

Time is the framework on which we will hang the sessions of our study this weekend.

In large part, it is the measure of human existence.

We started this meeting at 10:00 – a specific time that we used to plan and adjust our morning activities thus far.

In fact, Time is a basis for many of the decisions we make every day.

This will not be as much a study of "time" as it will be a study of "times".

The British cleric, C. C. Colton described time as "that black and narrow isthmus between two eternities."

Not really two eternities, but one continuous eternity with neither beginning, nor ending.

Eternity is God's domain.

One infinitesimal slice of eternity contains time as we know it – the fleeting domain of man.

And yet, God designed time specifically for you and for me.

The heavens were created in part to help man keep track of time...

Christian History Research Institute – at the creation, all of the visible planets were lined up in the night sky.

Scripture emphasizes time in many regards.

"in the process of time..." (Gen. 4:3) lit., "at the end of days"

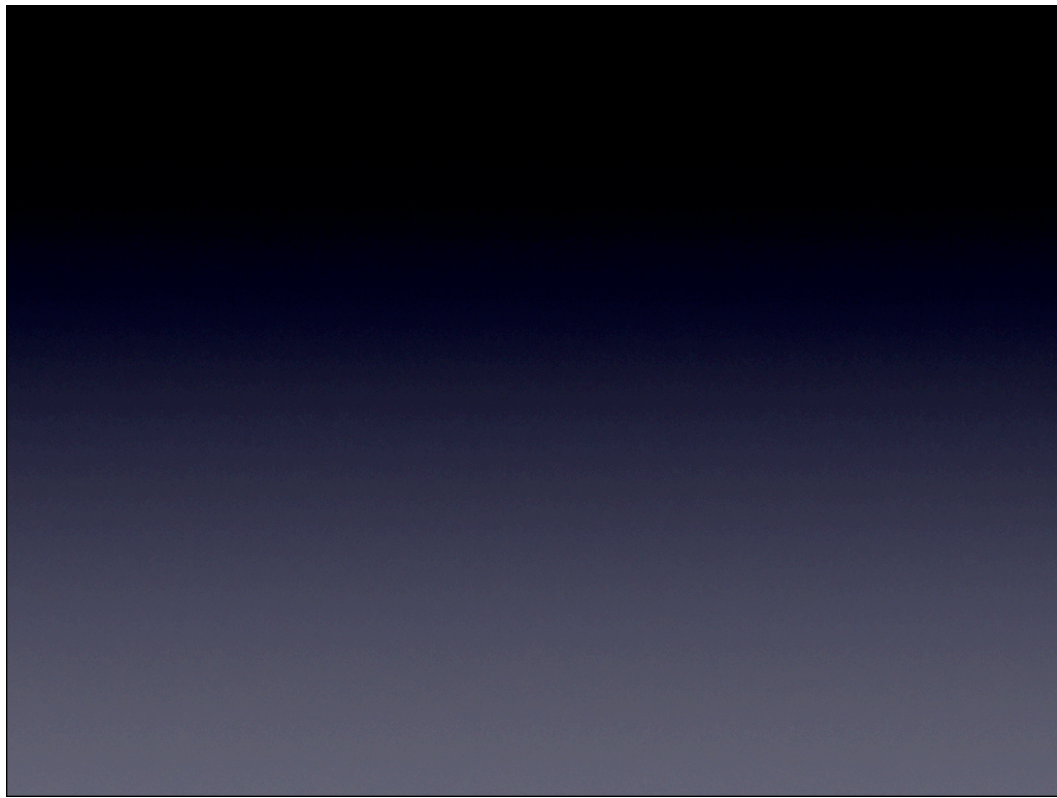
"Now is the accepted time..." (2 Cor. 6:2),

