



LifeGroup Discussion Packet

“Love Enough to Confront”

1 Corinthians - Ch. 5

September 27 and 28, 2025

Attached...

1. Discussion Questions: Long study (page 2-7)
2. Discussion Questions: Short study (page 8)
3. Five Day Devotional Guide (page 9-10)

Notice to LifeGroup Leaders

Based on the needs of your group, use either long or short study

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

(Long Study)

Question 1

In **Genesis 9:20-23**, scholars have been split on exactly what happened in the case where Ham “saw the nakedness of his father”, Noah. The traditional views include the following: 1. Voyeurism, 2. Castration, or 3. Paternal incest (homosexual act between Ham and Noah). A growing number of theologians strongly believe it was a case of *maternal* incest, where Ham, to usurp Noah’s authority to replenish the earth, had sex with his mother. “It so happens that the phrase used to describe Ham’s transgression—‘to see the nakedness of the father’—is an idiom for sexual intercourse...from an intertextual perspective, the description of Ham’s act as ‘seeing his father’s nakedness’ implies more than a literal ‘seeing.’”¹ Read **Genesis 9:20-27** and **Ezekiel 22:10-11**; what do you think happened in the Noah story?

Genesis 9:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. ²²And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. ²³Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.

Ezekiel 22:10-11 (ESV)

¹⁰In you men uncover their fathers’ nakedness; in you they violate women who are unclean in their menstrual impurity. ¹¹One commits abomination with his neighbor’s wife; another lewdly defiles his daughter-in-law; another in you violates his sister, his father’s daughter.

Question 2

Considering the kind of punishment those caught in adultery would incur in the Old Testament (see **texts below**), and the fact that Corinth was a Roman province and only Rome could legally execute anyone, is it too much to excommunicate the man sleeping with his father’s wife in **1 Corinthians 5:1-2**? What about today’s world, in the Christian church, do you think anyone should ever be removed from fellowship? Why?

¹ John Sietze Bergsma and Scott Walker Hahn, “Noah’s Nakedness and the Curse on Canaan (Genesis 9:20-27),” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 124/1 (2005) 25-40: 29.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 (NLT)

¹I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you—something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother.

²You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

Leviticus 18:6-8 (ESV)

⁶"None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD. ⁷You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. ⁸You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.

Deuteronomy 27:20 (ESV)

²⁰"Cursed be anyone who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's nakedness.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

Leviticus 20:11 (ESV)

¹¹If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

Question 3

In consideration of the texts below, how practical is it for you to continue to associate with those whom the church has thrown out (**1 Cor. 5:5**)? We are told to *keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition we have received* (**2 Thess. 3:6**); furthermore, we are told that if anyone does *not abide in the teaching of Christ*, [he or she] *does not have God* (**2 Jn. 1:9**). What are these texts communicating about purity in the church? Is it loving to *hand someone over to Satan*? How willing are you to dissociate as the Scripture demands? Is it a struggle for you?

1 Corinthians 5:3-5 (NLT)

³Even though I am not with you in person, I am with you in the Spirit. And as though I were there, I have already passed judgment on this man ⁴in the name of the Lord Jesus. You must call a meeting of the church. I will be present with you in spirit, and so will the power of our Lord Jesus. ⁵Then you must throw this man out and hand him over to Satan so that his sinful nature will be destroyed and he himself will be saved on the day the Lord returns.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (ESV)

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

2 John 1:8-11 (ESV)

⁸Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. ⁹Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹ for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Question 4

"When we stay silent, sin doesn't stop, it grows. Sin spreads; it never stays small" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). The fact that Paul mentions yeast (or leaven) in the context of casting out a person from the church, means there were either Jews in the church at Corinth or the people present were familiar enough with aspects of the Jewish text. Paul's point was since the Feast of Unleavened bread was designed to commemorate deliverance and *separation* of Israel (**Ex. 12:17**) from the wickedness of Egypt, (by eating *bread of affliction* [flat, hard bread with no yeast; **Deut. 16:3**], the church at Corinth was to afflict herself (do the hard work of even losing a family tie and friendship) *by removing this wicked person from among you (1 Cor. 5:7)*. How is acting *quickly* to get rid of *old yeast* equated to being a person of *sincerity and truth* (v. 8)?

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NLT)

⁶Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? ⁷Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. ⁸So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth.

Exodus 12:14-20 (ESV)

¹⁴"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. ¹⁵Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. ¹⁸In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person

will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land.
²⁰You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread."

Deuteronomy 16:3 (ESV)

³You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction—for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste—that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt.

Question 5

Paul reiterates, *[do] not associate with people who indulge in sexual sin (1 Cor. 5:9)* and *remove the evil person from among you (v. 13)*. It is clear, there could be other reasons for which to remove someone from fellowship, not just for sexual types of sin (v. 10). But the takeaway here is that despite the misinterpretation some may give to Jesus' words of *never* judging (Matt. 7:1-2), the Church is *designed* to judge itself. Though none of us are perfect and we are all fallen individuals, how comfortable are you with this assignment? Do you hesitate to tell a brother or sister when they are clearly wrong? Why?

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (NLT)

⁹When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin.
¹⁰But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. ¹¹I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. ¹²It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. ¹³God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."

Matthew 7:1-2 (ESV)

¹"Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

Question 6

"Compassion without confrontation is cowardly...If we want to live godly in an ungodly world, we must love enough to confront sin" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). So, on the one hand, not only should we confront sin (and do so in a loving manner), we should also consider any sin that is surely in our *own* hearts, and ask ourselves, "Am I willing to let God confront me? Before you help anyone else, you deal with yourself" (Pastor Anderson). In the challenging conversations you may have had with a sister or brother in the faith, have you opened your own heart to God first (Ps. 139:23-24)?

