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Sex and Sin

Series: Divine Design: Sex According to the Bible The Village Church at Shell Point Evening Service March 30, 2025

- I. Purpose of the series
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- III. First Message
 - A. Divine Design
 - 1. Male-female dichotomy established
 - 2. Male and females made in God's image
 - 3. Jesus affirmed the male-female prerequisite for marriage and sexual expression
 - 4. Male-female coupling for sexuality has procreative purpose and cultural mandate
 - B. Divine Complementarity
 - 1. Helper fit for him
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 - 1. Adam and Eve
 - 2. Isaac and Rebekah
 - 3. Jacob
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 - 1. David's son Amnon fell in love with his half-sister **Tamar** (2 Samuel 13.1-15)
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 - 3. Dangers of falling in love

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 - A. Marriage of Believer to an Unbeliever
 - 1. Genesis 6:1–2 (ESV) —
 - B. Overriding principle if you intermarry with the ungodly, you will be burned
 - 1. The influence of intermarriage of believer to unbeliever will have devastating consequences
 - a. The very collapse of culture
 - 2. That principle becomes a core value of both the OT and NT
 - C. Mismatched Marriage
 - 1. Best example in Genesis Esau's marriages (Genesis 26-28)
 - a. Religious fundamentals
 - 2. NT parallels
 - D. Unrequited Love
 - 1. Example Leah
 - E. Navigating Family Life
 - F. Divorce
 - 1. No clear parallels
 - a. Abraham sending away Hagar
 - 2. OT teaching
 - a. God hates divorce
 - 3. NT teaching on divorce
 - a. Infidelity
 - b. Abandonment
- VI. Sex and Covenant Family Continued
 - A. This message Sex and Sin
 - 1. Need to finish up a couple of things in previous topic
 - B. The Covenant Family

- 1. Implied but not stated explicitly
- 2. The family included in the covenants of grace are the essence of God's redemptive purposes
 - a. All of the sexual aberrations are designed by Satan to undermine and destroy the family
 - (1) Adultery
 - (2) Incest
 - (3) Homosexuality
 - (4) Divorce
 - (5) Transexuality

C. The first covenant – Noah

- 1. Genesis 6:17–18 (ESV)
 - a. 17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.
 - b. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.
- 2. The covenant includes Noah's family
- 3. Genesis 7:1 (ESV)
 - a. 1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that **you** are righteous before me in this generation.
- 4. You is singular Noah's righteousness does not guarantee the salvation of his family apart from their own faith
 - a. But it does include his family in the blessings of the covenant

D. Abraham

- 1. Genesis 17:7–8 (ESV)
 - a. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.
 - b. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."
- 2. Principle of covenant blessings through the generations is continued throughout scripture

E. Israel in the Promised Land

- 1. Deuteronomy 5:2–3 (ESV)
 - a. 2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.
 - b. 3 Not with our fathers did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today.
- 2. The Sinai covenant included those who were not even alive when the covenant was made
- 3. Deuteronomy 29:10–11 (ESV) —

- a. 10 "You are standing today, all of you, before the LORD your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel,
- b. 11 your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water...

4. Deuteronomy 29:14–15 (ESV) —

- a. 14 It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant,
- b. 15 but with whoever is standing here with us today before the LORD our God, and with whoever is not here with us today.
- 5. God includes unborn future generations

F. Salvation and the Future Generations

- 1. Doesn't guarantee salvation to each member of the covenant family
 - a. Those who through unbelief will be cut off
 - b. Others will be grafted in (Romans 11 plot reveal!)
- 2. Responsibility to parents
 - a. Teach the covenant; do everything you can to encourage faith
 - b. Don't relegate the instruction to the church alone
 - c. Don't take the "let them make their own decision" posture!
- 3. Responsibility to everyone
 - a. "Don't break the chain"
 - b. We are always only one generation away from having no Christianity

G. David

- 1. 2 Samuel 7:16 (ESV)
 - a. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"
- 2. God binds Himself to Judah for redemptive purposes
- 3. Jeremiah 31:31 (ESV)
 - a. 31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah...

