

First Corinthians 5:1-5
A practical example of James 3:16

Question: In addition to the obvious sin of sexual immorality, what other less obvious sins can we identify in this section of Scripture?

Their arrogance moves them to tolerate an unspeakable sin—5:1-2

- 1) The initial sins—5:1 ¹ *It is actually reported* (cf. 1:11; 16:17) *that there is sexual immorality [porneia] among you^{pl},*
 - a) Comparatively—*and such sexual immorality [porneia] as is not even named among the nations,*
 - b) Specifically—for someone (unnamed) to have his father's wife. (his step-mother)
 - i) Cf. 7:2, 12-13; Matthew 14:4; Mark 6:17-18; 12:23; Luke 20:28, 33; John 4:17
 - ii) This was prohibited under the Law to Israel (Leviticus 18:8; Deuteronomy 22:30; 27:20) and Roman law (Gaius, *Institutes of Roman Law*, I.63).
 - iii) Evidently the woman was not a Christian, since she is not to be disciplined.
- 2) The corporate sinful response to the original sin—5:2 ² *And you^{pl}* (emphatic) ...
 - a) Positively—*have become arrogant*, (cf. 4:6, 18-19)
 - b) Negatively—*and have not rather mourned*, (not primarily a feeling but an action)
 - i) Specific expectation of Paul—*so that the one who did this deed might be removed from your^{pl} midst.* (cf. 1:2; 5:7, 11, 13)
 - ii) Cf. 2nd Corinthians 12:21
- 3) The Corinthians lacked both the sense of sin and the appropriate ethical expectations.

Paul passes judgment concerning their sin and the sinning member—5:3-5 (cf. 4:21)

- 1) Paul's previous judgment—5:3ab ³ *For I* (emphatic) ... *have already judged,*
 - a) *for my part*, (in contrast to the Corinthians)
 - i) *as absent in body but present in Spirit*, (more than just “you are in my thoughts”)
 - ii) *(as though I am present)*
 - b) Paul is in Ephesus at the time he writes this letter (cf. 16:8)
- 2) The content of Paul's judgment—5:3c-5
 - a) The sinning member of the corporate action—5:3c *the one who did such a thing,*
 - b) The authority behind the corporate action—5:4 ⁴ *in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - i) A reference to Paul's delegated authority as an apostle (cf. 2nd Thessalonians 3:6)
 - c) The context of the corporate action—*when you^{pl} are assembled, even with my spirit,*
 - d) The enabling of the corporate action—*with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - e) The specifics of the corporate action—⁵ *to hand over such a one to Satan*
 - i) Cf. 1st Timothy 1:19-20; Job 2:5-6
 - f) The result and purpose of the corporate action (flesh/spirit, destruction/rescue)
 - i) Result—*for the destruction of the flesh,*
 - (1) A matter of excommunication toward repentance and sanctification
 - (a) Cf. 4:11 and not associating with this man
 - (b) Cf. 2nd Corinthians 2:5-11 and a possible future restoration
 - ii) Purpose—*so that the spirit may be rescued in the day of the Lord Jesus.* (cf. 1:7-8)