


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Believers Are the Temple of The Living God

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial [Bee-lie-all]? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Q1. (Verse 14) *Yoked together with unbelievers*: What is God's reasoning, His concern, if Believers are "yoked together with unbelievers"?

Exodus 20:3-6 [NIV-1984]

[The First and Second Commandments:]

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Deuteronomy 22:10 [NIV-1984]

Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.

Numbers 25:1-5 [NIV-1984]


¹ While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, ² who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods.

³ So Israel joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them.

⁴ The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the Lord's fierce anger may turn away from Israel."

⁵ So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your men who have joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor."

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 “Peor was a mountain in Moab It gave its name to the Ba'al who was there worshiped, and to whose service Israel, before the entrance into Canaan, was, for a brief time, attracted. . . . It is commonly held that this form of Ba'al-worship especially called for sensual indulgence. The context seems to favor his view, on account of the shameful licentiousness into which many of the Israelites were there enticed. But all Ba'al-worship encouraged this sin; and Peor may not have been worse than many other shrines in this respect, though the evil there was certainly flagrant.”
[Source: The Kopelman Foundation, ©2002-2021, JewishEncyclopedia.com. All rights reserved. <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/2246-baal-peor>]

Q2. (Verse 15) What harmony is there between Christ and Belial: Who or what is “Belial”?

Q3. (Verse 15) *What harmony is there between Christ and Belial:* Do you think there can ever be “harmony . . . between Christ and Belial”?

Yes? } Why did you circle that answer?
No? }

Mark 4:15 [NIV-1984]

Some people are like seed along the path, where the word [of God] is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Luke 10:1, 17-20 [NIV-1984]

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go . . .

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

¹⁸ [Jesus] replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Acts 26:17-18 [NIV-1984]

¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Q4. (Verses 14-16) Sin: does God accept, or allow, or tolerate, or purge sin (and sinful behavior)? Why?

Sin: does God: Accept? Allow? Tolerate? Purge? Other? And why?

Romans 3:22-24 [NIV-1984]

²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

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Habakkuk 1:13^a [NIV-1984]

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

Romans 6:23 [NIV-1984]

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 5:4-6 [NIV-1984]

⁴ You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. ⁵ The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. ⁶ You destroy those who tell lies; blood-thirsty and deceitful men the Lord abhors.

Psalms 11:4-7 [NIV-1984]

⁴ The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. ⁵ The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. ⁶ On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. ⁷ For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.

Q5. (Verse 16) ***For we are the temple of the living God:*** “It seems sacrilegious! Me? A sinner?”
How do you explain that we, who believe, are “temple[s] of the living God”?

John 2:14-15, 17-22 [NIV-1984]

[The Jewish religious leaders, who profited from the business the drovers and bankers conducted within the walls of God’s Holy Temple, demanded that Jesus explain His authority to cleanse the temple.]

¹⁴ In the temple courts [Jesus] found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. . . .

¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” [Psalms 69:9]”

¹⁸ Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this [physical] temple, and you are going to raise it [rebuild it] in three days?”

²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then, they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 [NIV-1984]

¹⁶ Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.


Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV-1984]

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession — to the praise of

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his glory.

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁷ "Therefore, come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

Q6. *No unclean thing*: How would you define an "unclean thing"?

 "In Isaiah 52:11, 'touch no unclean thing;' that is, [Israelites] were to be pure, and to have no connection with idolatry in any of its forms. So, Christians were to avoid all unholy contact with a vain and polluted world. The sense is, 'Have no close connection with an idolater, or an unholy person. Be pure; and feel that you belong to a community that is under its own laws, and that is to be distinguished in moral purity from all the rest of the world.' " [©1834, Notes on the Bible by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/6-17.htm]

Q7. *Touch no unclean thing*: How are we, who believe, to preach, teach and outreach to nonbelievers if we are to "Touch no unclean thing" in this wretched world? (Hint: how did the Apostle Paul minister to the unchurched, the nonbelieving Gentiles?)

¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Q8. *You will be my sons and daughters*: How can we be "sons and daughters" of the Lord God Almighty?

Romans 8:15-17 [NIV-2011]

¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship [see footnote ↓]. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then

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we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. [Footnote for Romans 8:15: “The Greek word for ‘adoption to sonship’ is a term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.” Quote from the NIV-2011 version.]

CHAPTER 7

God’s Comfort, Paul’s Joy

^{7:1} Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Q9. *Since we have these promises:* Paul is referencing God’s promises stated in the previous chapter: 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (↓). What promises do you find (one promise from each verse)?

v16

v17

v18

 The following passage is reproduced (↓) for your convenience.


2 Corinthians 6:16-18 [NIV-1984]

¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." [Leviticus 26:11–12; Jeremiah 32:38; Ezekiel 37:27]

¹⁷ "Therefore, come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." [Isaiah 52:11; Ezekiel 20:34, 41]


¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." [2 Samuel 7:14; 7:8]

Q10. *Let us purify ourselves:* What are some ways we, who believe, can “purify ourselves”?

 *everything that contaminates body and spirit:* “The noun used here (μολυσμός molusmos) occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. The [word when used as a] verb occurs in 1 Corinthians 8:7; Revelation 3:4; Revelation 14:4, and means to stain, defile, pollute, as a garment; and the word used here [as a noun] means a soiling; hence, defilement, pollution, and refers to the defiling and corrupting influence of fleshly desires and carnal appetites. The filthiness of the flesh here denotes evidently the gross and corrupt appetites and passions of the body, including all such actions of all kinds as are inconsistent with the virtue and purity with which the body, regarded as the temple of the Holy Spirit, should be kept holy — all such passions and appetites as the Holy Spirit of God would not produce.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/7-1.htm]

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Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. ³I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. ⁴I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

Q11. (Verse 2) *Make room for us in your hearts*: What outcome does Paul hope to achieve?


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Q12. (Verse 2) *We have wronged . . . corrupted . . . exploited no one*: Paul received reports about his Corinthian church; what must the reports have said for Paul to now deny wrongdoing?

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 It seems in today's political landscape; politicians especially, attempt to escape consequences by employing the psychological techniques of 'projection, deflection, and/or gaslighting'. (We should just call it lies.) It seems that these psychological techniques that manipulate other people into believing 'lies as truth' is as old as humankind!

The Apostle Paul was a victim of the same techniques: specifically, projection. The Judaizers used 'projection' to cast distrust on the Gospel message preached by the Apostle Paul.

So, what exactly is 'projection'? Google defines it: "In psychology, projection is a defense mechanism in which an individual attributes their own unacceptable thoughts, feelings, or behaviors to another person or group. This is done . . . to avoid facing their own inner conflicts or insecurities.

"For example, someone who is feeling jealous of their partner may project their jealousy onto their partner, accusing them of being unfaithful. This allows them to avoid acknowledging their own feelings of inadequacy [or worse yet their own unfaithfulness].

"Projection can be a common and normal defense mechanism, but it can also be problematic if it becomes excessive or interferes with relationships. It is important to note that projection is not always a sign of mental illness...


"How can you tell if someone is projecting? It can be challenging to spot projecting, but there are signs, including being defensive, making unfounded accusations [lying], and being overly critical. If someone is placing blame or accusations without proof and being very defensive when questioned about their behavior, they could be projecting." [Source: Google, internet search, March 13, 2025]

The Apostle Paul was an 'itinerant preacher'. After Paul established a church, he then moved his ministry to a different city to begin anew. Unfortunately, when Paul left, the leadership vacancy often times provided the Judaizers with a golden opportunity which they seized. They swooped-in to the unsuspecting, fledgling church and proclaimed a false gospel; they claimed their message was true, and, therefore, the Gospel that Paul had preached was undeniably false! If a lie is repeated often enough, it becomes truth.

