RE-VIEW
Weekly Devotionals

"LIVING IN THE GRACE THAT CHANGES US"

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Situation

The church in Corinth was facing a serious problem: a man was involved in a sexual relationship with his father's wife, and the church had allowed it to continue. Rather than grieving over the sin and addressing it, the believers had become proud. Paul wrote to confront both the man's behavior and the church's response.

Imagine a similar situation today: a church learns that a respected member is having an ongoing affair and has no intention of ending it. Because that person is generous, well-liked, or connected to longtime members, everyone avoids the conversation. They may say, "It's none of our business," or, "We just need to show grace." Yet keeping everyone comfortable has become more important than addressing the harm being done. What looks like kindness allows destructive behavior to continue without challenge.

Paul was not telling Christians to avoid everyone outside the church who lived differently. He was calling believers to take responsibility within their own fellowship when someone claimed to follow Jesus while continuing in serious sin. The church was not called to withdraw from the world, but to live differently within it—with sincerity, truth, and a willingness to address what contradicted its faith.

Scripture

ReVisit - **1 Corinthians 5:9-13, NLT**

“When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. **10** But I wasn’t talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. **11** I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don’t even eat with such people.

12 It isn’t my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. **13** God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, “You must remove the evil person from among you.””

Additional Scriptures to Look Up This Week:

- **Galatians 6:1** — Restore with gentleness.
- **Matthew 18:15–17** — Have the hard conversation.
- **1 Peter 1:15–16** — Reflect the One you belong to.
- **James 5:19–20** — Help someone find their way back.

Truth

Grace does not leave us where it finds us. Jesus gave His life not only so we could be forgiven, but so we could live as people who belong to Him. When Paul reminded the Corinthians that Christ, their Passover Lamb, had been sacrificed, he placed their identity before their responsibility. They were not being asked to earn God’s love through better behavior. They were being called to live in a way that reflected the love they had already received.

That new life requires an honest response to sin. We cannot hold tightly to what harms us while pretending it has no effect on our relationship with God or one another. Paul’s picture of removing old yeast reminds us that what we allow to remain can influence the whole community. Grace calls us out of hiding and into sincerity and truth.

Love also means caring enough to address what is wrong. Ignoring destructive behavior may protect our comfort, but it does not help the person caught in it or those affected by it. There is a difference between someone struggling against sin and seeking help, and someone insisting on continuing in it without repentance. A faithful church must make room for honest struggle without treating ongoing, unrepentant sin as harmless.

This responsibility is not permission to become harsh, self-righteous, or suspicious of everyone around us. Paul distinguishes between judging those outside the church and addressing sin within the family of faith. Our calling is not to withdraw from people who do not know Jesus or expect them to live as though they already follow Him. We are called to examine our own lives and take seriously what it means to bear His name.

The grace that welcomes us is also the grace that changes us. Because we belong to Christ, we can receive correction with humility and offer it with love. Together, we are called to become a people whose lives reflect His goodness—not by pretending we have no sin, but by refusing to make peace with it.

Application

Begin with yourself. Is there something you have excused, hidden, or allowed to become normal that needs to change? Instead of comparing yourself to someone else, bring that area honestly before God. Take a practical step toward repentance—tell the truth, end a harmful pattern, or ask a trusted believer for help. Let your response to grace be more than regret; let it become a change in direction.

Consider how you respond when someone you care about is caught in sin. Do you avoid the issue because you fear an uncomfortable conversation? Do you talk about the person instead of speaking with them? Choose a different response. Pray for them, examine your motives, and seek an opportunity to speak privately with humility and care. The goal is not to win an argument, but to help someone return to a faithful walk with Jesus.

Remember that loving someone does not require pretending their choices are harmless. You can offer compassion without making excuses, and you can maintain appropriate boundaries without becoming cruel. If a situation requires church leadership, seek help from trustworthy leaders rather than trying to handle everything yourself. Never use correction as a reason to shame, control, or mistreat another person.

Be willing to receive the same honesty you offer others. When someone raises a concern about your life, pause before defending yourself. Listen, pray, and consider what you may need to acknowledge or change. Let this week be an opportunity to practice sincerity and truth—not by appearing perfect, but by remaining teachable and allowing God's grace to shape how you live.

Prayer

Father, thank You for the grace You have given us through Jesus. Thank You that we do not have to hide our sin or earn Your love. Search our hearts and show us where we have made excuses, resisted correction, or become comfortable with what needs to change. Give us courage to repent and take the next step toward obedience.

Teach us to love one another with sincerity and truth. Keep us from gossip, pride, and harsh judgment. When a difficult conversation is needed, give us gentle words, humble hearts, and a genuine desire for restoration. Help us receive correction with that same humility.

Let Your grace shape our choices, our relationships, and our church. Remind us that we belong to You, and help us live in a way that reflects Your goodness. In Jesus' name, amen.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.