



GROWING A SPIRIT FILLED COMMUNITY

*A Survey in
1 Corinthians*

Discipline is not easy

- Perception of God's love
- Love is kind, patient

2 Corinthians 13:4-7 NKJV

“Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy;
thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in
the truth;”

Other versions say does not rejoice about injustice



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Focus on One Thing

- Where we choose to focus?
- Love is kind, patient

Where you focus your thoughts is what impression it will create at the end of that focus.



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**Where you focus your thoughts is what
impression it will create at the end of that focus**



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What did I focus on?

- Paul's frustration
- Judgement on the sinner
- Is God kind or harsh?

Failing to see the big picture:

“God was operating in love and was using Paul to minister love to the church in Corinth”



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Our Objective

We as a Church Community:

- Are wanting to live out the big picture that God has for us
- Be the city on the hill, a shining light to the World
- To be a spirit filled community



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Highlights

1st week: David gave us an overview of the book about how Paul Where the message of the Gospel Truth needs to impact is our thinking, our responses and our daily living.

2nd & 3rd week: Kerry spoke about the Power of the Cross and what our ministry is built on.

Last week: David spoke on how we treat our bodies and being a temple of God.

Today: The Focus is God's Love in His Discipline



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1. What is your focus on?

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 NLT:

I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you—something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother.

Another Translation (MSG): a kind that wouldn't be tolerated even outside the church



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A. Outside the Church?

- Engaged in practices more immoral than the sin in question, including temple prostitution.
- Ancestors' Sins: Judah's immoral relationship, David's murder to conceal sin, and Abraham's deceit about his wife.

History of Greek Philosophers: Philosophical schools such as the Cynics, Cyrenaics, Peripatetics (followers of Aristotle), Epicureans, and Stoics

- Seeking after morals
- Good virtues



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B. Boasting?

- The church was proud of letting this person in sin
- The church thought they were operating in grace

What is the one thing that you would never touch?

Mourning over sin – what does it mean?

-Christ's power to overcome sin



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C. Paul's Judgement

- Paul's judgement was based on **RESTORATION AND NOT PUNISHMENT**
- Judge not the outsider but the one amongst your family

Video: Jennie Allen: Series on Corinthians

One bad decision, one bad lifestyle



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What is OUR focus on?

The focus is to understand how much God loves us through this struggle and his desire for us to spring out of it and grow. The focus is not on sin and how to deal with it but to understand the mentality of taking pride in sinful nature and not understanding how it can ruin the big picture that God has for us.



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2. Where is your focus?

1 Corinthians 6:5-6 MSG

[5-6] I say this as bluntly as I can to wake you up to the stupidity of what you're doing. Is it possible that there isn't one levelheaded person among you who can make fair decisions when disagreements and disputes come up? I don't believe it. And here you are taking each other to court before people who don't even believe in God! How can they render justice if they don't believe in the God of justice?



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A. Influential People

- People in the Justice System were corrupt
- They favoured the wealthy and influential people

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.



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B. Made right with God

- But you were made right with God
- You carry God's forgiveness in you.

1 Corinthians 6:11

Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.



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C. Abusing the Body

- Did not care about their bodies and what they do with it.
- Such was the mentality in the church as well.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 YLT

Have ye not known that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own, for ye were bought with a price; glorify, then, God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.



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3. Who is your focus?

- They was worried about their sexual desires
- Over concerned about is it right or wrong

1 Corinthians 7 MSG

Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me—a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others.



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A. Paul's Instruction

- If God has called you to be single, be single
- If God has called you to get married, get married
- If God has called a widow or widower to re-marry, the re-marry
- If a believer has married a non-believer, stay married

1 Corinthians 7:17 MSG

And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. God, not your marital status, defines your life.



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B. But the Point is

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 MSG

32-35 I want you to live as free of complications as possible..... I'm trying to be helpful and make it as easy as possible for you, not make things harder. All I want is for you to be able to develop a way of life in which you can spend plenty of time together with the Master without a lot of distractions.



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C. God is our focus

- Paul clearly wanted the church to focus on God and his kingdom rather than these do's and don'ts
- The Focus was Christ in the marriage
- The Focus was Christ in being single
- The Focus was Christ in everything and every situation
- The Focus was, is and forever will be Christ



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Conclusion

- What is your focus?
- Where is your focus?
- Who is your focus?

It is not sin, but the mentality

It is not the world but in the unity of Christ

It is not on us but in Christ, the hope of glory



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