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**Last week, the sin of fornication (sexual immorality) in the church at Corinth in one of its active members: There is fornication among you:**

It was a common report in the church; everyone knew it, but no one was doing anything about it. How can it be (saith Paul) that you tolerate such sin as this among you? In one who is a professing believer in the church?

The unbelieving Gentiles would be ashamed to commit sin like this, but you are puffed up in tolerating it in one of your believing members! If you continue to tolerate this one man's sin (in the church), the effects of it will spread through the entire church body.

If we, as a church tolerate known and obvious sin and wickedness among us, it's because we are immersed in sin in our own lives! If we won't call sin what it is; if we won't violently cut it out of our lives and cast it from us, we really don't see it as really is; dangerous and damning! No sin is to be trifled with! Christ suffered the wrath of His Father for sins that you and I partake of and tolerate!

This sin in the church at Corinth gave the enemies of Christ something to point at, an occasion to dishonor the Name of Christ: 2 Samuel 12:14:

By this deed (by this sin) you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme (the Name of God)

We must not tolerate sin in the church & we must not tolerate it in our own personal lives. We must mortify it and put it away! We must kill it before it kills us! Sin when it is finished, brings forth death! Text: 5:6-13

**(V6): Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump: Galatians 5:9. The Lump = the Church. Leaven = SIN.**

Leaven is what we all know to be yeast. When a very small amount of yeast is added to a large lump of dough, it will spread through the entire lump of dough making it rise prior to baking it.

In the scriptures, yeast is often likened to sin which infects and spreads through families, communities, & nations. It all started with one man's sin! Romans 5:12

Christ warned His apostles to beware of the leaven of the scribes and Pharisees, (and of Herod) which was their teachings, doctrines; but also, their hypocrisy. If the apostles allowed THAT leaven (sin) into their minds and attitudes it would infect them; cause them to sin. Proverbs 19:27:

Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth thee to err from the words of knowledge.

In 1 Corinthians 5:8, leaven is likened to wickedness and sin. And so, Paul warned the church at Corinth: This one man's sin, if it is NOT dealt with immediately, will eventually spread through and effect the entire church body; and the effects of it will be devastating!

Paul's command to the church at Corinth, (and to GFBC); (5:7) Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. In Christ, you are to put away sin from your lives!

Jeremiah 4:3-4, 2 Cor 6:17-7:1, Ephesians 4:22, Colossians 3:8-9

In using the example of Paul in (5:7), our lives (Christians) are NOT to be characterized sin, but by holiness! We must not allow sin, likened to leaven, to be mixed into our lives, but we are to be like a new lump of dough which is unleavened and without sin! Romans 6:12:

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, (don't let it reign in the church), that ye should obey in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield ye your members as instruments of righteousness unto God

### **Let us go back to the First Passover, which took place in Egypt:**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month Abib, they were to take an unblemished lamb and keep it up (separate it and watch it) until the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> day, they were to kill it, roast it with fire, and eat it with bitter herbs. Exodus 12:1-11

After they had eaten the Passover, (on the 14<sup>th</sup> day in the evening), they were to go through their homes with a light/candle and diligently search for every last bit of leaven (yeast) in their houses and cast it out! And they were to ONLY eat unleavened bread from that night, until the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the month. Exodus 12:12-15, 18-20, 13:3-4, 7

In 1 Corinthians 5:8, leaven is likened to malice and wickedness. As the children of Israel were commanded to search for and cast all of the leaven out of their houses, so we must constantly be search for and casting every sin out of our lives!

As the blood of the lamb on the door posts and lintel of each house was ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY for those in the house to be saved from the destroyer on that night in Egypt; so the blood of Christ, our Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed and killed, His blood is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY for us, if we would be saved from the wrath of God to come!

(5:7): For Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

**(5:8): 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.**

KNOWING these truths, that a little bit of leaven (sin) will infect the entire church body; PURGE OUT THEREFORE the old leaven from within the church (from your own lives) that ye may be a new lump!

Search your heart diligently with the light of the truth of God's Word, see if there be any wickedness or sin in the hidden places of your life, and when you find it, confess it and forsake it. Cast it out of your life!

**As a Christian, your life should be a ÒCONTINUAL PASSOVER FEAST.**

The children of Israel were to keep Passover once every year, in the month Abib; but in Christ, our Passover is a continual feast! The Jewish Passover was celebrated without leaven, so in Christ, we celebrate our deliverance and salvation FROM our sins every day!

*We keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth*

Our lives ought to be a continual celebration of our salvation! We are to FEED CONTINUALLY on our Passover Lamb (EVERY DAY) of our new lives in Christ! *Exodus 12:2*

*This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. The new birth; new life!*

**(5:9-13): Bad Company: 1 Corinthians 15:33**

I wrote an epistle before all of this happened, teaching you that you MUST NOT keep company with fornicators; you should not enter into close relationships with them; but then Paul qualified his command. YET, not altogether with the fornicators of this world.

I am not forbidding you from associating with them; if we don't associate with sinners, if we don't eat with them and become their friends, who then, will we lead them to faith in Christ?

In the world, you are going to associate with all types of sinners; to not associate with them is to GO OUT OF THE WORLD!

*We must not behave toward them as if we are better than they are; but for the grace of God, we would all still be yet in our sins!*

BUT NOW, saith Paul, I have written to you TO NOT KEEP COMPANY with any man that is called a brother (in Christ) who is a fornicator, or any of these other sins named by Paul. A Christian who is a habitual and impenitent sinner is a great danger to the church and to the Name of Christ!

*Don't associate or company with such a one as this!*

**(5:12-13): Paul command was NOT to those that were without the church, but those that were professed believers IN the church.**

I'm not judging or disciplining someone who is a lost sinner and who is not a member of the church, (God will judge them); I am judging those who profess to be a believers in Christ, (in the church) who are living in gross and impenitent sin!

My command to you is to put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

**A little leaven will leaven the whole lump**

I pray that you will never see sin as anything else than what it actually is; that which separates you from God and puts you in danger of His wrath!

John 3:36