



A Holy People Practicing Radical Hospitality

1 Corinthians 5:1–13



A House Built for Welcome

You have poured everything into it. The doors are wide open. The table is full. Then you kneel down — and find termites.

Cover the rot

Lay a rug. Pretend it isn't there.

Expose the damage

Pull up the boards. Deal with the rot.

Christ, our Passover lamb, has
been sacrificed. (1 Cor 5:7)

The Culture of Corinth

One of the wealthiest cities in the Roman world. Sex woven into worship, business, and status. The body was a tool. Pleasure was power.



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. – 1 Cor 5:1

And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. (1 Cor 5:2)

Mourning

Not Cruelty

Mourning pulls us off the pedestal and onto our knees beside the struggling.

Not Cowardice

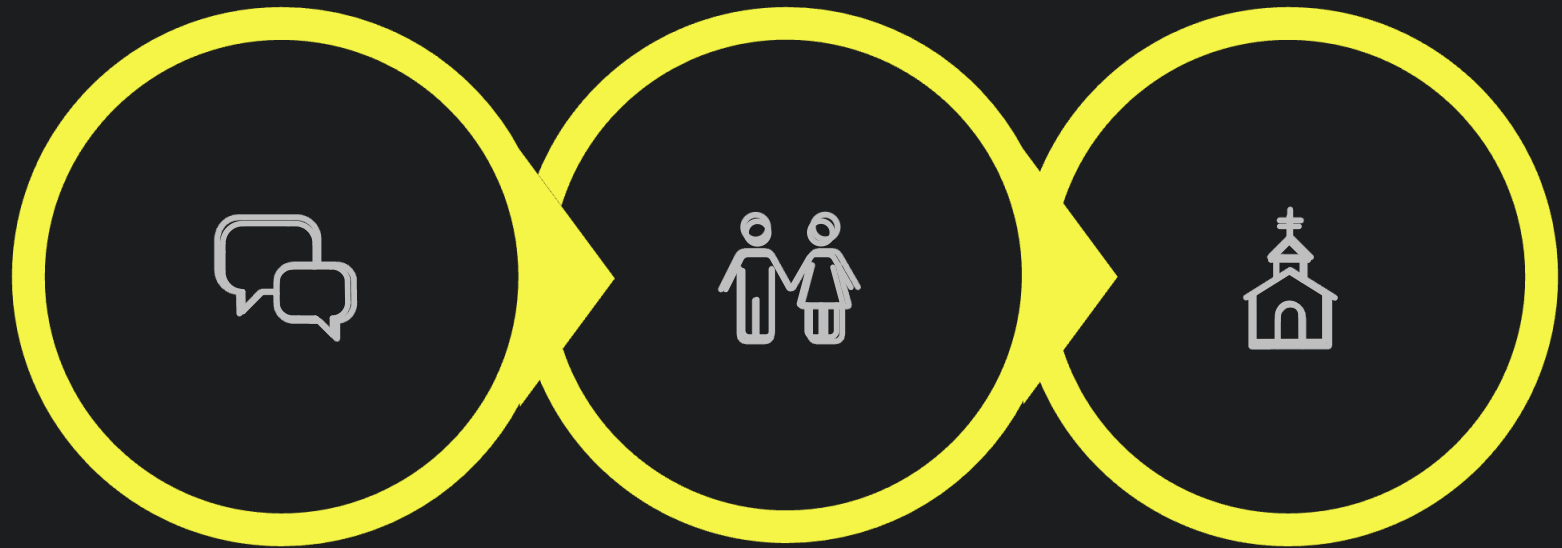
Mourning refuses to pretend everything is fine when someone walks toward destruction.



**A forgiven people mourn
the brokenness**

When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, **you are to deliver this man to Satan** for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (1 Cor 5:4–5)

Confront the Rot



Private

Witnesses

Gathered
Church



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He who did not spare his own Son
but gave him up for us all...
(Rom 8:32)

**A forgiven people mourn
the brokenness
and confront the rot**

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (1 Cor 5:6–7)

Passover People



The Old Picture

Every Israelite household: lamb slaughtered, blood on the doorpost, bread made without yeast. They were leaving slavery *that night*.



Cleanse the leaven — *not to become unleavened*, but **because you already are.**

Your Story Now

Christ is the true Passover Lamb. The blood marks your door. You have been brought out of slavery.