"...when the fulness of time had come..." (Gal. 4:4),

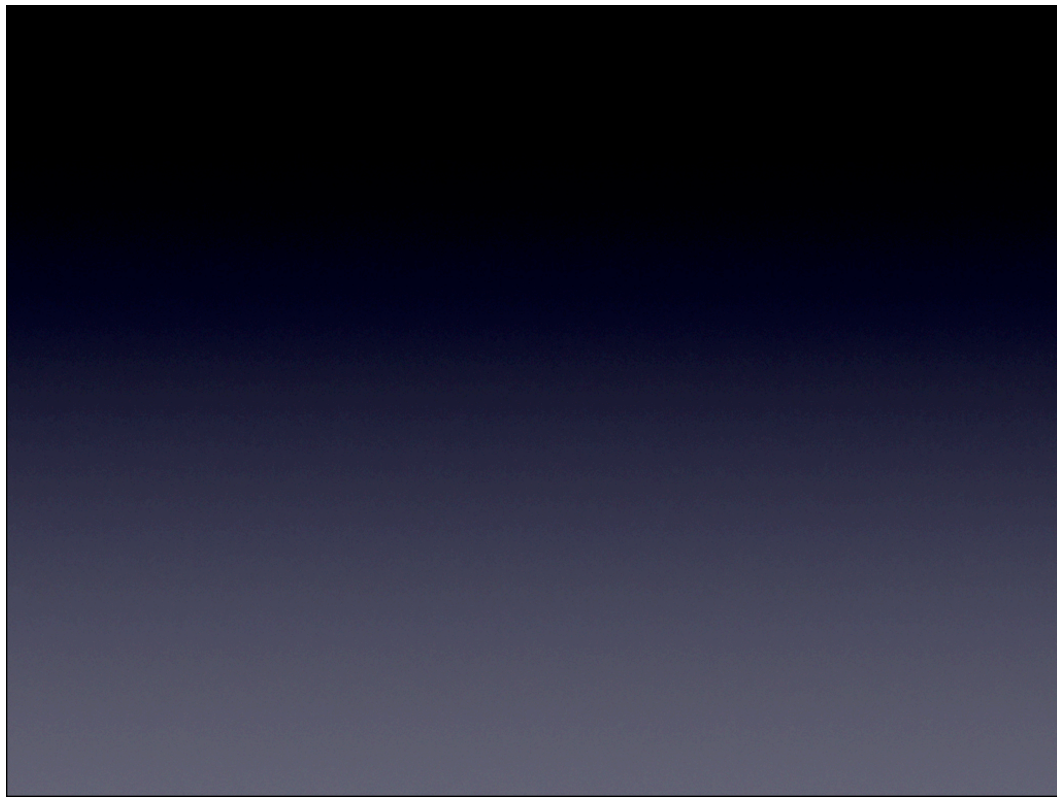
"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: " (Eccl. 3:1)

"...according to the time of life" (Gen. 18:14)

...when the time was come that he should be received up, (Luke 9:51)



The Present -
Imminent Danger!



I Corinthians 5:1-8

It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

I Corinthians 5:1-8

For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I Corinthians 5:1-8

To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:1-8

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.



It's Pretty Common

72% of American Adults Believe It

It defies logic

But they still believe it

“There is no such thing as absolute truth.”

