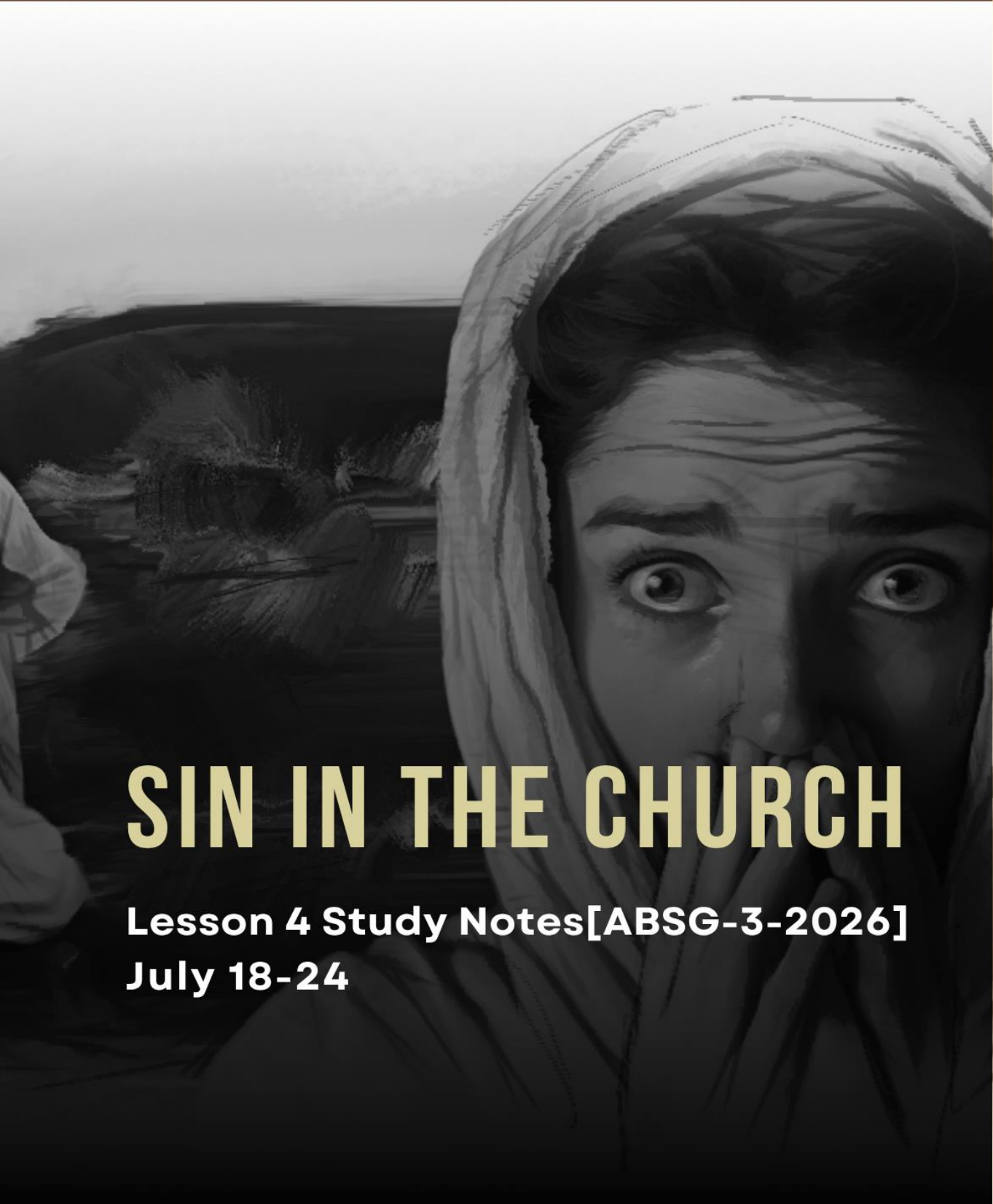


Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
July | Aug | Sept 2026

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



SIN IN THE CHURCH

**Lesson 4 Study Notes[ABSG-3-2026]
July 18-24**



Disclaimer

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. While written with care and in harmony with Scripture, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the Spirit of Prophecy, they are not an official publication of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Reader is encouraged to rely first on the Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the Spirit of Prophecy writings.

