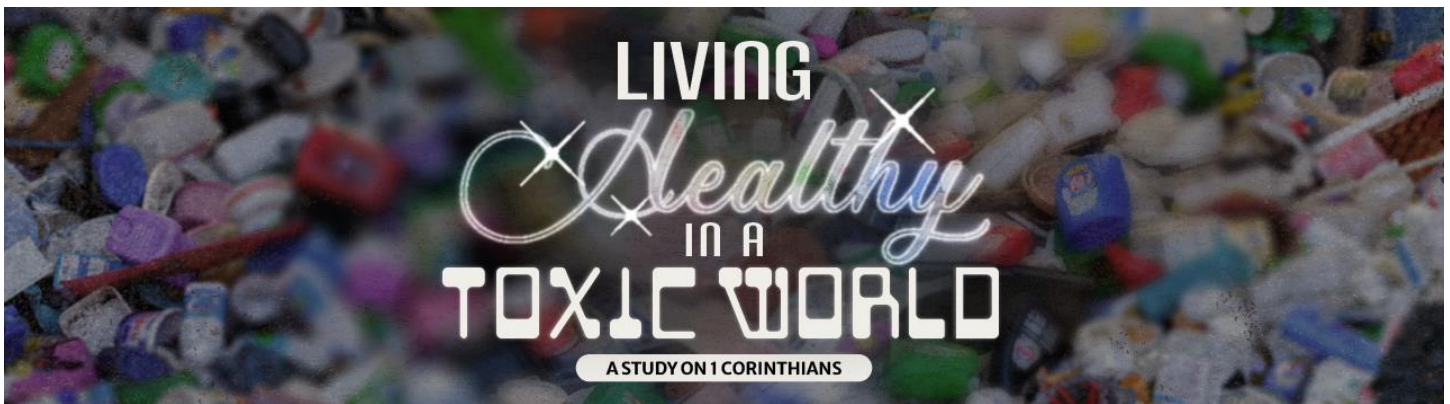




STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Teaching: *Sin Among Us*

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:1–13

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 7:25-35

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 7:36-40

Friday: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul's tone changes from the first four chapters. The issue Paul brings before the church has become too important to ignore. He's not speaking harshly because he's angry, he's speaking urgently because he loves the church. Paul reminds us that real love refuses to celebrate the very things that destroy people. Writing specifically to believers inside the church, he calls Christians to lovingly and humbly address ongoing, unrepentant sin. The goal is not to punish or shame, but to restore. Tolerating sin isn't compassion; it's compromise. What we tolerate today will shape who we become tomorrow. Healthy churches don't ignore destructive behavior, they lovingly confront it with the goal of redemption. Grace without truth isn't love. Truth without grace isn't love. Jesus perfectly embodied both grace and truth. Real love restores.

Questions:

Icebreaker: Have you ever had someone tell you something difficult that you later realized was one of the most loving things they could have done for you? What happened?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 together as a group. Which do you think Paul is more shocked by—the sin in Corinth or the church's response to it? Why?
2. Why do you think the Corinthian's were proud of it instead of grieving the sin? (See Digging Deeper for help)

CEDAR VALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

3. In 5:3-5, Paul uses very strong words to this church. What do you think Paul's ultimate goal is in confronting this man? What words or phrases in the passage point you to that conclusion? (see Digging Deeper for more)
4. In 5:6-8, Paul uses an illustration or analogy of yeast. What point is Paul making with this illustration?
5. Have you ever seen someone's choices affecting an entire group of people (no names necessary)?
6. In 5:9-13, Why do you think Paul makes such a clear distinction between those inside the church and those outside it?
7. Read Galatians 6:1 and James 5:19-20. According to these passages, what attitude should characterize someone who confronts another believer?
8. The Big So What from this week's message was "Real love restores." What is one practical way you can live that out this week—in your family, friendships, or church community?

DIGGING DEEPER

Question 2—Why would the Corinthians be proud?

1 Corinthians 6:12 gives us an important clue:

"You say, 'I am allowed to do anything'—but not everything is good for you. And even though 'I am allowed to do anything,' I must not become a slave to anything.'"

Here, Paul quotes a slogan the Corinthians themselves appear to have embraced: "I am allowed to do anything" (or, "All things are lawful"). They took pride in their freedom in Christ, believing that their liberty gave them permission to do whatever they wanted. It seems that this same mindset shaped their response to the man living in sin. Rather than confronting him, they celebrated what they viewed as his freedom. Their pride had blinded them to his true spiritual condition. Instead of boasting, Paul says they should have been grieving and mourning over his sin.

Question 3—Hand him over to Satan?

This is very strong language from Paul. Outside of 1 Timothy 1:20, this phrase is not found elsewhere in the Bible. Dr. Gordon Fee suggests the language "means to turn him back out into Satan's sphere. This does not mean that Satan would directly attack him in some way, but that is incidental to the language, not its primary intent. In contrast to the gathered community of believers who experience the Spirit and power of the Lord Jesus in edifying gifts and loving concern for one another, this man is to be put back out into the world, where Satan and his 'principalities and powers' still hold sway over people's lives to destroy them. By this action the church was to clean out the old leaven that it might become a new loaf without leaven (vv. 6-8)."

—Dr. Gordon Fee, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The First Epistle to the Corinthians*.