Communication in Paul's time was difficult; it was uncertain, expensive, and time-consuming: days if not weeks to obtain scarce parchment, a day to write a letter presumably using a quill and an ink well, sometimes weeks for the

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courier to walk the letter to Paul's new location (if Paul hadn't moved on in the meantime), a day for Paul to write a reply, and then weeks for the courier to return Paul's reply to the original letter-writer. By the time Paul's reply is delivered, circumstances may have changed: perhaps, the original question had been satisfactorily answered, or the Judaizers had successfully ingratiated themselves into church leadership and could effectively squelch Paul's reply. Satan is sneaky.


 The following passage is reproduced (↓) for the convenience of you the student.

2 Corinthians 7:3-4 [NIV-1984]

³I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. ⁴I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

Q13. As you read verses 3 and 4 (↑), what does Paul want the Corinthians to understand?

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁵For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn — conflicts on the outside, fears within. ⁶But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

Q14. (Verse 5) ***This body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn — conflicts on the outside, fears within:*** From Paul's description, was Paul having an easy time, with a fruitful ministry, in Macedonia?

Yes? }
No? } Thoughts?
Mixed? }

Q15. (Verse 5) ***This body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn — conflicts on the outside, fears within:*** What harassments may Paul and his colleagues have experienced?

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Q16. (Verse 6) To Whom does Paul give thanks and praise for “comfort”?

Q17. (Verse 6) ***Comforted us by the coming of Titus***: When a person hasn’t seen a close friend or a beloved relative for a long time, how does the person generally feel when that friend or relative is in front of them?

2 Corinthians 2:12-13 [NIV-1984]

[When we studied the second chapter of 2 Corinthians, we came to understand the concern Paul had for the missing Titus, who was one of Paul’s close companions and a co-servant to the Gospel of Christ Jesus.]

¹²Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, ¹³I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So, I said good-by to them and went on to Macedonia.

 (Verse 7) ***Titus . . . told us about your longing . . . sorrow . . . concern***: When Titus arrived, Paul and Titus must have had some lengthy conversations as Titus re-counted to Paul all the difficulties, joys, challenges, encouragement, and divine help he received as he ministered to the Corinthian church.


Q18. (Verse 7) ***Titus . . . told us about your longing . . . sorrow . . . concern***: As you think back over the previous chapters, what may have been three or four topics Paul and Titus discussed?

⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it — I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while — ⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.


Q19. What was Paul’s primary objective in writing his 1st Letter to the Corinthians?

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Q20. If Paul regretted his 1st Letter, should Paul have sent it?

 ***I do not regret it . . . I did regret it . . . now I am happy:*** “Paul did regret the necessity of writing a letter to the Corinthians that caused sorrow to them. However, it was not the actual writing that he regretted, but the situation that required the writing. Moreover, the fact that the letter had the desired effect made him happy, for their sorrow did not leave them embittered and hostile, but led them to repentance. They became sorrowful as God intended, and so were benefited, not harmed, by the letter.” [©1991, The Zondervan NASB Study Bible, published by Zondervan, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI 49530. All rights reserved. Page 1697]

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

^{10a} Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, ^{10b} but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

Q21. Verse 10^a lists a cascade of events in which one event leads to another. What are the events and the conclusion?

→ → =

Q22. Verse 10^b lists an event that leads to a different conclusion. What is the event and conclusion?

=


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Q23. **Godly sorrow . . . worldly sorrow:** ① What is Godly sorrow? ② What is worldly sorrow?
③ What is the difference?

① What is Godly sorrow?


② What is worldly sorrow?

③ Difference?

 **Godly sorrow:** “That is, such sorrow as has respect to God, or is according to his will, or as leads the soul to him. This is a very important expression in regard to true repentance, and shows the exact nature of that sorrow which is connected with a return to God . . .” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/7-10.htm]

 **Worldly sorrow:** “All sorrow which is not toward God, and which does not arise from just views of sin as committed against God, or lead to God. Probably, Paul refers here to the sorrow which arises from worldly causes and which does not lead to God for consolation. Such may be the sorrow which arises from the loss of friends or property; from disappointment, or from shame and disgrace . . .”. [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/7-10.htm]

Q24. (Verse 11) ***You have proved yourselves to be innocent:*** Why are the Corinthians now innocent?

