

What Does Sin Bring in a Believer's Life? – Part 2

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

Second, sin brings corruption to our physical bodies. vs. 29-30

1. What if a believer **won't** judge himself, and continues forward in sin with an unrepentant heart?
2. Verse 29 is an example of this. These believers had received Paul's teaching concerning this (vs. 23); yet continued to approach the Lord's Supper in a careless, flippant, and sinful way.
 - "*Unworthily*" is an adverb describing the manner in which they were observing the Lord's Supper. It is referring to their actions in the public assembly, not their position in Christ.
 - They were having wrong attitudes (toward their brethren), wrong actions (drunkenness, gluttony), and a lack of spiritual discernment (approaching it as an opportunity for self-indulgence instead of worship).
3. What was the result of these sinful actions? It was bringing physical destruction to their bodies. vs. 30
 - If we fail to deal with sin and keep it in check, sin eventually brings physical destruction to our fleshly bodies. It is God's law of sowing and reaping.
Galatians 6:7-8
 - You only harvest what you plant - this is the law of sowing and reaping.
 - **Romans 7:18** says that in our flesh dwells "*no good thing.*" So when you choose to sow to the flesh, what is the only possible harvest? No good thing (corruption).
4. Some believe that this text is teaching that God was zapping certain people in this church with sickness, disease, and even physical death.
 - If a habitual chain smoker gets lung cancer after 30 years, is this God finally deciding to zap him? Of course not. We understand that this is a natural consequence of that action.
 - If people are continually eating rich foods, acting as gluttons, and getting drunk, what is the result of this over-indulgence? Weakness, sickness, and possible death.
5. There are natural, built-in consequences to sin, and eventually those consequences catch up with you.
6. It is important to understand that Christ dwells in our inner man, but our outward man (physical body) is not redeemed yet, and is very vulnerable.
2 Corinthians 4:16
7. Sin brings condemnation (damnation - same word) to our outward physical bodies. Our inner man is safe because it has been made one with Christ, but sin can absolutely destroy your body. vs. 34; **Romans 8:1, 5-6, 12-13**
8. These outward consequences should lead us to turn from sin and obey God's Word.