

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, likely the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, featuring several standing columns and a partially collapsed entablature. A tree with green and yellowing leaves is on the left, and a clear blue sky is in the background.

**Holiness Matters**  
**1 Corinthians 5:1-6:20**

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## Tools for epistles:

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- ❖ Read it through at one sitting.
- ❖ Remember that it is someone else's mail.
- ❖ Look for the occasion.

# Challenges of Corinthian church:

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- ❖ Cosmopolitan influence
- ❖ Class consciousness
- ❖ Strident individualism
- ❖ Arrogance
- ❖ Hyper-spirituality
- ❖ Accommodation with culture

# Structure of 1 Corinthians:

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- ❖ Greeting
- ❖ Problems reported by Chloe's people
- ❖ Questions you wrote about
- ❖ Farewell

# Problems reported by Chloe's people:

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- ❖ Factions (1:10-3:23)
- ❖ Arrogance/Boasting (4:1-21)
- ❖ Immorality (5:1-6:20)

# 1 Corinthians 1:10-3:23

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- ❖ The church is God's project.
- ❖ We should focus on Jesus and the cross.

# 1 Corinthians 4:1-21

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- ❖ The Lord opposes the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.
- ❖ Disciples of Jesus should be imitators of Jesus.
- ❖ We should not rush to judgment, but we should remember that judgment is coming.

# What will we learn?

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We are (or should be):

- ❖ Called to holiness
- ❖ Unwilling to condone sin inside the church
- ❖ Tolerant of sin outside the church
- ❖ Extra careful about our witness



# Syncretism

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- ❖ Blending disparate belief systems or world views





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## 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

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It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?

## 1 Peter 1:13-14

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Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.



## 1 Peter 1:15-16

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But just as he who called you is holy,  
so be holy in all you do; for it is written:  
“Be holy, because I am holy.”

## 1 Corinthians 5:3

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For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this.

## 1 Corinthians 5:4-5

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So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.



# Present in spirit?

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- ❖ Out of body experience?
- ❖ Spiritual teleportation?
- ❖ Or connection to the omnipresent Holy Spirit?





# Satan's realm

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- ❖ Luke 4:5-6
- ❖ Ephesians 2:2
- ❖ 1 John 5:19
- ❖ 1 Peter 5:8

A photograph of ancient stone columns in a desert landscape under a blue sky. The columns are arranged in a row, and the ground is sandy and rocky. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The overall scene is serene and historical.

# The purpose of church discipline

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❖ Redemption!

❖ “that his spirit may be saved”

## 1 Corinthians 5:6-7

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Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.



## 1 Corinthians 5:8

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Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## 1 Corinthians 5:9-10

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I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people — not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

## 1 Corinthians 5:11

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But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.



## 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

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What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”



# Joseph Gordon Levitt

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We have a tendency in our culture  
to take people and treat them like things.



# Matthew 18 approach

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- ❖ Confront individually
- ❖ Confront with witnesses
- ❖ Confront with pastors/elders



# Matthew 18:20

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For where two or three gather in my name,  
there am I with them.

## 1 Corinthians 6:1-2

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If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

## 1 Corinthians 6:3-4

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Do you not know that we will judge angels?  
How much more the things of this life! Therefore,  
if you have disputes about such matters,  
do you ask for a ruling from those whose  
way of life is scorned in the church?

## 1 Corinthians 6:5-6

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I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother takes another to court — and this in front of unbelievers!

## 1 Corinthians 6:7-8

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The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.

## 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

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Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.



# 1 Corinthians 6:11

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And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.



# Our New Situation

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- ❖ Washed
- ❖ Sanctified
- ❖ Justified





## 1 Corinthians 6:12

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“I have the right to do anything,” you say — but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything” — but I will not be mastered by anything.

## 1 Corinthians 6:13

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You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both."  
The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

## Romans 5:20-21

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The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## Romans 6:1-2

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What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

## Romans 6:12-13

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Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.



## Romans 6:14-15

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For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

## 1 Corinthians 6:14-15

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By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!



## 1 Corinthians 6:16-17

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Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

## 1 Corinthians 6:18

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Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

## 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

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Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

# Reasons for Avoiding Sexual Sin

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- ❖ We are one with Christ
- ❖ It is a sin against our own bodies
- ❖ It desecrates the temple
- ❖ We have been redeemed

# What have we learned?

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- ❖ God's people are called to be holy.
- ❖ Sin should not be condoned in the body of believers.
- ❖ Unbelievers should not be held to a higher moral standard.
- ❖ We should be very careful about our witness.





# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

# Two text boxes

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❖ Xxxxxx

❖ Xxxxxx

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