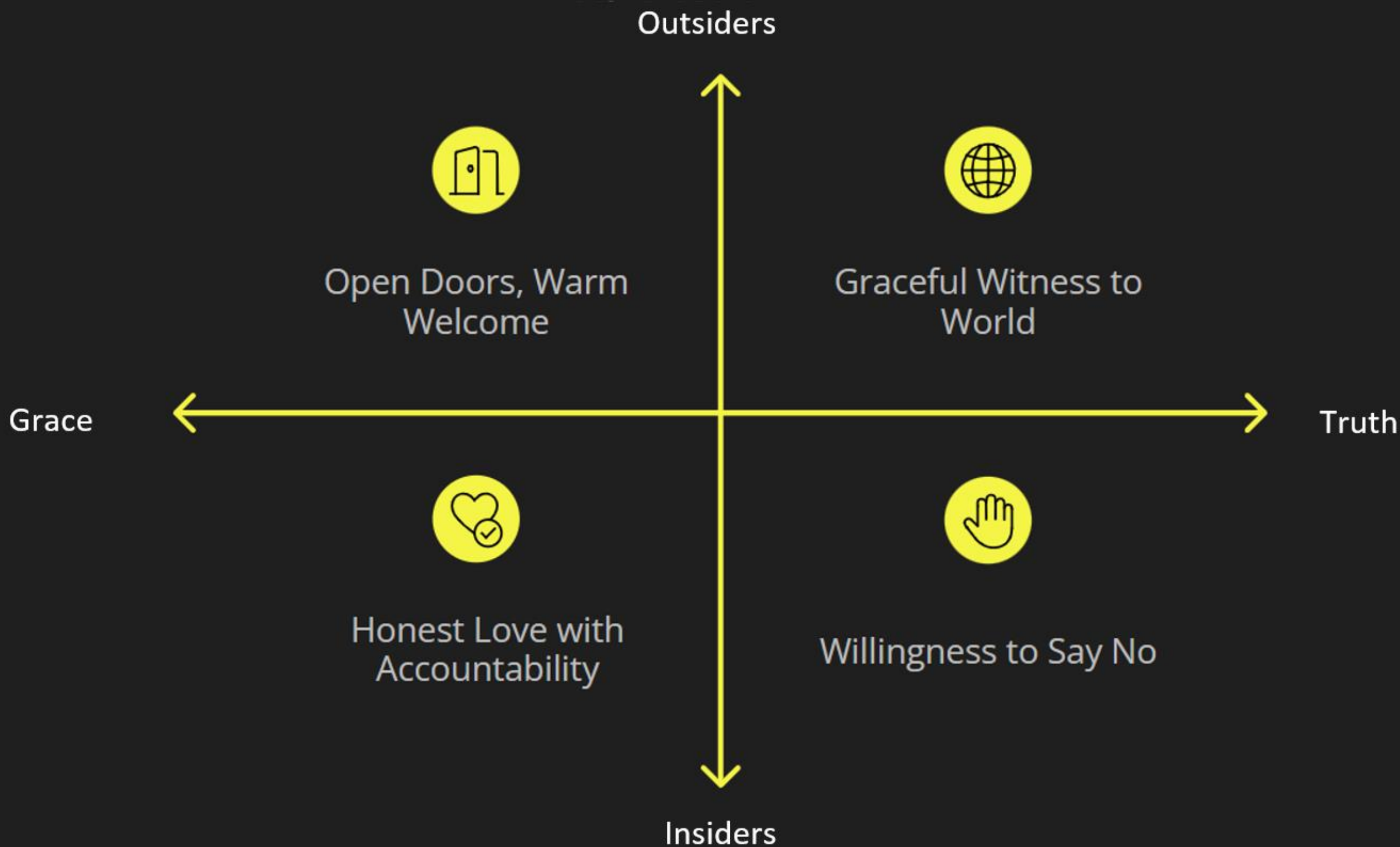
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The great spiritual battle of our lives is to believe we are God's beloved. We struggle to believe we are clean. We struggle to believe we belong at the table. So when the old pull comes, it feels familiar in a way that grace does not yet feel familiar. The old life feels like home, even when it has been killing us.

(Henri Nouwen)

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people, not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. - 1 Cor 5:9-10

But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler, not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you.
(1 Cor 5:11–13)



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Three Groups



Hiding the Rot

A pattern no one has named. The Spirit keeps pressing on that soft floorboard.

Step into the light. Let the cleansing be His work.

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Throwing the Rug

Everyone has agreed not to talk about it. You know it is destroying someone.

Mourn what is happening. Tell them the truth.

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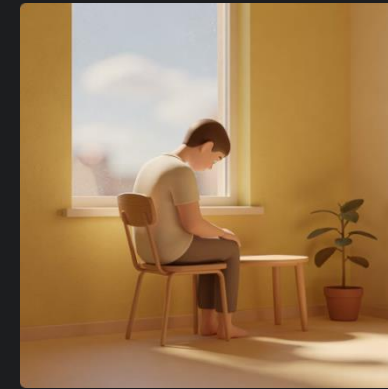
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The Wounded

The community looked the other way when you needed them to look at the truth.

Jesus carries that wound with you.

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