**Notes for Contact with a Carnal Culture (1 Corinthians 5:13-25)**

May 4, 2025

1. There are standards for a believer’s relationships.

* God has a plan for every area of your life including your relationships.
* His plan for your relationships is meant for your good and to bring Him glory.

1. Often, we errantly misapply expectations onto the wrong segments of society.

* Paul anticipates his prohibition for keeping company with immoral as being interpreted as those outside of the church
* Paul sees physical avoidance of the lost as physically impossible and spiritually detrimental
* Need for clarification is just as pertinent in modern society as it was then
* It is possible to be in the world but not of the world
* Misapplied Scripture is often the motivation for errant action
  + James 4:4 “Friendship with the world is enmity with God” has nothing to do with relationships with unbelievers and everything to do with adopting a worldview that pursues power, authority, riches, notoriety, and self.
  + It is about pursuing the world system not people
* Physical isolationism is a mark of cultism, not Christianity

1. We are called to resist unrepentant believers, not the unchurched.

* Our relationship with unbelievers is often more adversarial than affectionate
* Prudence in operating with guards and recognition of influences
* However, we often resist those outside while accepting the same things from those inside
* Illustration of your favorite person v. your greatest enemy- both guilty of heinous crime. We will naturally blame one and find ways to attempt to rationalize or excuse the other
  + Evidence of bias
  + That is how the church has traditionally approached sin
* We excuse in us what we would never excuse in those outside our family.
* Our task is to recognize and resist sin with the family of God.
* Our problem is not merely with the presence of sin, but with persistence in sin.
* Specific case in Corinth is adulterous incest of son and step-mother
  + Instead of correction, it is celebrated as evidence of freedom
* Prescription is to avoid fellowship for the purpose of allowing discipline from God
  + God may use Satan to accomplish that discipline

1. My task is not cultural condemnation, but to confront and cleanse what is at home.

* It is easy to talk about how horrible everything is around us
* Look at tendencies to believe the younger generation is going to be the end of all things
* We try to sit in places of condemnation of culture
* That is reserved for God
* Our task is to confront and cleanse sin in the house of God
* Condemnation of culture makes an easy sound bit and a comfortable message while missing god’s mark
* Condemning sin in the world while excusing it is us is a sure way to alienate those around us from the message of the gospel

1. Believers have a perfect model for interacting with a lost world.

* The instruction may seem backwards, but thankfully, we have more than instructions or a description. We have a model that demonstrated for us. Jesus did it perfectly.
  1. He travelled.
* He went to the places that everyone avoided to interact with the people no one wanted.
* Think of the places in town that we stay out of- sometimes for safety, but often for the undesirables.
  1. He talked.
* Jesus conversed with the people that no one wanted to interact with. He was a friend of sinners that ate with tax collectors and women of ill-repute.
* He had an evangelistic purpose. He didn’t excuse their activities. He called people to repentance and gave them the good news of the hope of the coming kingdom.
* His conversations came from a place of genuine interest and interaction.
  1. He taught
* Information was a source of power and authority that most guarded.
* Jesus taught freely to all that had ears to hear- regardless of background, ethnicity, age, or gender.
* Jesus taught the hard and the hopeful. But He taught.
* Unfortunately, the church went through periods where we put people to death for printing Bibles and chained the ones we had to pulpits.
  1. He touched.
* He physically touched the lepers, the blind, the lame, the sick, the blind, the deaf, the unclean.
* He made contact with those that were beneath the rest of society.
* Church has an unfortunate and sinful history where some were unworthy of touch.
* Illustration from professor about man in Walmart.
  1. He teared up.
* Jesus was not angered by the ungodly.
* He was moved with compassion for them
* He saw their need
* In all of the New Testament, hatred is mentioned in the life of a believer toward 1.) his own sin, 2.) as a hyperbolic statement about discipleship, 3.) as a commendation for the church at Ephesus for their thoughts toward the extreme sinfulness of those within the church. In the other uses, the church is persevering through hatred. We persevere through it. We are not the perpetrators of it.