H. New Testament Households

- 1. Acts 2:37–39 (ESV)
 - a. 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
 - b. 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."
- 2. Acts 10:1–2 (ESV)
 - a. 1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort,

- b. 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.
- 3. Acts 16:14–15 (ESV)
 - a. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.
 - b. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well...
- 4. Acts 16:31–33 (ESV) [Philippian jailer
 - a. 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
 - b. 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.
 - c. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.
- 5. 1 Corinthians 1:16 (ESV)
 - a. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

I. Bearing Children Encouraged

- 1. Why have children?
 - a. Fulfill cultural mandate fill the earth and subdue it
 - (1) "Make it better!"
 - b. Produce believers!
 - (1) Most efficient way to do evangelism is to have children in covenant families
 - (2) Many come to Christ out of non-Christian homes or religions but it's a tougher climb to be sure
 - (3) Many advantages inclined toward salvation in covenant households

J. Barrenness

- 1. "These are the generations of..." -10 times in Genesis
- 2. Genesis 10 and 11 generations of humankind
 - a. 10 generations of descendants of Noah which repopulated the earth
 - b. 11 line of Shem which led to Abraham as the focus of the redemptive blessing of God
- 3. Shows God's interest in
 - a. Humanity in general and totality (10)
 - b. Generations which would lead to redemption and salvation (11)
- 4. Key to all of this Abraham and Sarah
- 5. Genesis 11:30 (ESV)
 - a. 30 Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.
- 6. The story of the generations climaxes with -a barren woman!
- 7. God had promised that through Abraham all the nations of the world would be blessed

- a. Descendants as numerous as the stars!
- 8. Sarah moves in her later years unable to conceive
 - a. Not one single heir!
 - b. Huge test of faith
- 9. 10 years after the promise to Abraham, they had great expectations
- 10. Sarah if fully aware of the weight of the burden
- 11. Genesis 16:1–2 (ESV)
 - a. 1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar.
 - b. 2 And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
- 12. She knows the Lord has prevented her!
- 13. Sarah is desperate
 - a. Resorts to common custom of the day
 - b. Offers her servant Hagar to Abraham as a concubine to provide children
 - c. Asks Abraham to take the matter into his own hands; no longer waiting on the Lord
 - d. And so serves as a tool of Satan!
- 14. Cf with the original sin
 - a. Genesis 3:17 (ESV)
 - (1) 17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life...
 - b. Genesis 16.2
 - (1) 2 ... And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
- 15. Genesis 16:3 (ESV)
 - a. 3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.
- 16. Sarah instigated Abraham's extramarital relationship
 - a. Almost immediately, she regrets what she did
 - (1) All kinds of problems ensued in relationship with Hagar and later Ishmael
 - b. They thought they were just doing with the culture practiced
 - c. But it belied their deficiency of faith
- 17. God's solution is that redemption would come through a miracle!
 - a. God puts Abraham and Sarah in a humanly impossible position
- 18. So God can say: Genesis 18:14 (ESV) —

- a. 14 "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."
- 19. Sarah was a special case but not the only case
 - a. Rebekah had trouble conceiving
 - b. Again God was saying that His redemptive promises depended on God and not on any human attempts
- 20. Barrenness today continues to be a problem though in the absolute redemptive sense
- 21. Adoption is a valid course of action
 - a. Especially international adoptions where many children are orphaned through disease and war
 - b. IVF is another avenue raises complicated ethical issues
 - c. IVF was horribly butchered by the politicians in the last election
- 22. Bottom line God, who is sovereign, is sovereign over conception

VII. Sex and Sin

- A. The first sin plunged the human race into sin
 - 1. Man became a sinner by nature! (Original sin)
 - 2. It affected every dimension of life
 - a. Relationship with God
 - b. Relationship with each other
 - c. Mind
 - d. Will
 - e. Emotions
 - f. Body
 - g. And sexuality

B. Cain

- 1. The first murderer
 - a. Killed the first human made in God's image
- 2. But Cain also produced life
- 3. Genesis 4:17 (ESV)
 - a. 17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch....
- 4. Where did Cain get his wife?
 - a. Usually posed by unbelievers or biblical skeptics
 - b. But it's a good question and not that hard to answer
- 5. Cain did not go out and find a wife from another set of humans
 - a. "Cain knew his wife"
 - b. He had his wife; "knew" Hebrew idiom for sexual intimacy
- 6. But Adam had other children
- 7. Genesis 5:4 (ESV)
 - a. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters.
- 8. So Cain married his sister
- 9. Now that would be later forbidden

