

1 Corinthians 5:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Analysis

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together—church discipline is a corporate act requiring formal assembly, not individual vigilantism. **In the name** (ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι) indicates authority derived from Christ, acting as His representatives. Discipline is exercised under Christ's lordship and by His authority, not human wisdom or personal vendetta.

And my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ—Paul's apostolic presence and Christ's power attend the assembly. The phrase dynamis tou Kyriou ("power of the Lord") emphasizes this isn't human strength but divine enablement. Church discipline, properly conducted, is a spiritual act where Christ Himself acts through His body to protect purity and pursue restoration. The assembly's unity—gathered together with Paul's spirit and Christ's power—demonstrates the gravity and legitimacy of the action.

Historical Context

Early church discipline was a public, corporate act of the assembled congregation, not decisions made by clergy alone. The phrase 'gathered together' (synagō) reflects synagogue practice adapted to Christian assembly. This public nature protected against abuse while emphasizing the church's collective responsibility for holiness.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does your church practice corporate discernment and discipline today?
2. Do you rely on Christ's power or human methods when addressing difficult situations?
3. What does it mean practically to act 'in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ' in church decisions?

Interlinear Text

ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

συναχθέντων ὑμῶν καὶ τοῦ ἐμοῦ πνεύματος σὺν τῇ
are gathered together when ye and G1700 spirit with G3588
G4863 G5216 G2532 G4151 G4862 G3588

δυνάμει τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,
the power of our Lord Jesus Christ

Additional Cross-References

John 20:23 (Parallel theme): Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

2 Corinthians 13:3 (References Christ): Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

Colossians 3:17 (References Jesus): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Matthew 16:19 (Parallel theme): And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

2 Corinthians 13:10 (References Lord): Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (References Jesus): Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

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