 I am suffering from whiplash as I read these passages. The Apostle Paul excoriates (denounces, criticizes) the Corinthians and then suddenly he declares them innocent. What gives?!?!

You have proved yourselves to be innocent: “The sense of this is, ‘You have entirely acquitted yourselves of blame in this business.’ The apostle does not mean that none of them had been to blame, or that the church had been free from fault, for a large part of his former Epistle is occupied in reproving them for their faults in this business, but he means that by their zeal and their readiness to take away the cause of complaint, they had removed all necessity of further blame, and had pursued such a course as entirely to meet his approbation [approval, consent]. They had cleared themselves of any further blame in this business, and had become, so far as this was concerned, ‘clear’ (ἄγνους hagnous) or pure.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/7-11.htm]

Q25. (Verse 11) ***Godly sorrow has produced in you:*** What are the seven changes in attitude and behavior that Paul lists?

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Q26. (Verse 11) *At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter:* Did Paul call the Corinthians to account? Are we, who believe, to hold other Believers accountable? Are we, who believe, to hold nonbelievers accountable? What should be the goal of holding Believers accountable?

Did Paul call the Corinthians to account? Yes? No? Why?

Are we to hold other Believers accountable? Yes? No? Why?

Are we to hold nonbelievers accountable? Yes? No? Why?

What should be the goal of accountability? Why?

Matthew 18:19-20 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus continued to teach:]

¹⁹ "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."



The three passages Matthew 18:19-20 (↑), James 5:16^a (↓), and 1 Timothy 2:5 (↓) provide a profound promise in that if you confess to another Believer, then you and the other Believer equal two . . . and Jesus promises to be with you both, and will mediate (intercede) your petitions directly with God! Wow! Jesus intercedes for me!

And if you take the promise in 1 Timothy 2:5 to heart, then you by yourself, along with the Lord Jesus, equal two, and fulfill Matthew 18:20. God appreciates the demonstration of our faith when we invoke the promises of Scripture. So, as you begin your prayer remind God of your belief in the promises of Matthew 18:19-20 and 1 Timothy 2:5.

James 5:16^a [NIV-1984]

[James – the half-brother of Jesus – teaches that we are to be ‘accountability partners’ to one another:]

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

1 Timothy 2:5 [NIV-1984]

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.



As recorded in Matthew 18:15-17 (↓) Jesus taught us, who believe, how we should hold one another accountable. Sin is a serious business and we must give it the attention it deserves as we confess, seek forgiveness, and repent. Yes, we may have to pray for forgiveness over-and-over for the same sin, especially if the sin has become an ingrained, hard-to-break habit.

God rewards persistence (see Luke 18:1-8^a ↓). God will move in your life against the sin if you ask Him to thwart Satan’s influence over the temptations that drive the sin; and through your prayer — you must speak aloud, so that Satan can hear you (unlike God, Satan cannot ‘hear’ your thoughts) — God will for a time force Satan to honor your request. God also wants you to do your best to resist the temptation and to pray for strength whenever tempted!

Please, keep in mind that you may have to pray against the temptation, the specific sin, and Satan’s enticements frequently for the rest of your life. (After all, Paul confessed in Romans 7:19: “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. [ESV]”). However, over time you will see God reward your prayers against the sin as you and God overcome the temptation and your desire to engage in the specific sin. Be aware that God may send another Believer into your life to help you with the sin — be open to receiving such help.

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And, it seems, that as soon as a Believer pridefully thinks that the sin has been finally overcome and “YAY! I’m home free!” — Satan will sneakily attack the Believer with a reminder that the struggle against sin is . . . *not* over.

We are in this world and sin is a lifelong struggle. The Apostle Paul confessed his desire to be with Christ Jesus ‘sooner, rather than later’ when he wrote: “I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body [Philippians 1:23-24].” Paul understood that Christ Jesus had additional work for him to perform, so it wasn’t Paul’s time to depart, to leave this world. While we may passionately desire to be with Christ Jesus this minute just like Paul, we, too, have additional work to perform and we must honor Christ Jesus’ plans for us. He is sovereign! He is the Lord! May His will be done, always!