- a. But that was not in force at this time
- 10. Genesis 4:17 (ESV)
 - a. 17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.
- 11. So Cain does not honor God in his exploits
 - a. He builds a city and named it after his son
 - b. Seeking to immortalize his own offspring
- 12. Lamech
 - a. Sixth generation
 - b. First Bigamist
- 13. Genesis 4:19 (ESV)
 - a. 19 And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.
- 14. Contradicted God's design
 - a. "Two shall become one flesh"
 - b. But Lamech doubles down
- 15. Genesis 4:23–24 (ESV)
 - a. 23 Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.
 - b. 24 If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."
- 16. Lamech's increasing evil is violent and vengeful
 - a. Far exceeds Mosaic law of lex talionis (eye for eye... one for one)
- 17. Cf Jesus' admonition of forgiveness
 - a. Matthew 18:22 (ESV)
 - (1) 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."
 - b. Intertextual echo?
- 18. Bottom line multiple wives is not God's design
- 19. Objection the patriarchs had multiple wives!
 - a. Abraham and Jacob are examples
- 20. But the biblical narrative reveals all the reasons why that's not a good idea!
 - a. Both had multiplied heartaches and troubles
- 21. Polygamist cultures also reveals the same kind of problems that the Bible does

C. Seth

- 1. Seth is the contrast to Cain
 - a. Genesis 4:25 (ESV)
 - (1) 25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."

- b. Seth was meant to replace Able and fulfill the promise of God in Genesis 3.15
- 2. Line of Seth also includes a Lamech
 - a. But this Lamech is anything but the Cainite Lamech
 - b. Lamech named his son Noah ("rest")
 - c. Noah would be the one to remove the curse

D. Carelessness

- 1. Age of casual sex
- 2. Abraham, Sarah, and Pharaoh
- 3. Sojourn in Egypt
 - a. Genesis 12:11–13 (ESV) —
 - b. 11 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance,
 - c. 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live.
 - d. 13 Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake."
- 4. Sarah is half-sister; this is a half-truth (another name for a lie)
- 5. Pharaoh took her
 - a. Diseases afflicted his household
 - b. He understood the connection
- 6. Abraham, Sarah, and Abimelech
 - a. Didn't learn his lesson!
 - b. Genesis 20:1–2 (ESV)
 - (1) 1 From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.
 - (2) 2 And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.
- 7. God intervened in a dream with Abimelech
- 8. All of this displays how playing fast and loose with sexual relationships destroys God's design
- 9. 1 Corinthians 6:13–16 (ESV)
 - a. 13 "... The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."
- 10. Paul repudiates the careless sexuality we see in our culture today
 - a. Which has seen its day in Paul's day, and in Abraham's day
 - b. And in every day in between in one way or another
- 11. Modern humanity has denigrated sexuality

- a. Evolutionary theory has played its role
- b. We are just animals why not act like the animals

E. Lust

- 1. Much, if not all of this, is driven by the underlying motive of lust
- 2. Matthew 5:28 (ESV)
 - a. 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- 3. Genesis 35:22 (ESV)
 - a. 22 While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve.
- 4. As usual, there is a story behind the story
- 5. Bilhah was the concubine that Rachel used to bear children out of her own barrenness
 - a. Reuben was the firstborn of the rival Leah
 - b. Born in Leah's mind that she might win Jacob's approval and love (remember, unrequited love)
- 6. In this incident, Rachel has just died
 - a. Bilhah, then, was the matriarch of the rival family
- 7. Reuben would not have taken one of his own mother's concubines; he took the one who produced offspring that would challenge his own position of prominence
- 8. His lust may have persisted long before the act
 - a. But he took advantage of the situation, allowing his lust to override the approved family conventions
 - b. Jacob would not have allowed any such thing to have taken place while Rachel was alive
 - c. Did nothing immediately, though he had heard of it
- 9. The private act became public
 - a. As it nearly always does!
- 10. But Reuben's sin does come back to bite him
- 11. When Jacob was on his deathbed, he blesses the sons of Joseph Ephraim and Manasseh
 - a. Joseph was Rachel's firstborn; these are his sons
 - b. Reuben and Simeon were Leah's firstborn they were essentially replaced in position by Jacob's blessing
- 12. Consider Jacob's deathbed blessings for all his children
- 13. Genesis 49:3–4 (ESV)
 - a. 3 "Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. 4 Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch!
- 14. 1 Chronicles 5:1–2 (ESV) —

