

What Does Sin Bring in a Believer's Life? – Part 1 1 Corinthians 11:28-34

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul was the instrument that God used to start the local church of Corinth. Paul spent a year and a half teaching new believers truth to build their lives upon.
2. But after Paul left, the church at Corinth had become a church of abuse. They were abusing their liberty in Christ, abusing one another, abusing spiritual gifts, and even abusing the observance of the Lord's Supper.
3. They had turned the Lord's Supper into an excuse for self-indulgence. The rich were shaming the poor by bringing elaborate feasts to church, and refusing to share with those who were poor and hungry.
 - Some were even getting drunk in the local assembly while supposedly observing the Lord's Supper.
4. Their conduct was disgraceful and sinful. Paul reiterates to them the true meaning of the Lord's Supper, and then brings some much needed rebuke to this local assembly.
 - Sin had carried grave consequences for many of these believers.
5. Those of us who understand Paul's teaching of grace, and our oneness with Christ, and our eternal security in Christ, get accused of teaching that a believer can sin and get away with it. But nothing could be further from the truth.
6. Paul never taught that a believer can sin and get away with it, nor do we. There are always ramifications to sin, and Paul explains this in verses 28-34.
7. What does sin bring in the life of a believer? Let's seek to answer that question from this text in 1 Corinthians.

First, sin should bring self-judgment. vs. 28, 31

1. As we read, study, and learn God's Word, the Holy Spirit brings reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**
2. God's Word is a light that reveals the dirt of sin in our lives. **Hebrews 4:12**
3. When this happens we should respond in obedience, and zealously root out that sin, and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. **2 Corinthians 7:9-11, 15**
4. Notice that Paul exhorts each believer to "*examine himself.*" vs. 28
5. You are responsible for **yourself** because you cannot control the actions of others.
 - In context, this "examination" has to do with your relationship to other members of the body of Christ.
 - Are you living in a manner that is consistent with the doctrine that the Lord's Supper represents? His sacrifice which brings our oneness (10:16-17) should result in our loving and sacrificing for one another (**Ephesians 5:2-3**).
 - Or, are you exhibiting pride, selfishness, bitterness, divisiveness, etc.?
 - These kinds of attitudes grieve the Holy Spirit, and it is your job to correct yourself.
6. Real change only comes when you make a choice to bring your life into line with God's Word. The Word of God convicts and motivates us to change and correct ourselves.

7. If we are able to judge (discern) our own sinful attitudes and actions, then there is no need for any outside judgment. The Lord (speaking to me from His Word) can settle the issue. vs. 31