

Sexual Sin and Leadership In The Church

**A Reaction Paper
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**by
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Christians sin every day. When we consider an unsaved man living with a woman in a regular sexual relationship who gives his life to Christ, leaves his sinful relationship, and remains celibate for a year, we see the new life which Christ gives exemplified. When this person continues to proactively seek to be discipled and taught, and, after three years is then recommended by a leader in the Church to lead a small group, what grounds might we have for disqualifying such a one for service? Should we consider such a one disqualified if we learn that, during a year long engagement to his recently wed wife, he struggled to stay sexually pure, and on 2 occasions during that year, the couple had intercourse? In I Corinthians 5, Paul addresses the seriousness with which the Church must deal with unrepentant, continual sin. In our case, this sin was neither unrepentant, nor continual. In fact, the remedy which Paul prescribes for sexual desire-- marriage, in I Corinthians 7-- has been executed. Nothing prescribed directly in Scripture would prohibit this man from leading a small group.

When we discover a person involved in sin, we should first discuss the situation with that individual, one-on-one, to determine the person's attitude toward their sin. If they don't believe they are sinning, then a reasoned Biblical presentation of God's standards should be presented to show the person their sin. If the person understands their sin, but doesn't show repentance or a desire to change, then this person should be considered an unbeliever, per Hebrews 10:26ff, and the Gospel should be presented. If the person understands their sin, shows remorse, and is having difficulty ceasing from sin, then the Church should come along side in close personal relationships and support this individual. Proactive steps should be taken to meet the need which this individual is trying to fill with sin.

Individuals very close to this person should show their love for him by encouraging him to change and should check in to hold him accountable. Christians sin every day, and this is the daily life of the Church.