- a. 1 The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he could not be enrolled as the oldest son; 2 though Judah became strong among his brothers and a chief came from him, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph)...
- 15. So Reuben's sin caught up with him and his family
 - a. The effects ripple through generations
- 16. Cf other blessings
- 17. Genesis 49:10 (ESV)
 - a. 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
- 18. Genesis 49:22 (ESV)
 - a. 22 "Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall.
- 19. Genesis 49:25 (ESV)
 - a. 25 by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.
- 20. But Reuben's life and legacy would be forever in tatters
 - a. Lust destroys genuine fruitfulness

F. Adultery

- 1. Dangers of adultery evident the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife
- 2. God was with Joseph when he was sold into slavery
 - a. But rose into service in Potiphar's household
 - b. Won his trust so that he was in charge of everything except the food Potiphar ate
- 3. This time it was the woman who was lustful for Joseph
- 4. Joseph resists but why and how?
 - a. First, he regards Potiphar's wife as belonging to someone else
 - (1) He would betray his master by succumbing
 - (2) Should have applied to the woman's thinking as well
 - b. He reminds himself of his accountability to God
- 5. Cf David's succumbing to his lust for Bathsheba
 - a. There God did judge
- 6. Joseph flees the occasion, but leaves behind his cloak
 - a. Gets him put in prison
- 7. **Proverbs** 6:23–29 (ESV)
 - a. 23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,
 - b. 24 to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

- c. 25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;
- d. 26 for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.
- e. 27 Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?
- f. 28 Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?
- g. 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.
- 8. What to do in failure
 - a. That's when we follow David
 - b. When confronted by Nathan, he repents
 - c. Psalm 51 is his confession
 - d. Nevertheless, there would be consequences
 - (1) Bathsheba's child would die

G. Rape

- 1. Genesis 34:1–2 (ESV)
 - a. 1 Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land.
 - b. 2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her.
- 2. Shechem's violation of Dinah was a horrendous sin, even in its day
- 3. Dinah may not have been without fault
 - a. She went out to see the women of the land
 - b. She put herself in a position to be noticed (how often does that happen today?)
 - c. And it put her in position to associate with idolatry
- 4. Jacob's family recognized it as rape
 - a. Shechem's father admits as much
 - b. But now Dinah was being held by the pagans!
 - c. Negotiations followed to allow the marriage
- 5. Shechem's tenderness does in no way mitigate the situation
 - a. Genesis 34:3–4 (ESV)
 - (1) 3 And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her.
 - (2) 4 So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this girl for my wife."
 - b. But that does not justify in any way Shechem's rape
- 6. Simeon and Levi come up with a plan for vengeance for their little sister's rape
 - a. Since Hamor offers to pay any price for Dinah, they say your males must be circumcised
 - b. When they were all the males were murdered
 - c. They rescue Dinah

- d. They take the women and children for themselves
- 7. This act of vengeance is not approved by the Bible either
- 8. Genesis 49:5–7 (ESV)
 - a. 5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords.
 - b. 6 Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen.
 - c. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.
- 9. Levi would receive some mercy disbursed through the tribes in their cities
- 10. Simeon would end up dispersed within Judah
 - a. Shrunk in size from 59,000 at Sinah to 22,000 in the plains of Moab in preparation for entering the promised land
- 11. Calvin: Shechem, indeed, had acted wickedly and impiously; but it was far more atrocious and wicked that the sons of Jacob should murder a whole people, to avenge themselves of the private fault of one man.

H. Incest

- 1. Example Lot's daughters following the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- 2. Genesis 19:30–38 (ESV)
 - a. 30 Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters.
 - b. 31 And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth.
 - c. 32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."
 - d. 33 So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose.
 - e. 34 The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."
 - f. 35 So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.
 - g. 36 Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.
 - h. 37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day.
 - i. 38 The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

- 3. Clearly against the demands of God for children to have sex with their parents
 - a. Daughters may have been influenced by the loose morals of Sodom which had just been destroyed
 - b. May have even been afraid they would find no other community of marriageable men
 - c. But they take matters into their own hands
- 4. Result Moab and Ammon
 - a. Both problematic morally
- 5. Today incest and sexual abuse by parents and relatives
- 6. 1 Corinthians 5:1–2 (ESV)
 - a. 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.
 - b. 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.
- 7. Probably had taken his father's second wife
- 8. Paul requires this church, which had embraced this man, should put him out of the fellowship
- 9. But grace can come out of repentance
 - a. And the only way for the man to repent is for him to be disciplined
- 10. Perhaps a correction by Paul: 2 Corinthians 2:5–8 (ESV)
 - a. 5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you.
 - b. 6 For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough,
 - c. 7 so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.
 - d. 8 So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.