

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
July | Aug | Sept 2026

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL • 1 & 2 CORINTHIANS

Sin in the Church

Lesson 4



MEMORY TEXT

“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.”

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, NIV

The church in Corinth had big problems.

Incest · Immorality · Prostitution · Lawsuits

The greater problem: the church had become comfortable with it.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-2

Numbed by Sin

“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!”

1 Corinthians 5:1–2, NIV

porneia

πορνεία

Sexual behavior outside God's design — broader than pornography.

They were proud.

They should have mourned.

“Compassion for the erring should not degenerate into indulgence for transgression.”

Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, 1881

1 CORINTHIANS 5:3-8

Discipline That Seeks to Save

“Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, *that his spirit may be saved* in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

1 Corinthians 5:5, NKJV

Church discipline is not revenge.

Its goal is restoration.

“A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”

1 Corinthians 5:6, NKJV

The issue is not the presence of struggle.

The issue is the absence of repentance.

A safe place for struggling sinners — never a safe place for sin itself.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11

When the Sinner Returns

“You ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him.”

2 Corinthians 2:7, 8, NKJV

Forgive.

Comfort.

Reaffirm your love.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-8

The Church Is Not Above the Law

Personal disputes

Settled among believers, within the church.

Crimes

Reported to civil authorities. Romans 13.

The church does not protect its reputation by covering sin.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-20

You Are Not Your Own

“And such *were* some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified.”

1 Corinthians 6:11, NKJV

You are not your own.

You were bought at a price.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:17-19

Flee — But Run to Christ

“Flee sexual immorality.”

1 Corinthians 6:18, NKJV

We do not merely flee from sexual immorality.

We flee to Christ.

Truth without love becomes cruelty.

Love without truth becomes indulgence.

In Christ, truth and love meet.

Discussion

- 1 How can repeated exposure to sin numb the conscience of an individual or a church?
- 2 What is the difference between loving a sinner and tolerating unrepentant sin?
- 3 How can the church practice discipline without becoming harsh, selective, or humiliating?
- 4 Why must criminal conduct be reported to civil authorities?
- 5 What practical steps can help us flee sexual immorality and run to Christ?

For the church.

For the sinner.

For the glory of Christ.