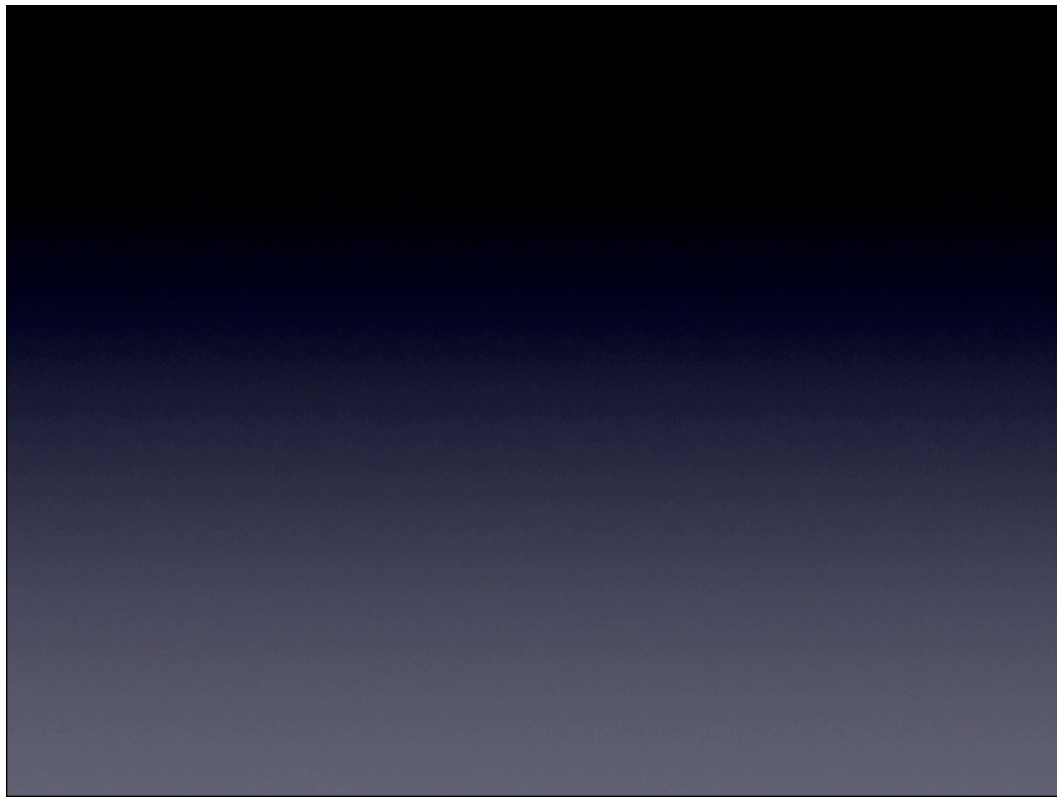
Relativism

"What is right for you may not be right for me."

In other words, I don't want you to tell me what is right and wrong. I want to decide that for myself.

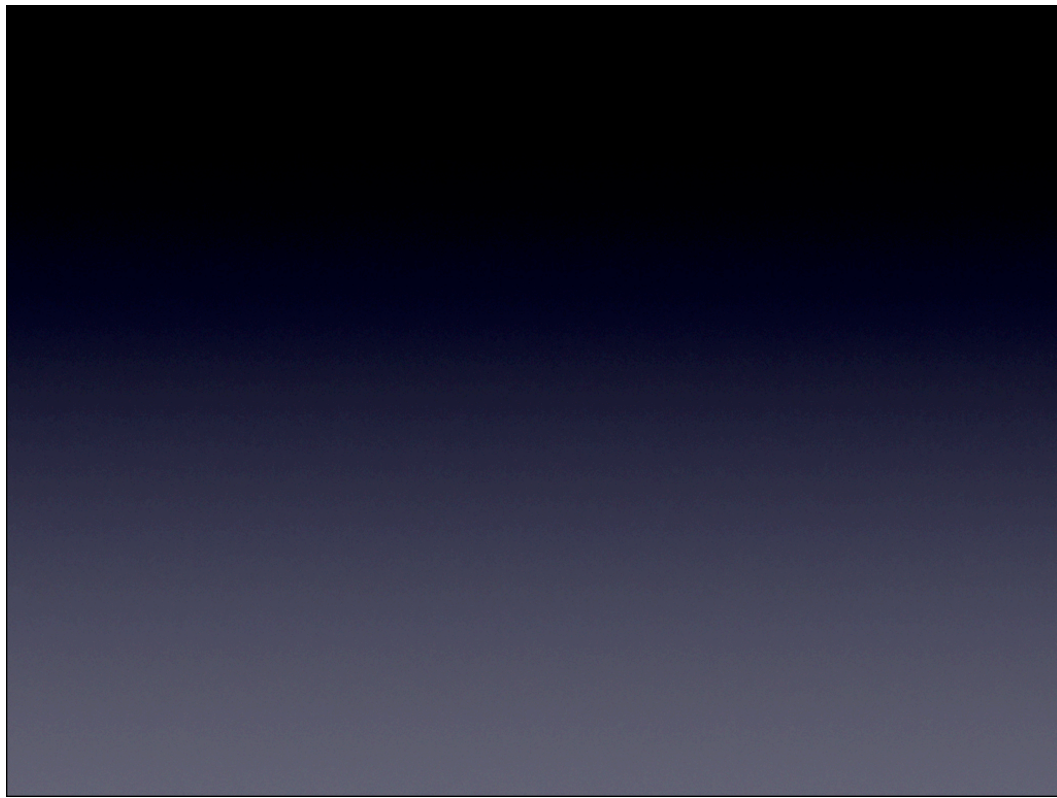
Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.



