

Christians Gone Wild!
1st Corinthians, week 11
Judging Like Jesus (1 Corinthians 5:1–13)
March 19, 2006
Pastor Mark Driscoll

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

1 Corinthians 5:12

Like Seattle, the city of Corinth had a long history of gender confusion and sexual perversion. The Temple of Aphrodite, which stood in the old city of Corinth before it was destroyed, had upwards of 1,000 prostitutes. In Paul's day, the rich often hosted extravagant banquets complete with a prostitute for each guest. Sexual perversion of literally every sort was common, including strip clubs, prostitution, cross-dressing transvestites, cohabitating unmarried singles, homosexuality, swinger clubs, bisexuality, etc.

Things were so bad that the term "to corinthianize" meant to fornicate, and prostitutes were referred to as "Corinthian girls." Corinth also had shrines with genitalia that were believed to help cure people of various venereal diseases. Amongst these alternative lifestyles was the church of Jesus Christ at Corinth, which had become so proud of their tolerance and alternative lifestyles that they were not even offended when a professing Christian man flaunted his sexual relationship with his father's wife.

Paul's Spirit-inspired words ring as true as ever, both in our nation and in our city:

Nationally

- Each year, Americans spend more money on pornography than country music, rock music, jazz music, classical music, Broadway plays, and ballet combined.
- Pornography has grown into a \$10 billion business—bigger than the NFL, the NBA, and Major League Baseball combined.
- Annual sales and rentals of adult videos and DVDs top \$4 billion, and the industry churns out 11,000 titles each year—more than 20 times as many as Hollywood.
- The porn industry claims that more than 30 percent of all video rentals on the East and West coasts are sex films.
- The top word searched for on the internet is "sex," with "porn," "nude," "Playboy," and "erotic stories" also in the top 20.
- Seventy percent of porn traffic occurs between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The National Council on Sexual Addiction Compulsivity estimated that between six and eight percent of Americans are sex addicts, which is somewhere between 16 million and 21.5 million people.
- There are more than 2,400 strip-clubs, according to a popular strip-club webzine. Annual revenues at some clubs are as high as \$8 million and they employ as many as 200 dancers.

- More than half of American teenagers ages 15 to 19 have engaged in oral sex.
- Sixty-one percent of all high school seniors have had sexual intercourse, about half are currently sexually active, and 21 percent have had 4 or more partners.
- Adolescents have the highest STD rates. Approximately one fourth of sexually active adolescents become infected with an STD each year, accounting for 3 million cases. People under the age of 25 account for two-thirds of all STDs in the United States.
- By graduation, the average high school student will have spent 15,000 hours watching television (compared to 12,000 hours spent in the classroom) and will have watched an average of 14,000 sexual references a year. Only 165 of these references deal with birth control, self-control, abstinence, or the risk of pregnancy or STDs.

Locally

- The cohabitation rate in Seattle is 250 percent higher than the national average.
- Over 130,000 people attended the 2005 Seattle Pride gay parade.
- An Eastlake club has naked wine-tasting parties.
- Lynwood has a 13-acre swinger club.
- Redmond and Tukwila also have swinger clubs.
- A Seattle club has three-hour cuddle parties.
- Walking distance from Mars Hill: Ballard is one of Seattle's largest alternative-sex training clubs.
- Seattle's Craigslist.com gets 2,800 posts a week under "casual encounters."
- *Seattle* magazine (March 2006) has a story on Mars Hill on page 115 and a story on alternative sex on the next page.

1. Tolerance of alternative lifestyles is sinful.

¹It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. ²And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?

Tragically, some Christians become so delusional they think that freedom, tolerance, and acceptance of alternative sexual lifestyles and other sins are good things. Subsequently, some Christians brag about endorsing things that even most non-Christians know are evil.

2. Unrepentant Christians must be disciplined to repentance.

³Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. ⁴When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, ⁵hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

A church must be willing to judge the conduct of professing Christians. If such a person is found guilty and unrepentant of sin, they must be kicked out of the church in hopes that they find their sinful life with Satan so unpleasant that they return to Jesus and His church.

3. Churches become increasingly evil by embracing alternative lifestyles.

⁶Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? ⁷Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

During the Passover, God's people in the Old Testament removed all that defiled them so as to worship God in holiness. Likewise, God's people in our day are to put our sin to death because Jesus was put to death for our sin. Failure to get rid of sin in the church leads to that sin becoming more widespread and leads to additional sins.

4. Christians must be judgmental like Jesus.

⁹I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—¹⁰not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. ¹²What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

A Christian should not pass eternal judgment on a non-Christian because that is Jesus' job. Instead, a Christian should befriend lost people and lovingly share the gospel of repentance of sin with them. However, a Christian must not maintain friendships with professing Christians who have been judged wicked by the church and kicked out of the church because of their unrepentance. Ideally, by losing their supportive community, the sinful Christian will come to regret their sin and repent so that they can be forgiven and welcomed back into the church.

Verses for next week: 1 Corinthians 6:1–11