

Groups Guide
4/23/23
1 Corinthians 5
Awkward Conversations
Pastor David Uth

Text: 1 Corinthians 5

Sermon Notes:

Instructions:

This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Belong** section as well as give you a recap from the week before. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Believe** section where you will read the key passage and answer suggested questions based on the sermon. Feel free to use some or all of these questions or add your own. Finally, in the **Become** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together.

Belong:

Ice Breaker: There is a current social media post (meme) rotating that says, “If the Apostle Paul were alive today, the Church would be getting a letter from him.” Do you agree? What do you think Paul would say in a current day letter to the Church?

1 Corinthians 5 Introduction - Recap: Last week Pastor David shared a message that will serve as a framework for the next few chapters in 1 Corinthians. We are calling this series “Awkward Conversations” because they have several topics that many times as Christians we find uncomfortable to discuss. Truthfully, there should be a difference between the Church and the world. We are followers of Jesus Christ and we exist for him and through him (1 Corinthians 8:6). With Scripture as our standard our goals are twofold as we study chapters 5-8: First our goal is to salvation for non-believers. Second, we want those who are followers of Jesus to be sanctified (the process of being made like Him) and to be empowered by His Spirit for the good works He has set before us.

As a reminder, this statement on the family is found at FirstOrlando.com/about/what-we-beleive:

“We teach that the family is an institution created by God. God’s vision for the family is the uniting of one man and one woman in the covenant of marriage for a lifetime. Human sexuality is a gift created for expression within the boundaries of marriage. For those who have children, God has given the parents the responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6). We believe that a consistent and whole education will occur when home, church, and school work closely together and are in agreement on the basic concepts of life.”

Believe: (Big Idea/Main Discussion)

Read: 1 Corinthians 5: Paul is addressing two issues in this chapter and each issue has a problem, a solution, and a desired outcome.

Issue #1: The report of sexual immorality

What is the problem?

What is the solution?

What is the desired outcome?

Issue #2 The church's response

What is the problem?

What is the solution?

What is the desired outcome?

Why is it easier to ignore sin we see in the lives of others?

Have you ever had to confront another Christ follower who was in habitual sin?

How did you address it?

How did you feel after you talked with that person? How did they respond?

Has anyone ever confronted you over an issue of sin in your life?

How did you feel after they confronted you?

How did you respond? Did the way they confronted you make a difference in your next step?

What is ultimately at stake here in Corinth if the church grows and succeeds?

Who is Paul putting pressure on for the most part? Why?

Why must we take habitual sexual immorality in the church seriously?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8:

Paul uses a metaphor of leaven and dough. Have you ever made homemade bread? What does leaven or “yeast” do?

What is unleavened bread?

How and why is this significant in the history of God’s people? What does yeast symbolize?

(Cross Reference: Read Exodus 12:14-20 to read about the Feast of Unleavened Bread and its role in Passover)

If all sin is like “leaven” in the church, is there difference between different types of sins we might label as big or little?

Give some examples of what we might call “big sins” and “little sins”.

In the long run, what happens if sin (big or little) is left unchecked?

Read 1 Corinthian 5:9-12:

Paul makes a distinction in these verses from people in the world and people in the church. Who are we supposed to associate with every day?

Why do you think Paul says this?

What does the world need more than our judgment?

Have you ever seen one Christ follower make a difference at work, in a family, or in a neighborhood by continuing to do life with them and not pull away?

What was the response of those they encountered?

Did anyone come to Christ as a result?

Who does Paul say we are to judge?

Do you think Paul's advice is extreme? Who does God judge?

(God is extremely patient with us. If this lesson hits harshley, here are a few Cross References to share with your group: Exodus 34:6-7, Romans 2:4, John 3:16)

Become: (Application)

We believe in developing a healthy church community. We want to grow in our faith individually and as a group. One way we do that is to share our sin struggles with each other and create a safe environment to be held accountable in those areas.

What is one step you can take this week to get serious about any sin in your own life?

Who could you ask to pray with you and for you as you seek to trust in Christ's (Our Passover Lamb) finished work on the Cross for your sin?

Prayer: LORD thank you that you are serious about sin and that you loved us so much you sent Jesus to die for our sins and set us free. We want to be honest about any sin we are struggling with, remove it from our lives, and keep it from impacting our church community. Because, ultimately we want to share your hope with the world. In Jesus Name, AMEN.