

ENCORE Discoveries

1. Do you remember last week's definition of pride from the *This Week!* devotionals? Do you feel it was an accurate description of pride? Why or why not?
2. What is the key theme in today's verses? A _____ BODY
3. Why does God want His church to be holy and pure? Look at I Peter 1:15,16 and Romans 12:1,2.
4. Paul goes on to list five other sins beside sexual immorality in verse eleven. How does this list reveal God's heart when it comes to sin in the church? Is He only interested in getting rid of the "really bad stuff" in the church?
5. Why do you think we often tolerate sins like these in our churches? (That is, why is church discipline practiced so infrequently in churches today?)
6. Why was it necessary for the Corinthian church to expel the man who was living in sin from their congregation? List two reasons from 5:5,6.
7. We are to "righteously judge" ourselves and others in the church when it comes to sin. Do we do this to punish or to restore? Which verse supports your answer?
8. Can churches lose their effectiveness because of the toleration of unrepentant members (i.e., not taking Scriptures like I Corinthians 5 seriously)? Why do you think this is true?
9. Without lumping all churches and denominations together and basing your comments on information commonly available to us all, can you think of denominations that have compromised in this area of church discipline, that is, not taking public sin among its members seriously?
10. What involvements with the unsaved are good? Which are bad?

Lesson: God wants His church body to practice church discipline when one of its members has committed serious sin of a public nature. The reason for this is so the church can *maintain its purity and testimony to the outside world*.

God desires us to be holy people—not perfect, but serious about living for Jesus Christ. This lesson should serve as a loving warning to use not to play with sin.

Theme: A Pure Body

Monday

The Greek word for “sexual immorality” (as seen in verses 1 and 9-11) is “porneia.” God uses it to describe all ungodly forms of sexual behavior: premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality, etc.

As you may know, pornography is rampant in our society—there are now more “porn sites” on the web than any other type of site. But Matthew 5:28 reminds us that even if we don’t engage in actual physical immorality, we can be mentally sinning in this area. What are some ways I need to guard my mind against sexual sins?

Tuesday

God disciplines us because He _____ us (Hebrews 12:5-11). If someone never experiences the loving discipline of God, what can we assume?

Wednesday

According to I Corinthians 4 & 5, does God want us to get involved in each other’s lives to “police” each other or to lovingly encourage each other to live for Christ? (What can you discern from Paul’s attitude on this issue?)

Thursday

Our friends at BRBC (and elsewhere) are a “safety net” for us; that is, they love us and help us grow in Christ in a variety of ways, which helps to keep us from falling into sin. What are some specific ways I can be an encouragement and “safety net” to those around me?

Friday

How would you define the word “pure”?

What can you do in your life to help you attain the goal of being a pure believer? (Are there things you need to begin doing or stop doing?)

Saturday

Sin is a serious thing to God. Yes, He helps us deal with the daily sin in our lives, He picks us up when we fall and forgives us when we ask Him; but when we refuse to repent of a sin He has convicted us of, we are opening ourselves up to His discipline and possibly even discipline from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Reflection question: How seriously do I take my sin?

LORD, help me to take my sin as seriously as You do. Help me to regularly confess and forsake even the seemingly “insignificant” sins of unkindness, bossiness, telling partial-truths, prayerlessness, and others. With Your help, may I develop a number of deep friendships at BRBC so we can maintain a wholesome accountability with each other and thereby defray those sins which might catch us off guard. May we each be compassionate yet willing to confront sin wherever we find it, for the loving purpose of restoration, not condemnation.