Matthew 18:15-17 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus taught:]

¹⁵ "If your brother [a fellow Believer] sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."



While we pray to God and ask Him for forgiveness and to repent of our sins, we may choose to confide and confess our sins to a partner — an accountability partner. By confiding in a trusted partner, there are then two voices raised in prayer to the Lord. And your partner will help you keep a rein on the temptation(s) that drive your desire for the specific sin by asking “How have you avoided the sin since we last talked?” There will be disappointments, but there will be an ever-increasing number of successes, too!

Here is a sampling (↓) of additional verses that speak to using an accountability partner:

Proverbs 27:17 [NIV-1984]

As iron sharpens iron, so one [person] sharpens another.

Galatians 6:2 [NIV-1984]

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Proverbs 28:13 [NIV-1984]

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

1 John 1:9 [NIV-1984]

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



Jesus emphasized in Matthew 5:16 (↓) that our example should demonstrate the ‘love of Christ Jesus’ to all whom we encounter. He taught that our actions and words should demonstrate His agapé love for all, which means that we are not to boast of our good deeds using prideful words, but allow our examples, our work, our speech, our writings to ‘shine His light’ into the world. Remember the old adage: ‘actions speak louder than words!’

Matthew 5:16 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus taught:]

In the same way, let your light shine before [people, so] that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Luke 18:1-8^a [NIV-1984]

¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³ And


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there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he [the judge] refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' "

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ^{8a} I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.

Day 6


 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹² So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³ By all this we are encouraged.

Q27. When Paul wrote his admonition in 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 (↓), in whom or what was Paul's greatest concern? And why? (Hints: Who or what was impacted by this egregious sin: the son, son's father, son's stepmother, the church, others? Commentator's note: Paul would not have called it out, if the son's earthly father had died thereby making the stepmother a widow.)

The son? Son's father? Son's stepmother? The church? Others? Thoughts?

How might the unchurched in Corinth view this situation?

 ***So even though I wrote to you:*** "In this verse Paul states the main reason why he had written to them on the subject. It was not principally on account of the man who had done the wrong [1 Corinthians 5:1 (↓)], or of him who had been injured; but it was from tender anxiety for the whole church, and in order to show the deep interest which he had in their welfare." [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/7-12.htm]

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 [The Message (MSG)]

¹⁻² I also received a report of scandalous sex within your church family, a kind that wouldn't be tolerated even outside the church: One of your men is sleeping with his stepmother. And you're so above it all that it doesn't even faze you! Shouldn't this break your hearts? Shouldn't it bring you to your knees in tears? Shouldn't this person and his conduct be confronted and dealt with?

Lesson 8: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 & 7:1-16

Q28. *You could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are:* this seems to be a strange choice of words — being ‘devoted’ to a man. However, by extension could Paul mean that the Corinthians are devoted to Paul and his companions, and by extension to the Gospel-message Paul preached to them, and to the Lord Christ Jesus through their demonstrated faith? Thoughts?

Yes? No? Your interpretation? Thoughts?


¹⁴ In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. ¹⁵ And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling.

¹⁶ I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.

Q29. Before joining Paul as stated in 2 Corinthians 7:5-7 (↓), where had Titus been (implied)?

2 Corinthians 7:5-7 [NIV-1984]

⁵ For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn — conflicts on the outside, fears within. ⁶ But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷ and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

 It is commonly believed that the Apostle Paul had written three letters to the Church at Corinth: (1) the first letter, which is now known as 1 Corinthians; (2) Paul’s second letter, which was called the "severe letter" that was carried and delivered by Titus and has since been lost to history; and (3) the third letter, which is now known as 2 Corinthians.

Q30. (Verses 14-16 and 2 Corinthians 7:5-7 ↑) As we read about Titus’ experiences, how did the Corinthians react to Paul’s letters?

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