



[heartguard]

Pastor Bob Botsford

Message available at www.horizon.org/archive

Main Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:14-5:13 • **Referenced Scripture:** Psalm 5:11-12, Proverbs 4:23-27

OPEN:

1. What in particular spoke to you from Pastor Bob's message?
2. In what way is real freedom the power to do as we should and not the right to do as we please?

DIG DEEPER:

1. How do you see Paul addressing the attitudes of the church with both authority and the love of a parent in **1 Corinthians 4:14-21**, distinguishing sin from the sinner, and asking "What happened to the guardrails?"?
2. Paul identifies the problem of sexual immorality in the church in **1 Corinthians 5:1**. In what way does our apathy make possible something so condemned by scripture (**Leviticus 18, Deuteronomy 27:20**) becoming so accepted?
3. Our apathy towards sexual immortality ultimately leads us to acceptance of it. Paul addresses this issue within the church in **1 Corinthians 5:4-5**. How is Paul saying "deal with it" rather than accept it? In what way is Paul saying the goal of discipline and correction within the church must be that of restoration through repentance and turning back to the Lord?
4. How does our acceptance of sexual immorality ultimately become approval of it? Understanding that "leaven" represents sin, explain Paul's analogy in **1 Corinthians 5:6-8** with respect to the church body. How is this dangerous approval of sexual immorality seen in the world today?
5. The world tells us to "live and let live", yet Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 5:9-13** who is responsible for judging those within the church and outside the church. What is your understanding of "judging"? In what way does scripture clarify your understanding of judging (**Matthew 7:1-5, John 7:24, Proverbs 31:9**)?
6. What does **Proverbs 4:23-27** teach us about the importance of guarding our hearts, our priorities, obedience, passion for Jesus, and guardrails in our lives?

REFLECT:

1. Why is it important for us to hate the sin in our lives just as God hates the sin?
2. How has this study helped you to more clearly see who or what has been sitting on the throne in your life?

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 5:11-12

"But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; let those also who love Your name be joyful in You. For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield."

