

The Amen

In the letter to the Corinthians Paul is answering reports which he had heard concerning them as a church. As you can see, they had also written him or had sent a message to him concerning spiritual gifts, the baptizing for the dead, the report about sexual immorality among them, concerning things sacrificed to idols, concerning virgins, concerning “the things about which you wrote” (1 Cor 7:1), and about divisions in them or quarrels among them (1 Cor 1:11). Just glancing through the pages of this letter you can see that Paul was answering many things about which they had written him or he had heard by other means.

Now concerning chapter 5. This kind of immorality was not even found among the pagans, but it was discovered among the church of the living God. The law condemns this, and it is punishable by death (Lev 18:7-8; Dt 22:22-24), in order to purge it from Israel by means of stoning. These kinds of abominations the unholy and profane nations before them practiced (Lev 18:27-30). And if we do the same we will be vomited out.

In the New Covenant nation the act of physical stoning is not the way of the Holy Spirit. For spiritual Israel would be sojourning in the midst of the nations (Mt 10:23; Gen 17:6) and would be subject to the laws of the nations, so taking this kind of matter in their own hands to stone someone would be a violation of their laws. So in the New Covenant nation (1 Pet 2:9) carnal measures are not needed any longer, but only unified prayer (2 Cor 10:6). To turn one over to Satan is, in effect, turning him over to the world again where he would be destroyed – that is, if this person had a regenerated spirit. A regenerated spirit cannot live in the world any more than a fish can live on dry land. (Unless, of course, that creature that was called a “fish” had somehow merely acclimated to the water for a time, and then when put back on dry land it lived happily ever after – as maybe some we know well.)

If such a one can live in the world (these natural nations) his spirit is not one with Yahshua. This includes the defunct nation in Palestine (Mt 21:43) to begin with, as well as all

the others that one could be from (Acts 2:38-40).¹ For Yahshua did not want all these nations when he was offered them (Mt 4:8-9), he only wanted one (Eph 2:12; 1 Pet 2:9). The nations are under the curse of Satan's spirit (Mt 4:8; 1 Jn 5:19; 3:8; Rev 11:15). The only place a regenerated spirit can exist in safety is in the Body of Messiah, the Holy Nation made up of those chosen out of these unholy nations and aligned with all the other spirits who are made one with the Savior (1 Cor 6:17; Jn 14:16,17). If this person can live outside it proves he was never regenerated by the Holy Spirit – unless he is sent for a special mission by the Body into these nations.

If one is turned over to Satan for the destruction of his body/flesh and he still lives in his body long after, then it proves that his spirit would not be saved in “the day of the Lord”. So in the case of those who are not even saved (regenerated), there is no prayer that can save their spirit by turning them over to Satan. They belong to Satan already, unregenerated.

In the case in 1 Cor 5, no one really knew for sure whether this man's spirit was saved, but by the destruction of his flesh they would be able to tell that it was. One thing Satan will do if you turn a person with a regenerated spirit over to him: he will destroy his flesh. But the authority to do this depends upon many things:

1) Unanimous agreement of every soul in the church that this is the will of YHWH, their Father. Everyone who is under the anointing of the apostle who established them upon the one foundation would be in agreement. This one factor helps all who are under his anointing of the Holy Spirit to be in one mind and heart about the thing they are to do. You can see this is a real test of the unity of the Spirit for a church concerning such a matter, such grave consequences (1 Jn 5:14-16).

¹ The cities of natural Israel (the natural descendants of Abraham) – where Jacob's descendants spread after Assyria – the Christianized nations of the western world. “...the ten tribes beyond the Euphrates, till now an immense multitude not to be estimated by numbers...” (Josephus, chapter 5, 2nd paragraph, page 234).

An *amen* is the most binding, most authoritative, most reliable and faithful thing one can say in a body of believers in deciding such things as this. If one's *yes* is not *yes*, then it is from the evil one of doubting and vacillation.

For a person to have doubt about their 'yes' or 'amen' years later would seem to cast a doubt upon his original agreement which he said 'amen' to. In that case this one vacillating brother would nullify the thing the whole church decided to do.

In the case of praying for one in our own midst a few years ago there was much disharmony and second thoughts much later, as well as when it actually happened. Unless all entered into this thing under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, then there would not be the perfect unity to move the hand of our God in their disunified prayer. For there could not be the power to enact a turning one over to Satan. His power is manifested through unity.

