

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

You know, in recent years we Christians have become increasingly vocal in pointing out the sins of our unbelieving society. We've spoken out against immorality, the abuse of power, abortion, and rightly so. But we do have to be careful that what we say is backed by credibility and integrity. In other words, don't tell the world to get clean when we, too, need a bath. Sometimes we ignore the sin in the church while speaking out against the sin in society. Let me say that again. Sometimes we ignore the sin in the church while speaking out against the sin in society.

1 Corinthians chapter 5, verses 12 and 13, says; “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? Those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.”

In this text, Paul is talking about a man who had fallen into sin right in the church and he says, “Be careful. Let's not so quickly run out there and talk about people who don't know the Savior. What about dealing with this fellow right here?”

We need to look at our own integrity. Again, our world is screaming for an example of holiness and not just talk about holiness. The church needs to work on cleaning up its own mess so that it speaks to the unbelieving world with humble but convincing integrity. God wants to use a clean, pure church to speak to the world by both word and deed—not just by our proclamation but by who we are.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Judgment begins at the house of God. Let's work on becoming the message that we preach. May it never be said of us that we are hypocrites; that we're proclaiming stuff that we're not working on ourselves.