Matthew 18:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Matthew 7:3-5 (NLT)

³"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT)

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Question 7

In light of the full weight of being good stewards of God and good Christians to God's people, how do we stay the course, knowing that despite how difficult it may be to have challenging conversations, even to grieve over our words to our fellow Christian (**2 Cor. 7:8**), the goal is ultimately to rescue our brethren from Satan (**2 Tim. 2:26**)? How are you currently taking care of your own soul, so that you will not fall headlong into sin yourself (**1 Cor. 10:12**)?

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 (ESV)

⁸For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. ¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 (ESV)

²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them

repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

1 Corinthians 10:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

LifeGroup Discussion Guide (Short Study)

Warm Up Question

Have you ever had someone love you enough to tell you the truth, even when it was uncomfortable? How did it impact your life?

Discussion Questions

1. Godly Love Confronts Sin

- Read 1 Corinthians 5:1–2. Why do you think the church in Corinth was proud of its tolerance instead of grieving over sin? How do we see this same mindset in our culture today?

2. The Spread of Sin

- Paul compared sin to yeast spreading through dough (1 Cor. 5:6). What are some “small things” we might be tempted to ignore that could grow and affect a whole family, friendship, or church community?

3. Truth with Compassion

- In John 8, Jesus told the woman caught in adultery, “*Neither do I condemn you... Go and sin no more.*” How does Jesus’ example show us the balance of compassion and confrontation?

4. Personal Application

- Share an example (without naming names) of when you avoided confronting someone you loved because it was uncomfortable. Looking back, what would you do differently?

5. Self-Examination

- Read Matthew 7:3–5. Why is it essential to examine our own lives before confronting someone else? How can practicing daily self-examination prepare us to confront with love instead of hypocrisy?

6. Practical Steps

- Pastor Todd shared a three-step plan from John 8: Lead with humility, Remove condemnation (not responsibility), Point toward transformation. Which of these steps do you find the most challenging, and why?

Next Step

This week, pray for one person you may need to lovingly confront. Ask God to search your heart first, give you humility and compassion, and provide the right opportunity to speak truth in love with the goal of restoration.

Five Day Devotional Guide

September 29-October 3, 2025

Day 1: Godly Love Confronts Sin

Luke 17:3-4

³Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." (NASB)

Some of us find it easy to confront, others find it easy to look over sin, some find it easy to forgive once but not again. Jesus gives us a different standard. Rebuke, forgive, and keep on forgiving. So, today, while we consider confronting sin, let us keep in mind the goal of bringing the sinner back into a proper relationship both with us and God.

Reflection: For today, Lord, let my heart remember all the times You have forgiven me; and the fact that You forgave me even at my worst (**Rom. 5:8**)! Help me to reflect to others some measure of the love You have constantly shown me.

Day 2: Godly Love Protects the Community

1 Peter 4:8-10

⁸Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaint. ¹⁰As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (NASB)

It has been said, *the greatest offense is the best defense*. Conversely, the best protection for the Church may in fact be preservation of *the manifold grace of God* (**v. 10**). Ultimately, godly love, *loves*. Do our hearts ache for our brother who is struggling? For our sister who is in sin? What can we do today to reach out to them, show them love, bring them back into proper fellowship, and thus protect the community.

Reflection: Father, I am convinced, the way to protect the community is to protect the *individuals* of the community. Help me to touch just one life, just one of Your sheep. Just as in the negative sense, a little leaven can leaven the whole lump, a little love can spread through the whole congregation as well.

Day 3: Godly Love Speaks Truth with Compassion

Zechariah 7:9-10

⁹"Thus has the LORD of hosts said, 'Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; ¹⁰and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.' (NASB)

Justice...kindness...compassion. It is all in the wheelhouse of the faithful; they cannot be separated. God does not call us to exact justice without the balance of grace. Even in how the

Lord relates to His creation there is balance. Yes, He is a God of wrath, but...mercy is also found in Him.

Reflection: Heavenly Father, You call us to be like You. For today, show me how to relate to others in such a way that I uphold *Your* standard, which is to speak the truth *in* love (**Eph. 4:15**). If I speak truth, *but* not in love or show love, *but* separate out truth, I will have created my own standard. Let me operate with Truth *and* Love.

Day 4: Godly Love Starts With Me

Romans 12:2

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (NASB)

If me to love, I must submit to it myself. You, Lord *are* love (**1 Jn. 4:8**). If the world is not expressing love, then I will not follow it. If my very flesh is operating opposite of God, I am to put its deeds to death (**Rom. 8:13**). The battle is not so much raging *outside* of me but *within* me; and it is *my* responsibility to fight well on *that* battlefield.

Reflection: My desire, O Mighty King, is to prove what Your will truly is (**Rom. 12:2**)! I will pursue You through what is good, what is acceptable, and what is perfect. By Your Spirit, cause me to dwell on these things (**Phil. 4:8**).

Day 5: Godly Love Has Restoration as the Goal

Galatians 6:1-3

¹Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. (NASB)

The purpose of church discipline is restoration. The Church over time has been plagued with many instances of abuse in this area. Sometimes, a person is unfairly accused of a sin they did not commit. Sometimes, a sin is committed but the punishment is too severe. At other times, there is not rebuke for sin and it is allowed to fester in the whole congregation. But God's will is for us to confront the problem and have at the center of our minds and hearts: restoration.

Reflection: Lord, knowing that I am a fallen individual just like everyone else in the church, help me to hear my brother or sister out, when they are caught in a sin. Help me to weigh all aspects of the situation. Help me to follow the parameters of the Scripture (**Matt. 18:15-17**) and honor You.