

## 1 Corinthians 4:21 – 6:1

New American Standard Version

1 <sup>21</sup>What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or  
2 with love and a spirit of gentleness? <sup>5:1</sup> It is actually  
3 reported that there is immorality among you, and  
4 immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the  
5 Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> You have  
6 become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the  
7 one who had done this deed would be removed from your  
8 midst. <sup>3</sup> For I, on my part, though absent in body but  
9 present in spirit, have already judged him who has so  
10 committed this, as though I were present. <sup>4</sup> In the name of  
11 our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in  
12 spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> I have decided to  
13 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh,  
14 so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.  
15 <sup>6</sup> Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little  
16 leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? <sup>7</sup> Clean out the old  
17 leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in*  
18 *fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been  
19 sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old  
20 leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but  
21 with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. <sup>9</sup> I wrote  
22 you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; <sup>10</sup> I  
23 *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or  
24 with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then  
25 you would have to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup> But actually, I  
26 wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he  
27 is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a  
28 reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with  
29 such a one. <sup>12</sup> For what have I to do with judging outsiders?  
30 Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? <sup>13</sup> But  
31 those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED  
32 MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES. <sup>6:1</sup> Does any one of you,  
33 when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law  
34 before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

*Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

**Observation (What does it say?):**

*Circle what Paul says about the church's reaction to immorality.*

*Underline Paul's own responses to immorality*

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

*What is the connection between immorality, arrogance, and mourning (lines 4-6)?*

*What might the Corinthians be "boasting" about (line 15)? Why are the arrogance and boasting so upsetting to Paul?*

*How practical is Paul's uncompromising counsel?*

*What would his instructions look like, such as "delivering to Satan" (line 13)?*

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

*What current issues might the church face that would be as serious as the immorality that Paul addresses here?*

*How would you apply this passage to those issues?*

**Further questions for thinking and discussion:**

- Why would Paul start the letter with four chapters about divisions in the church and wait until chapter 5 to address the immorality that was present in the church?
- Paul just finished telling them he didn't worry about them "examining" him (4:3) and that they should not be passing judgment (4:5). What is the difference between what they were doing and what he is doing in this passage?

---

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain hidden  
that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**