

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 5:1–13

DISCUSSION 1: PRIDE VS HUMILITY (4:6–7)

1. Read 1 Cor. 4:6–7. What are some areas people can be tempted to be prideful about or what are ways pride evidences itself?
2. Why is pride at the heart of so much of our division?
3. If pride is at the heart of division and conflict, why is humility essential for peace and unity?
4. How does remembering God’s grace and generosity in our life humble us and protect us from pride?
5. What are practical ways to starve pride and feed humility in our daily lives?

DISCUSSION 2: SIN IN THE CHURCH (5:1–5)

1. Scan chapters one to four of 1 Corinthians. What are some examples where Paul calls the church to walk in holiness as they follow and reflect Jesus?
2. Why should we take the holiness of believers in the Church seriously? Why is this important for the Church’s health and witness?
3. How do we confront those who profess Christ but choose sin—or live in unrepentant sin—with grace *and* truth? What are some questions you might ask or concerns you might bring up with others who profess the name of Christ but seem to be living in sin?
4. How might this section—and the book as a whole—be an encouragement to us in this group to provide encouragement and accountability on a regular basis and not wait until someone falls into deep sin? Why do we all need people encouraging us to pursue after Jesus and speaking lovingly but truthfully where it looks like we might not be reflecting him?

DISCUSSION 3: SIN AND CORRUPTION (5:6–13)

1. Read 1 Cor. 5:6–13. What do you notice in this text or what stands out to you from this passage?
2. How should the idea of a little leaven spreading and corrupting the whole lump cause us to take small sins seriously in our own life? Why should this alert us to guarding ourselves from how we might spread sin within the body (such as through gossip, pride, false teaching, etc.)?
3. Does 5:9–13 tell us we should be more concerned about sin in the world or in the Church? Why is this important for the way we view and relate to both the world and those in the Church?
4. How do we begin with our own hearts, families, and even this small group first when it comes to taking our sin seriously?