Lesson 4 [July 18-24]: Understanding the Memory Text

*"Do you not know that your **bodies are temples** of the **Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have **received from God**? **You are not your own**; you were **bought at a price**. Therefore **honor God** with your bodies." — 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NIV)*

- Our world tells us that our **bodies belong** to us and that we are **free** to **live** however we **choose**.
- But **God** gives us a **different picture**.
- This week's lesson **reminds** us that becoming a **Christian changes** more than what we **believe**.
- It **changes** how we **live**, how we **treat** others, and even how we **care** for our own bodies.

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit..."

- In the **Old Testament**, **God's presence filled** the **sanctuary**.
- Today, through the **Holy Spirit**, **God desires** to **live** in every **believer**.
- This means our bodies are **not ordinary**.
- They are places where **God's presence** is meant to be **seen** through our **thoughts**, **words**, and **actions**.
- That is why **Paul calls** us to **live pure** and **holy** lives, even when the world says otherwise.

"...who is in you, whom you have received from God..."

- The **Holy Spirit** is **God's gift** to everyone who **trusts** in **Christ**.
- He helps us **understand God's Word**, gives us **strength** to **resist temptation**, and **changes** us from the **inside out**.
- We are **not left** to **fight sin** by our own **strength**.
- **God** Himself is **at work** in us, helping us become more like **Jesus** each day.

"You are not your own..."

- These words **remind** us that our lives are **no longer centered** on ourselves.
- When we **accepted Jesus**, we **chose** to **follow** Him as our **Lord**.
- Instead of asking, **"What do I want?"** we begin asking, **"What pleases God?"**
- This **changes** the way we make **decisions**, build **relationships**, and use the **gifts** He has given us.

"...you were bought at a price."

- That price was the **life of Jesus** on the **cross**.
- He **gave Himself** so that our sins could be **forgiven** and our lives could be made **new**.
- Knowing how much **Christ** paid to **save** us should **fill** our hearts with **gratitude**.
- We do not **obey** God to **earn** His love.
- We obey because His love has already been **shown** to us through **Jesus**.

"Therefore honor God with your bodies."

- Because we **belong** to **Christ**, our whole life should **bring glory** to Him.
- This includes how we **speak**, what we **watch**, where we **go**, and how we **care** for our bodies.
- The lesson especially reminds us that **God's plan** for **purity protects** our **relationship** with Him and with others.
- When we choose His way instead of the world's way, we **reflect** His **character** and become a **stronger witness** for His kingdom.

What This Means for You

- Maybe you are **struggling** with **habits**, **temptations**, or **choices** that **pull** you away from **God**.
- **Remember** that you are **not fighting alone**.
- The same **Jesus** who died to **save** you has given you His **Spirit** to **strengthen** and **guide** you every day.
- As you **surrender** your life to Him, He will help you **honor** Him in both **body** and **spirit**.

A Final Thought

- Your life has **great value** because **Jesus** gave His life to **redeem** you.
- Let every **choice** you make **reflect** your **gratitude** for His **sacrifice**.
- When **Christ** lives in you, your life becomes a **living testimony** that **God** is still **changing hearts** today.

July 18: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- The **church** is called to **reflect God's character** and not the **values** of the world around it.
- **Paul addresses** serious problems in **Corinth**, including **sexual immorality**, lawsuits among believers, and questions about **marriage** and Christian living.
- **Sin** should never be **ignored** or **accepted** simply because it is **common** in society.
- **God** calls His **church** to **deal** with sin in ways that are both **truthful** and **loving**, always seeking **repentance** and **restoration**.
- Christians should **resolve conflicts** in ways that **protect** the **unity** and **witness** of the church.
- **True Christian freedom** does not give us **permission** to **sin** but **empowers** us to **live lives** that **honor God**.
- Our **bodies belong** to **Christ** because He **bought** us with His **blood**, and they are **temples** of the **Holy Spirit**.
- **Purity** is **possible** only through a **close relationship** with **Jesus** and the **transforming work** of the **Holy Spirit**.
- **God established marriage** as His plan for sexual intimacy and calls every believer, whether **married** or **single**, to live a **holy** life.
- As God's people, we are called to **live differently** from the world so that our lives **point** others to **Christ**.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will learn why the church must **never ignore sin** and why our **actions** should **match** the **faith** we profess.

Monday: We will discover how biblical **church discipline protects** the church while seeking to **restore** those who **repent**.