A Typical Relativist Statement

“If you believe that Christianity is right for you, that’s fine. I’m glad it works for you. I just happen to believe differently. But I’m not going to say that you’re wrong.”



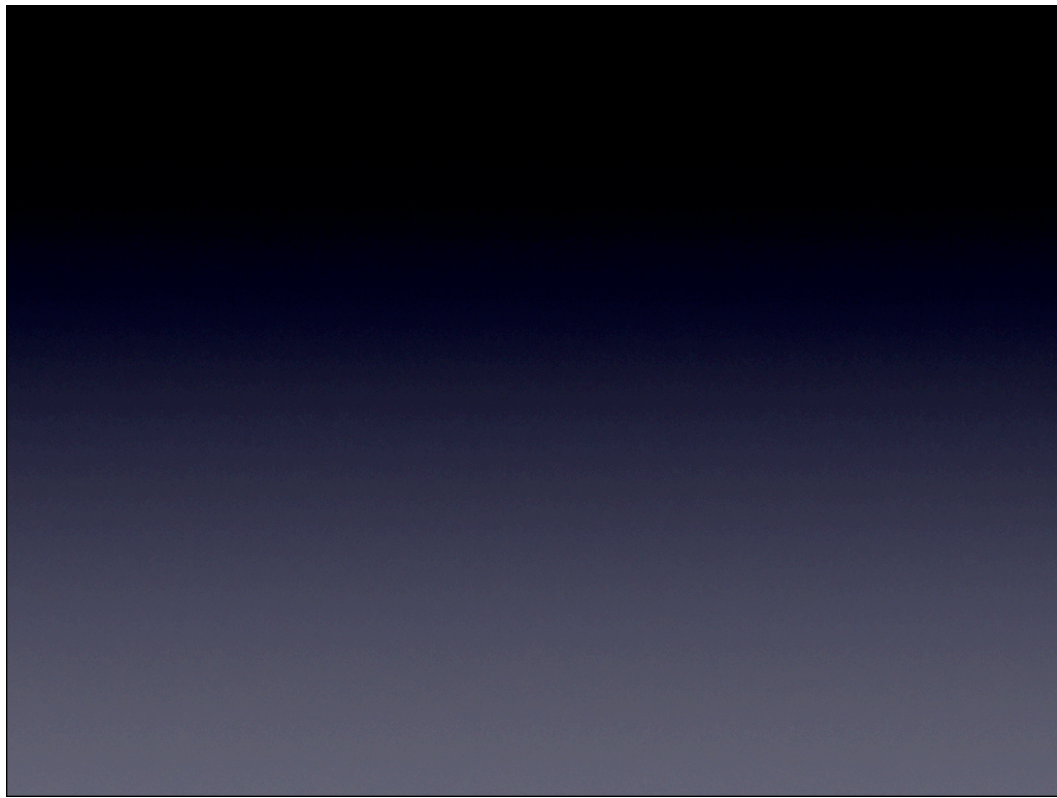
The Internal Inconsistency of Relativism

In order for Relativism to be true, it must be true for everyone. In other words, it cannot, itself, be relative.

Jesus said:

“I am the way, the truth,
and the life. No man
comes to the Father
but through me.”

