

Risë Rafferty – Dealing with Scandals
Monday - July 20, 2026

Is sex just something we do or is it a part of who we are as humans? My sexuality is my own – I can do with it as I please... God gave us the gift of sex with a few parameters

As humans we started deviating from the design back in Gen 4- Lamech.

In 1 Cor 5 – Paul tackling a sexual scandal. If you haven't been involved in one in your life then I'm sure you know someone.

"It is reported that there's sexual immorality among you and such as is not even named among the Gentiles" – fornication in the Corinthian church – sex out of the context of God's design – and it's a level of fornication that's not even acceptable in the world. A man is having sex with his father's wife (step).

1st thing Paul addresses: church's Attitude

v. 2 "And you are puffed up and have not rather mourned..."

Ew, oh my goodness I can't believe it –did you hear that he slept with his dad's wife? that's disgusting! we're above all that- that's being puffed up. 1 Cor 13 – love is NOT puffed up
We mourn because we love. deeply care –what is our attitude toward scandals & fellow scoundrels?

2nd thing Paul addresses: church's Action

"That he that has done this deed might be taken away from among you... v. 5 to deliver this man unto satan for the destruction of the flesh."

Ouch- sounds harsh to me until I consider this in the light of broader scope of what Bible says:
Paul is not dooming this person to hell.

Natural course of sin = self-destructive, it is the destruction of the flesh

– fall into hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition (1 Tim 6:9).

-the motions of sins, ... bring forth fruit unto death (Ro 7:5).

– for he that sows to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption (Ga 6:8).

The seeds of death are Inherent to sin.

delivering such an one to satan = to surrender, giving them over to the consequences of their choices

look at this in r/t how God logistically works.

1. Romans 1:24–28 - "Therefore God gave them up (same word as deliver 1 Cor 5) to uncleanness, the lusts of their hearts..." (v.24)

"God gave them up to dishonorable passions..." (v.26)

"God gave them up to a debased mind..." (v.28)

2. Psalm 81:11–12 - "But my people did not listen to my voice...

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels."

3. Hosea 4:17 - "Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone."

4. Acts 7:42 - "But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven..."

God giving us over, giving us up to that which we choose- allowing us to pursue what we choose instead of Him...does not force loyalty / behavior. Ultimate goal is not behavior change – it's heart change.

Dr. Robert Lustig, pediatric endocrinologist whose research and clinical practice has focused on childhood obesity and diabetes. High sugar processed food has hacked our bodies and minds to pursue pleasure instead of happiness; fostering today's epidemics of obesity and depression – he calls sugar out – the amount of sugar we are consuming in the SAD is poison – He's not ripping soda or frappuccinos out of hands- definitely educating and trying to make those foods and drinks less accessible. Americans are reaping the long-term consequences of the excessive obsessive sugar intake.

God sees our self-destructive actions. He loves the man who is having sex with his father's wife- but He also hates the sin and what it's doing to us. So, He sends His Spirit, He sends His organized body of believers to entreat, to seek to win the offender to repentance, to restore, to heal.

"In dealing with the erring harsh measures should not be resorted to; milder means will effect far more. ...never hurry the matter of cutting off a member from the church." ChL64

1 C 5:9- Paul makes a distinction between being sexually immoral in the world and a brother / church

Mt 18-When church's entreaties are refused and repentance is shunned and willfully persisted in; If he neglects to hear the church, Jesus said, "let him be unto you as an heathen and a publican."

This is how God has dealt with the Jewish nation who rejected Jesus- Romans 11: 19 "because of unbelief they were broken off... For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all." He counts the Israelites as unbelievers that He might have mercy on them. The era of the Jewish nation being the repository of truth is ended. They are no longer God's church on the earth. God counts the Israelites as Gentiles that He might have mercy upon them- win them back

- Church discipline allows the church members to be merciful without compromising the standard of the church, leaven within the church, acceptable behavior.
- In the parable of the prodigal son – the son who is willfully rejecting the Father leaves the home to live his wild life. He was not allowed to bring the harlots into the father's house. In the house; discipline – out of the house the Father is scanning the horizon daily.

How does God treat heathen and publicans? Are they cut off from the mercy of God? NO!

"Let him not be despised or neglected by his former brethren, but be treated with tenderness and compassion, as one of the lost sheep that Christ is still seeking to bring to His fold." DA 441

“While we seek to correct the errors of a brother, we will shield him as far as possible from the criticism of his own brethren

Even then the church has a work to do for him- seek to win him back to repentance. However aggravated his offense, if he yields to the striving of HS and, by confessing and forsaking his sin gives evidence of repentance he is to be forgiven and welcomed to the fold again. Tell him of the remedy that will cure the disease of disaffection”

The story of this man who was acting out on his displaced sexuality doesn't end in 1 Cor 5.

In 2 Cor 2:5-8 Paul tells the church how he wrote 1 Cor with tears and anguish of heart and love for them. He encouraged the church not to be too severe – the church discipline that he advised was sufficient for this man- now forgive and comfort him lest perhaps such he be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore, I urge you to reaffirm love to him...

It worked! This was Paul's intention and more importantly God's intention towards this man.

CCh 258

Redemption is always the goal and focus of the church's actions

Coddling people in their willful sin isn't going to help them. Allowing them to stay in good and regular standing in the church will be like leaven and lead others to think that it's ok -

Church membership – does not mean that you are not struggling with temptation and sin – it means you are living a life of repentance

Personal appeal to those who are struggling with sexual sin. Who are not experiencing sex in the context of God's design – there is something better for you. Eph 2:3- God, Who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins has quickened us together with Christ,