



# STRAIGHT TALK

LEADER'S GUIDE

*Bold Letters to the Corinthians*

**Week #10 Leader's Guide – June 12, 2016**

Straight Talk: Bold Letters to the Corinthians  
SDBC Community Groups

## **“Real Accountability”**

### **Key Passage:**

#### **1 Corinthians 5:1-5**

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. 4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord

1. Paul calls the Corinthian church arrogant, and says that they should rather be mourning (v.2). Why should the Corinthian church mourn for the sin of this one man? Is there a collective responsibility to hold this man accountable for his sin?
  
2. The Corinthian church failed to hold this man, who was in a sinful relationship with his stepmother, accountable in the ways of Christ. By neglecting accountability and tolerating things that aren't even tolerated among pagans, what would happen to the power of our testimony of Jesus?
  
3. In v.2b and v.5, we find Paul calling the Corinthian church to excommunicate this man walking in sinful ways. This seems harsh, but we find God doing this (Genesis 3) and Jesus teaching this (Matthew 18:17). In first century church context, when you were excommunicated by a church, it didn't mean you could go down the street and join another church. You would have been a social outcast, and would have had great difficulty in life. What is the end goal for this kind of accountability?
  
4. God demonstrated how to do accountability well in Genesis 3 when He held Adam and Eve accountable. He clothed their shame (Genesis 3:21) and gave them Jesus (3:15). He did accountability with love, mercy, and grace. How can we emulate this kind of accountability in our community groups? Does your group have the trust, grace, and love that is required to do accountability well?
  
5. What role does the Holy Spirit have in accountability?
  
6. As a community group, you should be holding one another accountable. In a sense, you're an accountability group. Is there accountability happening in your group? Are you keeping each other focused on God and on track in the ways of Christ?
  
7. If accountability isn't happening in your groups, how can you foster a more accountable environment for your group?