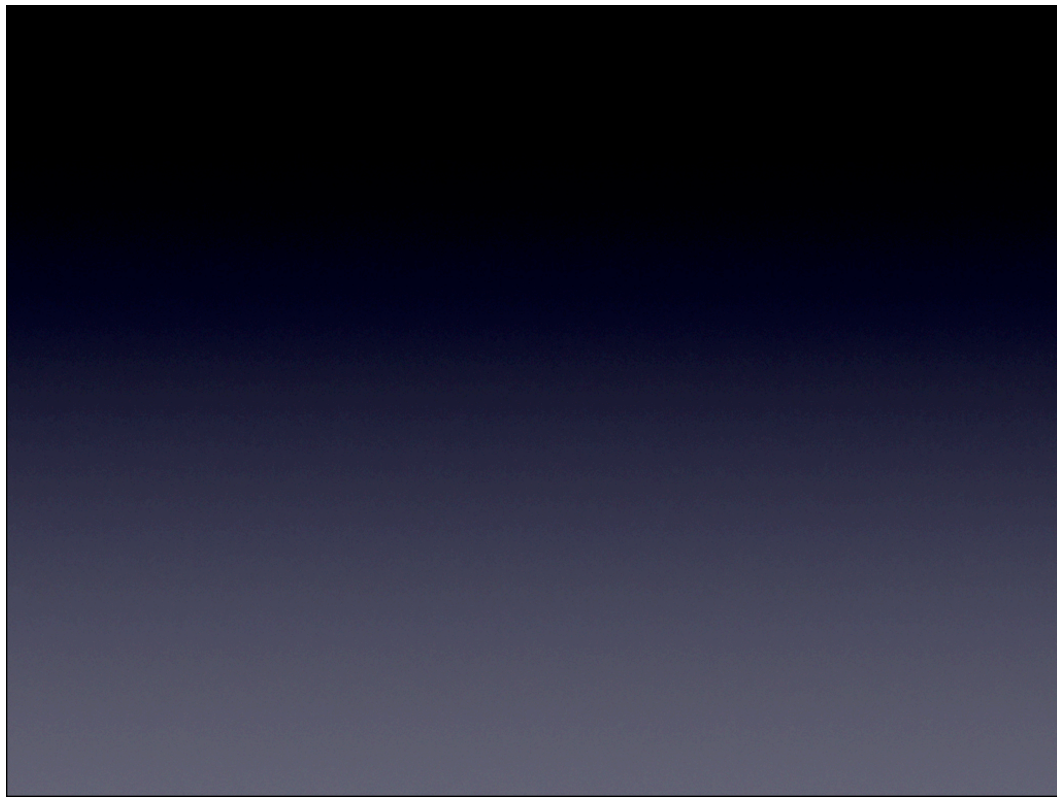
John 14:6



Is Sincerity Enough?

“Truth is what you sincerely believe.”

NO! You can be sincerely wrong!

