8. Share about a time when someone confronted you about an issue in your life. How did you respond? What did God do?
9. Read Matthew 18:15-17. What wisdom do you see in what Jesus teaches here? What would be hard about carrying out this kind of a process?
10. Read 1 John 1:8-10 and James 5:16. Is there anything you should confess to others right now? Take some time and invite the Lord to search your hearts.

