

Limits Of Unity

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 5:1-13)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, October 25th, 2015

Why/When We Sometimes Have To Draw The Line

(1 Corinthians 4:6)

- B _____
- B _____

Passage: (1 Corinthians 5:1-13)

- **A Sad Report and Surprising Response**
(1 Corinthians 5:1-2, Lev 18:8, 20:17, Deut. 27:20)
- **A Judgment from afar**
(1 Corinthians 5:3-5, Colossians 1:13)
- **Another Reason For Tough Love**
(1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Joshua 7:1-12)
- **An Important Clarification**
(1 Corinthians 5:9-13)

How To Apply These Insights in Real Life:

- **Our role is not ...**
- **Our role is not ...**
- **Our role is not ...**
- **Church discipline does not ...**
- **Church discipline is always ...**
- **Church discipline relates to ...**

This Week's Discussion Guide:

This is 'week 7' of our 11 weeks we will be getting together to pray for one another and study God's Word together. Our last meeting this quarter will be the week of November 22nd just before Thanksgiving.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday's message from our study of 1 Corinthians focused on valuing ministry integrity even over ministry unity. As we value unity in the Body of Christ, there are lines that God draws that he calls his people to not ignore. In 1 Corinthians 5, we see that Paul received a sad report about the church in Corinth that he chooses to address.

In getting to know each other better, can you remember when you received some sad news? What was it and how did you respond? Did you choose to keep it to yourself or did you share it with a few others?

There are times when we are called on to give some 'tough love' to those we care about. When were you the sharer or recipient of a not so fun conversation that needed to be given? How did it go? If you had it to do over again, how might you have given or received the news any different?

To help us start our Bible study/discussion together, looking back at your notes from Sunday, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, encouraged you or raised a question as we heard a message from 1 Corinthians 5:1-13?

Digging Deeper:

1. Some Christians think that sin is not that big of a deal because we are already forgiven. How does Galatians 6:7-10 help us stay away from this kind of goofy thinking?

Do you ever find yourself feeling 'weary of doing good'? If so, explain.

2. Sin is a big deal. That's why the Bible gives us a number of guidelines for dealing with sin in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. Read the following verses and identify when we're supposed to get involved in the lives of others and the manner in which we are to do so.

Matthew 18:15

Matthew 5:23-24

Galatians 6:1-5

Looking back at these verses, which one is potentially most helpful in regards to our motives and actions when dealing with our own sin and sin in others?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Last week Bob shared that to increase our positive influence on a worldly culture, it is best to 'infiltrate' and not 'isolate'. What are some ways you can be in the world, but still be careful to not be of the world?

What might be some indicators that we have gone too far being part of a culture in the hopes that we can win some to Christ?

4. In 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, the Apostle Paul mentions the power of a little leaven in relation to the whole loaf. Paul uses leaven in this case as something that is damaging. The same principle regarding influence can also be seen when something positive happens in a group.

When has someone else's positive attitude or example made a positive difference in your life regarding your attitude and actions?

When has someone else's positive attitude or example made a positive difference with a larger group of people and possibly a community or country?

WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our small group meeting?