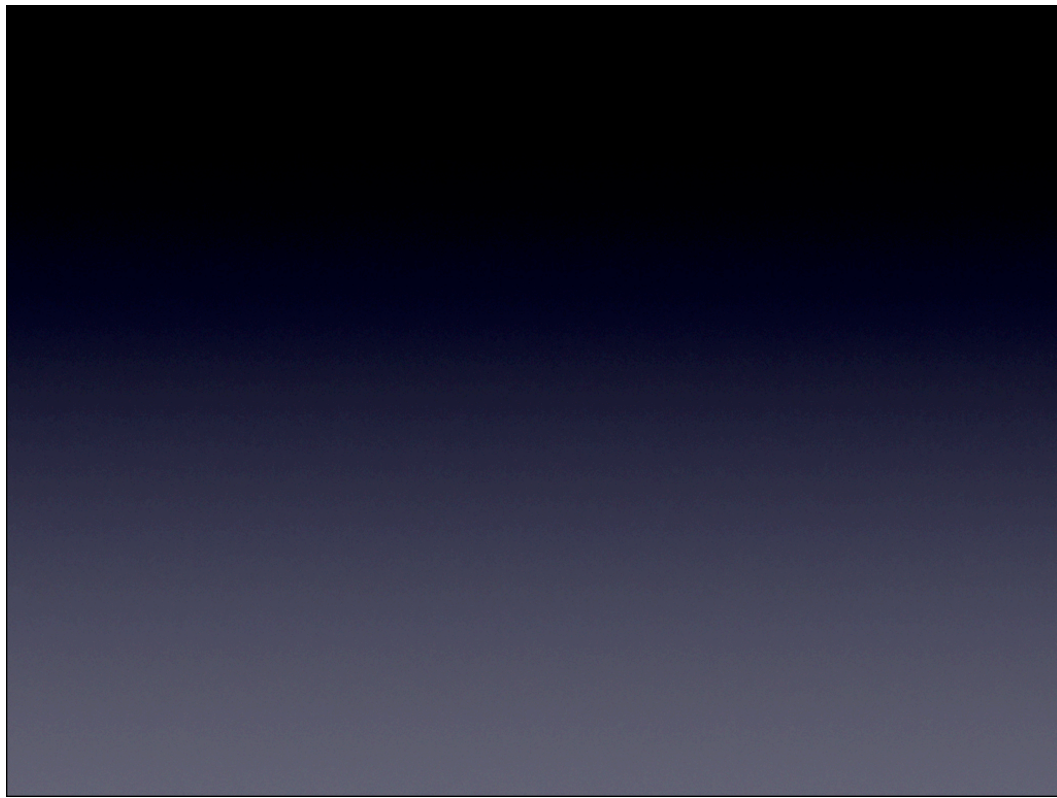


Truth is Exclusive

If one statement is true, then by the law of non-contradiction, every other contradictory statement must be false.

Christianity

Christianity, being truth, is by definition exclusive.



Christianity

As Christians, in some respects we are necessarily narrow-minded.

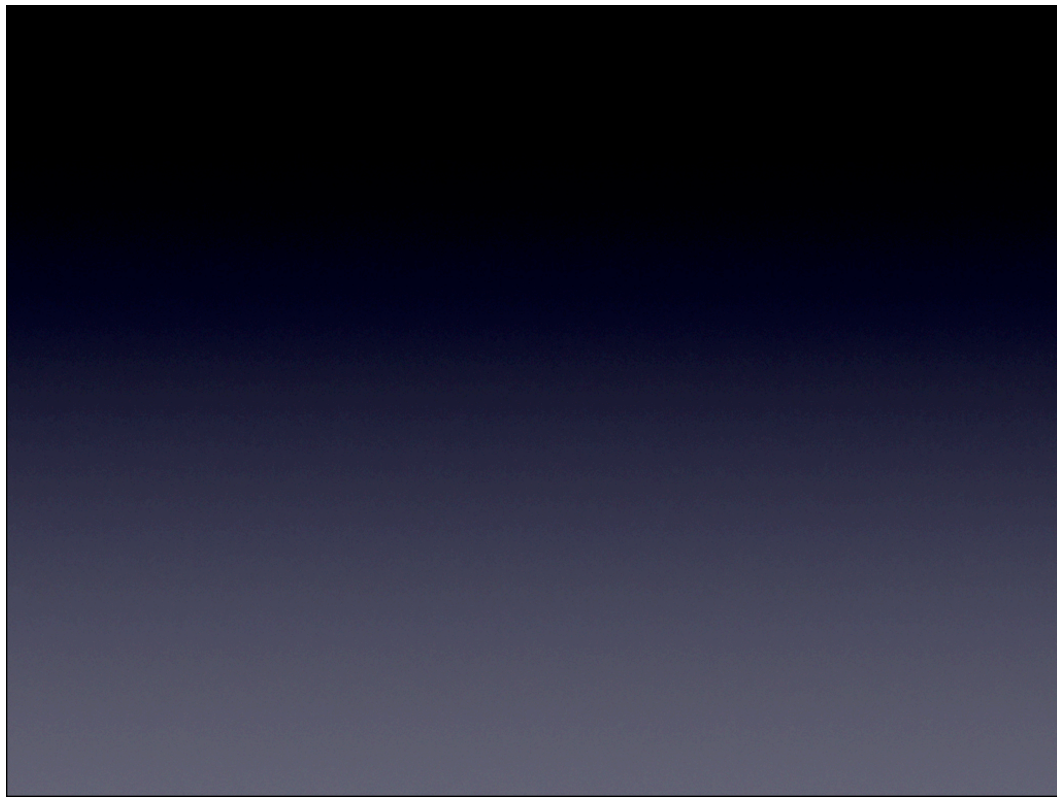


I Corinthians 5:

It is actually reported *that there is* sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!

