



*Shorter Study*

■ **Open the session with prayer.**

■ **Read together 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.**

- What does the list of sins in v.11 have in common? Why would these sins warrant Paul to say that the church should not 'associate' with people who lived this way? Are these sins different to others?
- What does it mean for the man caught in adultery to be "handed over to Satan" (v.5)?
- The instructions seem harsh, but what is the hope that Paul holds out (v.5)? What does this mean?

■ **Watch the video entitled "Session 13 – Overseeing Church Discipline".**

The Purposes of Church Discipline:

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1. That the Church be kept pure.
2. That church members may learn good from bad.
3. That a brother or sister may be restored.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. KJ said that being disciplined by elders could be experienced as humiliation but that it may be necessary in order to bring conviction of the severity of sin. How does the idea of someone being publicly warned or corrected sit with you?
2. How do we determine which sin requires formal church discipline and which simply requires pastoral counselling? At what point does the sin become a matter for elders to step in?
3. What is the process for your church/denomination if someone was caught in a sin or a lifestyle that warranted church discipline?
4. How do elders ensure the full significance of church discipline is felt by someone when they can simply leave your church and join another one down the road?

■ **Close in prayer.**



*Longer Study*

■ **Open the session with prayer.**

■ **Read together 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.**

- What does the list of sins in v.11 have in common? Why would these sins warrant Paul to say that the church should not 'associate' with people who lived this way? Are these sins different to others?
- What does it mean for the man caught in adultery to be "handed over to Satan" (v.5)?
- The instructions seem harsh, but what is the hope that Paul holds out (v.5)? What does this mean?

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The Purposes of Church Discipline:

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1. That the Church be kept pure.
2. That church members may learn good from bad.
3. That a brother or sister may be restored.

**Theological Questions:**

1. KJ said that being disciplined by elders could be experienced as humiliation but that it may be necessary in order to bring conviction of the severity of sin. How does the idea of someone being publicly warned or corrected sit with you?
2. How does church discipline fit within the framework of interpersonal correction or reconciliation of Matthew 18:15-20?
3. How do we determine which sin requires formal church discipline and which simply requires pastoral counselling? At what point does the sin become a matter for elders to step in?

