

GUARDRAILS FOR OUR GOOD

Part 12 of Foundations 260. 1 Corinthians 5.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 13, 2025.

GUARDRAILS ARE GOOD

My experience in the Rocky Mountains.

LIFESTYLE GUARDRAILS

God loves us and wants the best for us.

- Lifestyle guardrails guide our lives for our good.
- Examples: Then Commandments, the teachings of Jesus and Apostles.

INTRODUCING 1 CORINTHIANS 5

The baby delivers brought their ungodly past into the church.

- They were steeped in a culture of sexual immorality.
- Paul's teaching on sexuality follows four chapters on Christ and the cross. This tells us that the power to follow God's plan flows out of our union with Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 5 (CSB)

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and the kind of sexual immorality that is not even tolerated among the Gentiles — a man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are arrogant! Shouldn't you be filled with grief and remove from your congregation the one who did this?

3 Even though I am absent in the body, I am present in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who has been doing such a thing. 4 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus, and I am with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 hand that one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new unleavened batch, as indeed you are. For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore, let us observe the feast, not with old leaven or with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. 10 I did not mean the immoral people of this world or the greedy and swindlers or idolaters; otherwise you would have to leave the world. 11 But actually, I wrote you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister and is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or verbally abusive, a drunkard or a swindler. Do not even eat with such a person. 12 For what business is it of mine to judge outsiders? Don't you judge those who are inside? 13 God judges outsiders. Remove the evil person from among you.

THE PROBLEM IN CORINTH

The specific problem was incest.

- A man was sleeping with his step-mother.
- The church was “arrogant” or proud about it.

But Paul used it as an opportunity to teach on sexual immorality in general.

WHAT IS SEXUAL IMMORALITY?

It is sex outside of God's plan or guardrails.

- God's guardrail is to keep sex exclusively within a covenant marriage between one man and one woman for life.
- Anything outside of that is sexual immorality.
- The New Testament mentions: fornication, adultery, concubinage, etc.

God's guardrails are wise and for our good.

- Theologically: we were designed and created by God, and he knows what's best for us. Followers of Jesus follow the teachings of Jesus.
- Sociologically: Findings¹ show that when a dating couple moves in together, their relationship quality and satisfaction go down.
- Emotionally: Research² shows that casual sexual relationships are associated with short-term declines in emotional health.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Sexual immorality should fill us with grief - verse 2.

- It's painful when professing Christians ignore God's good plan for their lives, bringing shame and pain to themselves and the church.

Sexual immorality should exclude us from the fellowship - verse 2.

- People who persist in immorality must be removed.

Exclusion from fellowship exposes us to Satan's schemes - verse 5.

- Losing fellowship, support, preaching, Communion, is devastating.
- It is intended to bring us to repentance and restoration.

Sexual immorality has eternal consequences - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

- Habitually sexually immoral people may profess Christ, but do they possess Christ in a saving way?
- Pray they turn back to Jesus in repentance and faith.

THANK GOD FOR GUARDRAILS

¹ Rhoades GK, Stanley SM, Markman HJ. The impact of the transition to cohabitation on relationship functioning: cross-sectional and longitudinal findings. J Fam Psychol. 2012 Jun;26(3):348-58. doi: 10.1037/a0028316. Epub 2012 Apr 30. PMID: 22545935; PMCID: PMC5956859.

² Wesche R, Claxton SE, Waterman EA. Emotional Outcomes of Casual Sexual Relationships and Experiences: A Systematic Review. J Sex Res. 2021 Oct;58(8):1069-1084. doi: 10.1080/00224499.2020.1821163. Epub 2020 Sep 29. PMID: 32991206; PMCID: PMC8579856.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's April 13th teaching and study guide.
- What were the highlights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
 - S: Sins to confess
 - P: Promises to claim
 - E: Examples to follow
 - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
 - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

Discuss

- Why do you think they were "arrogant" instead of grieving in verse 2?
- In verses 9-13, Paul distinguishes between judging those inside and outside the church. Why is this distinction important today?
- How can exclusion from fellowship (verses 11-13) serve as a wake-up call for repentance? Have you seen or experienced this principle in action?
- How does union with Christ give us the power to say no to sin and yes to righteousness, Share examples.

Prayer

- Pray the Cornerstone family would flee from sexual immorality.
- Pray Colossians 1:9-13 for the group and the Cornerstone.