I Corinthians 5:

And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

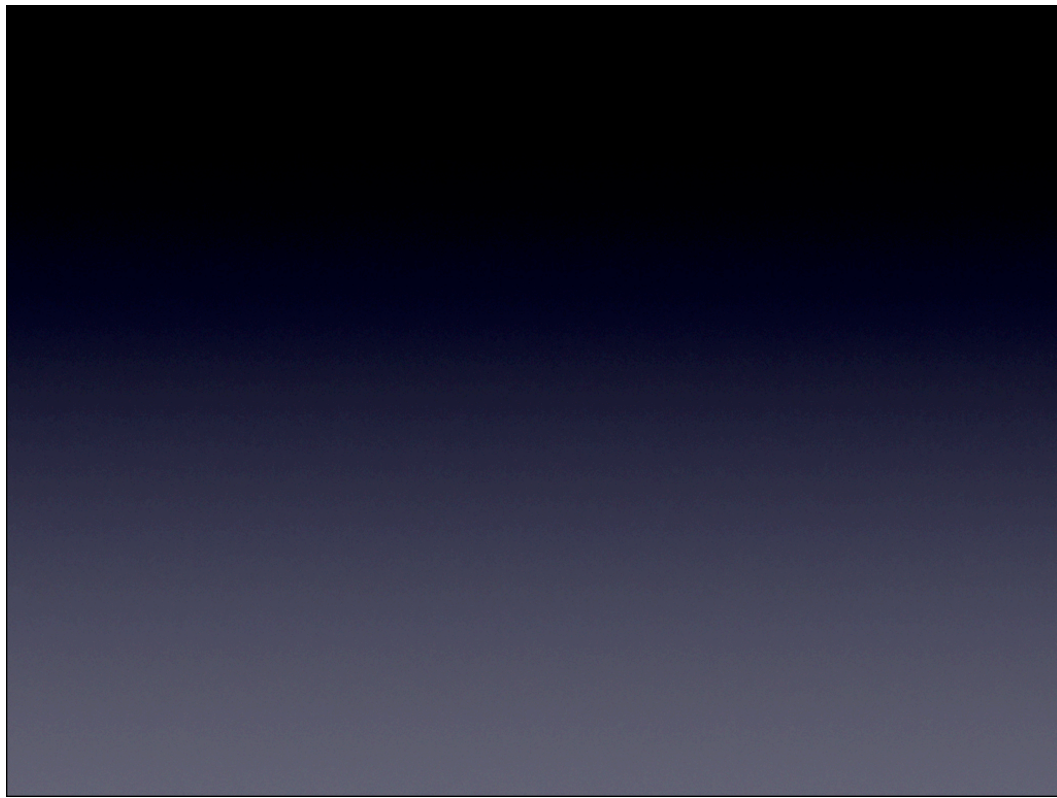


Why Didn't the Church Do Something about this Man?

They had allowed themselves to abandon the absolute standards of God's principles, and they had adopted a relativistic perspective about sin.

Avoiding Relativism is not the same thing as Legalism

- Following God's standards is not legalism. It is faithfulness.
- Legalism is adopting our own standards that go beyond God's specific direction in His Word and then requiring others to hold these new, more restrictive standards as if they were God's own.



What About Ourselves?

- Have we allowed our standards to slip? Do we somehow think that God's Word only applies to others, and not to us?
- Have we gone too far in the other direction, requiring others to hold to higher standards than God Himself requires?

What About Ourselves?

- Have you allowed yourself to be deceived into believing the lie that there is no absolute truth?
- Are you letting others keep you from responding to truth?

