

Discussion Questions – “Bad Idea #2: We Can Tolerate What Jesus Condemns”

Text: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

1. Understanding the Text

1. What stands out to you most in this passage after hearing it explained more fully?
2. Why do you think Paul is more concerned with the church’s response than with the details of the man’s sin?
3. What does Paul seem to expect emotionally from the church in verse 2, and why is that significant?

2. Theology and Discernment

4. How does the phrase “in the name of the Lord Jesus” change how we understand the seriousness of the situation?
5. In your own words, what is the difference between *grace* and *tolerance* as Paul understands them?
6. How does Paul’s use of Passover and leaven imagery help explain why sin cannot simply be ignored?
7. What does it mean to say, “People are sacred, but sin is destructive”? Why is holding both truths together important?

3. Personal Reflection

8. What is the difference between struggling with sin and defending sin? How can you tell the difference in your own life?
9. Have you ever seen grace used as a way to avoid accountability rather than pursue transformation?
10. Are there areas where you are more comfortable justifying behavior than bringing it into the light for healing?

4. Community and Church Life

11. Why do you think churches today are often hesitant to address sin clearly within their own communities?
12. How can a church pursue holiness without becoming harsh, judgmental, or unsafe?
13. What does it look like for a church to protect the vulnerable while still offering a path of repentance and restoration?

5. Witness and the World

14. Paul says the church should not judge outsiders in the same way it holds insiders accountable. Why is that distinction important?
15. How can a church maintain moral clarity while still being hospitable, compassionate, and present in the world?
16. In what ways does honest repentance strengthen a church's witness more than appearing "perfect"?

6. Application

17. What is one takeaway from this message that challenges how you currently think about grace or holiness?
18. How might this passage shape the way you respond when sin is present in a Christian community?
19. What would it look like for you (or your group/family) to embody truth *and* love more faithfully this week?