Tuesday: We will understand why Christians should **settle disputes** in ways that **honor Christ** and **preserve** the church's **witness**.

Wednesday: We will see why our bodies are **temples** of the **Holy Spirit** and how **Christ** gives us **power** to **live pure** lives.

Thursday: We will learn **God's plan** for **marriage**, **singleness**, and **sexual purity** as part of **holy Christian living**.

This week we will discover how **God** calls His people to **live holy** lives that **honor Christ** and **reflect** His character before the world.

July 19: Sunday - Dissonance Between Faith and Practice

Read: 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; Leviticus 18:7–8

Summary

- The **New Testament teaches** us not only what **God's church** should be like but also what it should **never become**.
- **Paul** was **shocked** because a man in the church was **living** in an **immoral relationship** with his **stepmother**, a **sin** that even many **unbelievers** would not **accept**.
- What **troubled Paul** even more was that the church **did nothing** about it and was **proud** of **allowing** it to **continue**.
- The church **claimed** to **follow God**, but its **actions** no longer **matched** His **Word**.
- The same **danger faces** us today when we **excuse** or **ignore** what **God** has clearly said is **wrong**.
- **God calls** us to **love** people without **changing** His **standards** or treating **sin** as **acceptable**.
- Instead of asking only what others are doing wrong, ask whether your own **life agrees** with what you **believe** and what **God's Word teaches**.
- When your **faith shapes** your **choices** and your **actions**, your life becomes a **true witness** for **Jesus**.

Question

- Why was **Paul** so **troubled** by the church in **Corinth**?

Answer

- Because the church **accepted** and even **tolerated** a **sinful relationship** instead of **dealing** with it according to **God's Word**.

Reflection

- Is there anything in my **life** that I know **God's Word** says is **wrong** but I have chosen to **excuse** or **ignore**?

Takeaway

- **Let your faith** be seen not only in what you **believe** but also in the way you **live** every day.

July 20: Monday - Dealing With Scandals

Read: 1 Corinthians 5:1–13

Summary

- Dealing with open sin is never easy, but God calls His church to respond with truth, prayer, love, and a desire to restore those who have fallen.
- Paul continued addressing the church member who was living in an immoral relationship with his stepmother.
- He told the church not to ignore this open sin because the man had chosen to continue living without repentance.
- The church was to discipline him, not to punish him, but to help him realize his need to turn back to God.
- Paul also warned believers not to treat open sin as acceptable because wrong choices can influence others to follow the same path.
- God's purpose in discipline is always to lead people to repentance so they can be forgiven and welcomed back into His family.
- When God corrects you through His Word, accept His guidance with a willing heart and choose to follow Him.
- If someone you know has wandered from God, pray for them, lovingly encourage them, and never stop hoping for their restoration.

Question

- How should the church respond when a member continues living in open sin?

Answer

- The church should respond with truth, love, prayer, and appropriate discipline, always seeking the person's repentance and restoration.

Reflection

- When God corrects me through His Word, do I humbly accept His correction, and do I help others return to Him with both truth and love?

Takeaway

- God's discipline is an act of love because His desire is to forgive, restore, and bring His children back to Him.

July 21: Tuesday - Protecting the Church's Identity

Read: 1 Corinthians 5:3, 12–13; 1 Corinthians 6:1–13; Romans 13:1–5

Summary

- God calls His church to live differently from the world.
- Paul speaks about believers who were taking their disputes to secular courts instead of seeking a godly solution within the church.
- He reminds them to let God's Word guide how they deal with one another.
- Paul was not rejecting civil courts because God has given them authority over crime and justice.
- He was concerned that believers were handling their disputes like people who did not know Christ.
- God wants His people to show wisdom, fairness, forgiveness, and love in every situation.
- Paul also reminds us that sexual immorality, greed, idolatry, theft, dishonesty, drunkenness, and other sins all separate people from God's kingdom when they are not repented of.
- We should never accept any sin simply because it has become common or popular.
- Let God's Word shape your actions, your relationships, and the way you treat others.
- When problems arise, ask God to help you respond with humility, grace, and wisdom.

Question

- How should Christians deal with disagreements and sin within the church?

Answer

- Christians should follow God's Word, treat others with love and fairness, and seek solutions that honor Christ.

Reflection

- Do my words and actions reflect the character of Jesus, especially when I face conflict or temptation?

Takeaway

- God's church reflects Christ when His people live by His Word and treat one another with His love.

