Sermon Outline

Key verse

You must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

1 Corinthians 5:11

3 Keys to accountability

1. Live in community

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up... If two lie down together, they will keep warm... Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

2. Confront sin

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault...

Matthew 18:15

3. Restore the fallen

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.

Galatians 6:1

COURAGEOUS ACCOUNTABILITY

Opening Thought

As we see more and more people "cancelled" in the public forum, it can be challenging to know how to respond. Over the next several weeks we are learning the biblical model for repentance and how we keep people accountable, while leaving room for grace. Today we learn about the call to courageous accountability.

Ice breaker

 Have you ever witnessed church discipline? What was the sin? Was the person restored or not?

Dig Deeper

- What issue was Paul addressing in the church in 1 Cor 5?
- Paul says they are to "hand this man over to Satan." What does that mean and how could this be for his good?
- What standards does Paul give for relating to those outside the church (vs those inside)?
- Paul used the Greek word "porneia" when he wrote that that was "sexual immorality" in the Corinthian church. The same Greek word is used in Ephesians 5:3 (read). Do you think the 21st century church in America has similar struggles?
- Read Matthew 18:15-17. Jesus places the responsibility on us, even though someone else has sinned. Why do you think that is?
- Read Galatians 2:11-14. What can we learn from this encounter?
- John shared three keys to accountability today. Can we utilize just a few of them or do we need all of them in order to be successful at courageous accountability?
- Why do we need to take sin within the church seriously?

Closing

- Who is someone to whom you are accountable? How would you respond if they confronted sin in your life?
- In what ways will you carry another's burdens this week?