But our Father is full of mercy and forgiveness and loving-kindness. He is bringing us along with all our faults and failures. We have the benefit of the Scriptures (Rom 15:4). Whether or not the Corinthian Church had enough "power" in the Spirit of unity to turn this man over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh in order for his spirit to be saved, we do not know. But one thing is for sure; we have the advantage of our past failures – and the past failures of the early church – to guide us now in the Holy Spirit to complete health and vitality (1 Cor 10:11). Paul would say again today on our behalf the same as he did to the Romans, "All things work together for the good."

2) A Body of Messiah must be able to decide whether a person has sinned a sin leading to death (and such as constitutes a prayer like that in 1 Cor 5). Paul helped the Corinthian Church to be able to decide this by what he wrote them in chapter 5. The church could pray in harmony with an 'amen' from the Spirit of Truth, Paul being with them in their hearts and minds. The church constituted all those who were of his anointing and mind concerning this person. But in the case of those "arrogantly" dull people, I have doubt that this church also could do what Paul told them to do with effect.

3) It is evident that half the church could not pray that a brother would be given life (1 Jn 5:16) and the other half (or even a few or one) pray for his death and their prayers be heard in heaven.

Jms 5:20 is speaking of a brother whose soul would otherwise experience death but his spirit experience life in the “day of the Lord.” If his spirit is saved, his whole personality would eventually be saved but after discipline (Heb 6:4-8; 10:26-31; Lk 12:46; Mt 18:35; 5:29; Rev 20:12-15).

To deliver up a born again person to the adversary for the destruction of the flesh so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Sovereign YAHSHUA is a lesson in unity for the Corinthians who were in cases rejecting his authority and fatherhood. But there was no wise man among them who could even decide such matters, he goes on to say in 1 Cor 6:5, and this was a sure sign of their defeat if they could not be corrected.

I am thankful we are just forming. We have not yet been born as a nation in fullness. We are learning what pleases our Sovereign YAHSHUA, and what His will is in matters of great importance. We must all progress together in one Spirit and one mind, so that the “us” (1 Jn 2:19) can finally be unified in peace.

4) Paul spoke gently here in 2 Cor 13:5, as in 1 Cor 4:1-5, and this is always good to know as we go along. He said, “Test yourselves, examine yourselves.” He had to remind them that he was not their enemy, but was among the co-workers with Messiah, and that they were the field, and that everyone must be careful how they build upon the foundation that he laid (1 Cor 3:9-17), and that the natural man cannot take in the things that the Spirit teaches (1 Cor 2:14-16), and that he, among the other co-workers, had the mind of Messiah.

5) 1 Cor 5 Paul said that he was in their midst with the Holy Spirit. That meant he was a co-worker with Him, and to judge Paul would be to judge the Holy Spirit. Paul was the one watching over them with the Holy Spirit, not the church or certain members checking him to see whether he measured up to their expectations. Of course, those that had such a wicked attitude toward him never received him in the first place and were still lost, unregenerated. For it

was by Paul that the New Covenant Holy Spirit was ministered to them in the first place (2 Cor 3:4-6).

And it was a pitiful thing in the first place that he would even have to defend himself. If it was Messiah who had made him competent to serve Him, it did not depend upon a few in their midst who would put him to the test – as if he would be made competent by them. Paul was a kind father and did not use his authority to pull them down but to build them up. Paul had the experience with Messiah we all envy. But blessed are they who believe who have not seen.

If this man in 1 Cor 5 was not turned over to Satan for the purpose of destroying his flesh so that his spirit could be saved, it was the fault of those who were not recognizing Paul and could not sense his spirit with them. Paul saw that it was expedient to save his spirit by turning him over to Satan so as to render him as little condemnation as possible. Who else would fail to see this as an act of love on his part but those who judged his soul?

So let us strive together to build up and think upon the promises given (Eph 2:12). We are no longer outside the community of Israel. No longer are we without YHWH and in the world. But once we were, and those who appreciate this can offer up a thanksgiving offering to our Savior. Those will be glad for the precious feet of the ones who brought this good news to them – eternally grateful. We can see that this is Israel and not the nations (Rev 21:27).