**Ephesians 5:3** But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; (Eph 5:3 NKJ)**Sermon Title: The Fellowship of the Church in a Christ-less Culture**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 5:9-13**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a clear understanding of the vital importance of the purity of the church community.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 facts related to separation and the immoral people in the church community.**

**Introduction: “**David Brainerd, who spent his short adult life as a missionary to the American Indians, wrote in his diary: ‘I never got away from Jesus, and Him crucified, and I found that when my people were gripped by this great evangelical doctrine of Christ and Him crucified, I had no need to give them instructions about morality. I found that one followed as the sure and inevitable fruit of the other. . . . I find my Indians begin to put on the garments of holiness and their common life begins to be sanctified even in small matters when they are possessed by the doctrine of Christ and Him crucified.’

 One of the greatest protections from sin that we have as Christians is simply focusing on our Lord and on the sacrifice He made for us. To understand that His death for sin applied to us calls us away from sin and to a clean break with the old ways is to understand the sanctifying work of the cross (see Titus 2:11-14). It is impossible to be occupied with this truth and with sin at the same time.”

[**John MacArthur, The John MacArthur New Testament Commentary 1 Corinthians, p. 129**]

**I. The previous word on separation from immoral people. Vv.9-10**

**II. The present word on separation from immoral people. V.11**

**III. The practical word on separation from immoral people. Vv.12-13**

**I. The previous word on separation from immoral people. Vv.9-10**

 A. The **instruction** related to immoral people. V.9

 The Greek word “sunanamignusthai” means to “associate with” or “to mix up.” This compound word has a much more intense meaning “to keep intimate, or close company with.”

 B. The **identification** related to immoral people. V.10

 The faithful believers are instructed not to keep on keeping company with any so called believer who persistently or habitually practice sins such as those mentioned in the Scriptures.

 They should not be allowed to continue to participate in any of the activities of the church-worship services, Sunday School, Bible Studies, or the social fellowship activities. This includes individual and corporate fellowship. This includes close friends or family members.

 **Mark 2:16-17** And when the scribes andPharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How *is it* that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" **17** When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

 1. No fellowship with the covetous. V.10a

 “Plenonektais” “greedy” those who seek for more and more while millions are dying from sin, hunger, desires, and poverty.

 **Luke 12:15** And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

 **Ephesians 5:3** But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

 **Colossians 3:5** Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

 **Hebrews 13:5** *Let your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

 (**Contentment**) (**Beware**) (**Unnamed**) (**Mortify**)

 2. No fellowship with the extortioners. V.10b

 “harpaxin” “theivecs” These are thieves, hijackers, grafters, and those who take advantage of the poor, in order to get more for themselves.

 **Matthew 23:25** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.

 **Proverbs 14:31** He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

 **Luke 3:13** And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

 3. No fellowship with the idolaters. V.10c

 “eidololatrais” “the worship of idols” mean those who either worship false gods or do not have a right relationship or fellowship with God.

 **1 John 5:21** Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

 **Exodus 20:4** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth;

 **Deuteronomy 11:16** "Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

 **Isaiah 42:8** I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

 C. The **illumination** related to the immoral people. V.10d (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)

 **John 15:19** "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

 **John 17:15** "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

**II. The present word on separation from immoral people. V.11**

 **Ezekiel 33:31-32** "So they come to you as people do, they sit before you *as* My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, *but* their hearts pursue their *own* gain. **32** "Indeed you *are* to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.

 **Mark 2:16-17** And when the scribes andPharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How *is it* that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" **17** When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

 To eat with such a person could be taken as a sign of condoning their worldly lifestyle.

**III. The practical word on separation from immoral people. Vv.12-13**

 A. The Church is not responsible for judging **outsiders**. Vv.12a-13a

 B. The Church is responsible for judging **insiders**. Vv.1b-13b

 **Matthew 18:15-17** "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. **16** "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that`by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' **17** "And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

 **Luke 17:1-3** Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! **2** "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. **3** "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

 **1 Timothy 5:20** Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

 **Titus 3:10** Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

 **Matthew 16:18-19** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **19** "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosedin heaven."

 C. The Church is responsible for **expelling** the immoral people.

 **Deuteronomy 13:5** "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst. **Deuteronomy 17:7** "The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil from among you.

 **Deuteronomy 17:12** "Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.

 **Deuteronomy 19:19** "then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you.

 **Deuteronomy 21:21** "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

 The Church is not to have fellowship with insiders, who choose to live like outsiders, in order to protect the glory of God, and the purity of the Church community.

 **Proverbs 27:6** Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

 **2 Corinthians 2:7** so that, on the contrary, you *ought* rather to forgive and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.