

Unimaginable Sin

Their problem with pride, 5:2

This situation is an exhibition of their pride, 1 Cor 4:6, 18, 19. We'll see more later.

If they were mature as they wanted to believe they were, they would not be tolerating this sin (as well as others) in their midst. They would be grieving over this sin.

What was this unimaginable sin?

A man was having physical intimacy with his father's wife, 5:1. The Greek implies marriage.

This was not his biological mother.

This was his stepmother; see Lev 18:18; 20:11; Deut 23:1; 27:20.

How could this happen?

Perhaps the father was dead?

Perhaps laws of inheritance encouraged this (he stood to get wealth from her)?
References to greed may imply such a matter (5:10; 6:10).

He may have been in a position of influence.

Perhaps they believed he/they were "free in Christ" to do this thing, see 6:12

What should the church have done?

They should have grieved over the gravity of the situation, 5:2

They should hand this man over to Satan, 5:4

They should expel him from the church, 5:13

All these matters are public matters. There is a time when egregious sins become public.

Why?

He had broken the covenant, Deut 13:6-11; 17:2-7, 12-13; 19:19-20 21:18-21.

There was corporate responsibility

Heinous sin imperiled the well-being of the entire community (Num 16; Deut 23:14; 29:19-21; Josh 7:1

The holiness of the community was at stake, 3:16-17

Why did this thing happen? Pride!

“But this is not very loving,” some will say.

The purity and existence of the church is at stake

Is it possible that this kind of thing could happen in the 21st century church?

The church could be so swallowed up in its complacency and arrogance that they overlook sin they ought to be ashamed of?

Marrying an unbeliever, 2 Cor 6:14ff

A person can't marry anyone he/she pleases, he/she must marry one who “belongs to the Lord,” 7:39.

Sexual promiscuity, 6:18, the internet

Pregnancy outside of marriage, often swept under the rug

Greed displayed in credit card debt

Buying things you cannot afford to consume them upon your lusts

Where is the power of the cross demonstrated?

It is lost in pride and complacency.

It is lost in self-centeredness