

Studies in 1 Corinthians

Lesson XV: *Taking Care of Business in the Church*

TEXT: 1 Cor. 5:6b-13 (NLT)

6b Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? **7** Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.^[a] **8** So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread^[b] of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread^[c] of sincerity and truth.

9 When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. **10** But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. **11** I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer^[d] yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people.

12 It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. **13** God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."^[e]

Footnotes:

[a] 1 Corinthians 5:7 Greek *has been sacrificed*

[c] 1 Corinthians 5:8 Greek *but with unleavened [bread]*

[e] 1 Corinthians 5:13, cf. Deut 17:7

[b] 1 Corinthians 5:8 Greek *not with old leaven*

[d] 1 Corinthians 5:11 Greek *a brother*

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Paul uses the analogy of yeast (or “leaven”) in verses 6b-8 to make a point about ungodly influence in the church.
 - a. What is Paul driving at?
 - b. Read Matthew 16:5-13, Galatians 5:1-9, and Luke 13:20-22—what other kinds of “yeast” have the potential to work their way into our spiritual lives?



2. What does Paul direct the Corinthians to do with the “old yeast” (vs. 7)?
 - a. Besides church discipline, what other implications does this have for the Lord’s church?
 - b. What is the ultimate goal of removing “yeast”? (end of verse 7)
3. The Old Testament p_____ was celebrated o_____ a y_____, but the Christian’s celebration of Christ’s p_____ is c_____.
4. What “bread” does God desire us to “eat”? What “bread” is poison to us? (verse 8)
5. Compare verses 9-11 with 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15.
 - a. What should our attitude be towards a believer who has strayed from the narrow path?
 - b. How are we to respond to them?
 - c. What if they repent (2 Corinthians 2:5-11)?
6. In what sense does Paul direct the church to “judge” those who are “inside”? (see verses 12-13)
 - a. How do we reconcile this with Christ’s teaching about judging (Matthew 7:1-3; Luke 12: 57; John 7:24; 8:14-16)?