

1 Corinthians 4:21 – 6:1

New American Standard Version

1 21 What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or
2 with love and a spirit of gentleness? ^{5:1} 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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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, ⁵ 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 ⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little
16 leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ I wrote
22 you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders?
30 Do you not judge those who are within the church? ¹³ But
31 those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED
32 MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES. ^{6:1} 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 everything about discipline or judging. Underline everything about forgiveness or restoration..

Interpretation (What does it mean?):
What conclusions do you draw from this passage about judging others?

What conclusions do you draw from this passage about discipline among believers?

What conclusions do you draw from this passage about forgiveness and restoration?

Application (What does it mean for me?):
Is your first reaction to another person’s sin usually judging and discipline, or is it more often forgiveness and restoration?

Which of these areas do you most need to grow in? What changes might result in your life as a result?

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)**