

over, the Jews would get rid of every trace of leaven in their homes. This putting away of leaven was a type of sanctification. Leaven was characterized here, as the corrupting work of evil. *A little leaven . . . of malice and wickedness . . . leavens the whole lump* (I Corinthians 5:6,8).

**Let us keep the feast** (I Corinthians 5:8). This means to keep a continued life in Christ, daily, walking the walk of holiness, strength, and joy; with a true revelation of, and sincerity, in Christ.

The Gentile Christians did not keep the Passover, so Paul likened the crucifixion of Jesus Christ: who purged us from our old sinful nature into our new sanctified life in Christ. Paul then turns to explain, and make correction on their mistaken understanding of a former letter to them.

SPIRITUAL WARNINGS (I Corinthians 5:9-13)

1. He had told them in a former letter, not to mix with certain company. Who were they? (I Corinthians 5:9) \_\_\_\_\_
2. From I Corinthians 5:10-13, do you think Paul meant for the Christian Church to separate totally from all the sinners of the world? \_\_\_\_\_

No. Then how could you win them to Christ? What Paul meant was, *not to keep company with anyone who claims to be a brother Christian but indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or is a swindler, or worships idols, or is a drunkard, or abusive. Don't even eat lunch with such a person* (I Corinthians 5:11, LB).

## FIFTH STUDY

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### MORAL STANDARDS

EXCOMMUNICATION OF INCESTOR (I Corinthians 5:1-8)

**It is reported** (I Corinthians 5:1). It seems the Corinthian Church has an incestuous affair going on between a son and his father's wife: which implies this could be with his step-mother.

**Commonly**, in that same verse, means, *actually or absolutely*. There was no doubt about it. It was not just a rumor someone was spreading about someone; but it must have been done unashamedly for all to see. Everyone knew of this disgrace.

1. What does Paul call this immoral act? (I Corinthians 5:1) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fornication**, is a word generally used for all kinds of impurity, perversion, and immorality.

The Church should have sorrowfully expelled the guilty man from it's number or prayed for God to remove him. <sup>1</sup>

The Corinthians Church was "**puffed-up**" in it's own self-importance; proud of it's knowledge and it's gifts; and had not *mourned* (I Corinthians 5:2).

To **mourn**, indicated funeral mourning, which was a public expression of grief because a member of the family had died.

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1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 8, p. 349

2. What group of people does Paul say would be shocked at even the mention of such a lewd act? (I Corinthians 5:1) \_\_\_\_\_

Paul said he had already judged this sin, and he wanted the Church to do the same as though he were present. Although he was absent in the body, he would be present in spirit.

3. The method of judgment for sin in a local Church is: (Check the correct methods from I Corinthians 5:4,5)

- (1) They were to meet together in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (2) The power of the Lord Jesus Christ would be present with them.
- (3) They were to beat the sinner with 39 stripes and let him go
- (4) Paul's influence would be there.
- (5) They were to call everyone they knew and inform them about this person.
- (6) They were to deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction (to ruin) of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

The purpose for delivering him to Satan was to destroy the flesh. This required members to withdraw all fellowship and spiritual influence from him, and to quit praying for him, so as to permit Satan to afflict his body thus perhaps bringing him to repentance: that his spirit might be saved in the end. This was effective, for in the second letter Paul

wrote the Church to forgive him lest he should be swallowed up in over-much sorrow (II Corinthians 2:6,7). <sup>1</sup>

A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENS THE WHOLE  
(I Corinthians 5:6-8)

1. What do you think Paul is saying in I Corinthians 5:6, where he says:

(a) *Your glorying is not good?* \_\_\_\_\_

(b) *...a little leaven leaventh the whole lump?* \_\_\_\_\_

Paul was telling the Corinthian Church it is a terrible thing that they have an attitude of pride and deceit; while permitting sin and wickedness, slowly, to spread in their midst until many are being corrupted.

*For even* as (I Corinthians 5:7). Paul is using here, as an example, *For even* (as) *Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us*: meaning: Christ died for our sins (our old sin nature). He has given us power over sin. We are to purge out that old sin nature (II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:1-10).

It is believed, Paul was writing at about the same time as the Jews celebrated the Passover: so he used it as a symbol. On the day before the Pass-

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1. Dake, Bible, I Corinthians 5:5, note f, P. 179.