

# Keeping Our Fellowship Holy

Hope Chapel Tokorozawa

1Corinthians 5:1-13

“But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you." (1Corinthians 5:11-13, ESV)

## Introduction

A man named Francis August Schaeffer (1912-1984), arguably one of the most influential Christian thinkers and writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century observed in a book entitled “The Church At The End Of The 20<sup>th</sup> Century” that there had been seven “norms” in the visible church for the first 2000 years, the 5<sup>th</sup> of which was discipline. “*The fifth norm is that the church must take discipline seriously,*” observed Schaeffer while noting that 1Corinthians 5:1-5 was just one example where “purity in the teaching and life of the church” were important to its witness to Jesus Christ. What is our responsibility for holiness in the church?

### **1. Freedom in Christ is for worship and service, not sin. (1Corinthians 5:1-5)**

a) Because we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, sexual sin amongst us is sin against God.

b) We must truthfully confront sin in love, and remove from ourselves the unrepentant.

### **2. We should celebrate life in Christ in sincerity and truth. (1Corinthians 5:6-8)**

a) We should not boast about the abuse of grace and freedom from sin and judgment.

b) Christ, our Passover lamb, died in our place to forgive sin not to permit sin.

### **3. Learning to practice a lifestyle of grace and truth. (1Corinthians 5:9-13)**

a) The line we are to draw against sin is not outside the church but within the church.

b) We are not to tolerate those who call themselves Christians but are unrepentant sinners.

## For our prayerful study, discussion and application

1) Why do you think or not think that holiness in the teaching and life of the church is vital?

2) What does 1Corinthians 5:9-11 teach us? How can we be faithful to this teaching?

3) According to verse 13, what is our responsibility for holiness in the church?

## Conclusion

The greatest challenge to the authority of the Bible and the Church of Christ today might be pluralism. Nevertheless holiness, shown with grace and truth, must preclude pluralism.

**050408hcte**