July 22: Wednesday - Antidote Against Sexual Immorality

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:11–20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; Romans 12:1

Summary

- **God calls** His people to **live holy** lives because they **belong** to Him.
- Some believers in Corinth **wrongly believed** that **Christian freedom** allowed them to **live** as they pleased, including in **sexual matters**.
- **Paul corrected** this thinking by **teaching** that **Jesus** sets us **free from sin**, not free to **continue** living in it.
- Your body **belongs** to **Christ** and should be **used** to **honor** Him in **every** area of life.
- When you **accepted Jesus**, He **washed** you, **made** you **holy**, and **declared** you **righteous** through His **grace**.
- You are also **united** with **Christ**, so **every** choice you make should **strengthen** that relationship instead of **weakening** it.
- **Paul reminds** us that our bodies are **temples** of the **Holy Spirit**, and **God desires** to **live** in us.
- The **closer** you **walk** with **Jesus**, the more He gives you **strength** to **overcome temptation** and live a **pure** life.
- **Sexual sin** has brought **pain** and **brokenness** to countless lives, but **Christ** offers **forgiveness**, **healing**, and the **power** to **live differently**.
- **Choose each day** to **honor God** with your body because you **belong** to Him.

Question

- Why should Christians **avoid sexual immorality**?

Answer

- Because we **belong** to **Christ**, our bodies are **temples** of the **Holy Spirit**, and **God** calls us to **live holy** lives.

Reflection

- Do my **choices** show that I **belong** to **Jesus**, and am I **allowing** the **Holy Spirit** to **guide** the way I live?

Takeaway

- **True Christian freedom** is not the freedom to **sin** but the freedom to **live a holy life** through the **power** of **Christ**.

July 23: Thursday - Marriage and Singleness

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:19–7:9; Genesis 39:6–18

Summary

- God created sexuality as a good gift to be enjoyed within marriage between a man and a woman.
- Paul reminds us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, so every choice we make should honor God.
- Christian freedom is not an excuse to follow sinful desires but a call to live a holy life.
- Paul teaches that both marriage and singleness are gifts from God, and each should be lived in faithfulness to Him.
- Whether married or single, every believer is called to practice self-control and sexual purity.
- Joseph shows us that the safest way to overcome temptation is to flee from it instead of trying to resist it after we have drawn close to it.
- The closer we live to Christ, the stronger we become to say "no" to temptation and "yes" to God's will.
- In a world that confuses God's plan for sexuality, His Word remains our safest guide.
- Choose today to honor God with your body and trust that His way always leads to joy, peace, and blessing.

Question

- How can Christians remain sexually pure in today's world?

Answer

- By staying close to Christ, obeying God's Word, avoiding temptation, and honoring His plan for marriage and singleness.

Reflection

- Am I following God's plan for purity, or am I allowing the world's ideas to shape my choices?

Takeaway

- The Holy Spirit gives you the strength to live a pure life when you choose to follow Christ every day.

July 24: Friday - Further Thought

Read: The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 298–308

Summary

- **God calls** His people to **live holy** lives because they **belong** to Him.
- **Paul** reminds us that **sexual immorality**, **idolatry**, **drunkenness**, and other sins often go hand in hand when people **turn away** from **God**.
- **Sin** begins to **lose its power** when we **remove** anything that **takes God's place** in our hearts.
- The **Holy Spirit** can **fill** our lives only when we **surrender** ourselves **completely** to **Christ**.
- **God** wants to **change** not only our **actions** but also our **thoughts**, **desires**, and **habits**.
- His **purpose** is not to **take away** our joy but to **lead** us into a **pure**, **healthy**, and **meaningful** life.
- The world may **reject God's plan** for holiness and marriage, but His way always **leads** to **peace** and **lasting happiness**.
- **Each day**, **choose** to **honor God** with your **body**, your **mind**, and your **relationships**.

Question

- How can I **live** a **holy life** in a world **filled** with **temptation**?

Answer

- By **surrendering** to **Christ** every day, **allowing** the **Holy Spirit** to **change** your heart, and **choosing** to **follow** God's way instead of the world's.

Reflection

- Is there anything in my **life** that has **taken God's place** and is **keeping** me from **fully following** Him?

Takeaway

- When **Christ fills** your heart, He gives you the **power** to **live** a **holy life** that **honors** Him every day.