

1 Corinthians 5 Worksheet

Read

Please read the verses listed above three times from at least two different translations. It is recommended to use at least one 'word for word' translation (NKJV, NASB, ESV) and at least one 'thought by thought' translation (NLT, NIV, CSB). Meditate and pray on the passage.

Cultural Snapshot/Historical Background

Sex sells! This is not a new phenomenon, nor was the idea first introduced to an unsuspecting public by the marketing gurus of the 1970s. Since the beginning of human society, sex has been one of the enemy's most potent and dependable weapons. God first made man in His Own image then gave him a perfectly compatible helper whom He called woman. God designed marriage to bring one man and one woman together for life such that the two became one. However, it's not long in the biblical record, in fact, by Genesis chapter 4, that we begin to see signs of a chink in this grand design. In Genesis 4:19, Lamech, a descendant of Cain, just four generations removed from his murderous ancestor, took for himself two wives. Nowhere in the Bible does God ever give His approval to polygamy, even when it was being practice by some of the pillars of the faith such as Abraham, Jacob, David, and most notoriously, Solomon who is credited with 700 wives and 300 concubines.

Further, since the Bible unflinchingly depicts man as he truly is, with all of his foibles on display for all to see, we read in it of sexual perversions of the grossest kind. From the unrestrained homosexuality of Sodom and Gomorrah to David's decision to murder one of his best and most loyal soldiers to hide the illicit affair he was carrying on with the man's wife, to the report of incest occurring openly in the Corinthian church, we read repeatedly in the Book of man's insistence on perverting God's gift of sex.

Paul refused to pussyfoot around with this situation at Corinth. Even from afar, he had already considered the facts of the case, found the guilty party guilty, and had already made his plans "to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 5:5 NASB). The judgment would be swift and without compromise, but the ultimate goal was for the saving of the sinner's soul. Though the person involved was in no danger of losing his salvation, this was a serious case of building one's spiritual life on wood, hay, and straw, so loss of eternal rewards was a real possibility. In his follow-up letter to the Corinthian church, Paul mentions without name, someone in their congregation who had repented and had been fully restored to the fellowship of the church (2 Corinthians 2:6,7; 7:9-12). Whether it was the same person from the 1 Corinthians letter is unclear, but what is clear is that the discipline had been successful, and Paul rejoiced in the restoration of his brother.

Verse Breakdown

1 Corinthians 5:1-8

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Observation

Critically observe the text in its context. Notate the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of this passage. Observations should be made considering the verse breakdown above. Write down your observations in your notebook or the space below.

Who: _____

What: _____

When: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____

Extra Observations

Purposeful Parallels

In this section look for parallels from within this passage to other parts of the Bible. This could be similar stories with similar narratives. It could be how individual characters relate to or remind you of other characters in the Bible from other stories. Write down any parallels in your notebook or the space below.

Repeated Words/Thoughts/Phrases

As a subsection of your observations, notate repeated words in the passage and how many times they repeated. You may also write repeated thoughts or phrases. Write down any repeated words/thoughts/phrases in your notebook or the space below.

Word Study/Definitions

As you study the passage you may feel led to perform word studies on particular words in the passage. Perhaps you'd like to perform a word study on the repeated word(s) from above. This is your chance to do just that. Write down any discoveries in your notebook or the space below.

For extra study:

Interpretation

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God's intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for. Write down your interpretations in your notebook or the space below. **Please note:** *if you are not comfortable with this portion of the Inductive process, then please do not worry about completing this section. As time goes on it'll become possible and easier for you as this will be discussed in group time.*
