

⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

- To the natural mind evil doctrine is but a difference of opinion,
- And if you are one with a generous heart you will shrink from banning a man for an opinion however untrue.

Faith feeds where the moral sensibilities of the natural mind would count it presuming even to tread." *J.G.B.*

The majority of the church, **if they knew**, acted as if they **didn't know**, and were proud and puffed up instead of being humiliated in sorrow and in prayer to God.

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The notion had crept in

- that sin in the church belongs only to those directly guilty,
- that it does not involve everybody, and
- that the Lord Himself forbids others to judge, commanding tares and wheat to grow together till the harvest.

- The whole lump leavened does not imply that the whole company becomes incestuous like the evil-doer, but that all become defiled.
- **They must judge themselves for the low condition that could complacently tolerate evil.**

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KELLY

- No church can guarantee itself against the entrance of evil, but every “church” of the Lord Jesus is bound **not** to tolerate it.
- When evil is known, the church is bound to put it away.
- The tolerance of evil in any part corrupts morally the whole.
- It virtually commits the Holy Spirit to the support of what God hates.
- Paul insists that it shall never be tolerated.

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- It required time to fulfill the process.
- When food was required at short notice, unleavened cakes were used, e.g., [Exod. 12:8](#).
- The Israelites were forbidden to use "*leaven*" for seven days at the time of Passover
- "Leaven" was forbidden in all offerings to the Lord by fire, [Lev. 2:11](#); [Lev. 6:17](#)

In the New Testament metaphorically

(1) of corrupt doctrine, [Matt. 13:33](#); [Luke 13:21](#),

(2) of corrupt practices, [Mark 8:15](#)),

Vine's Expository Dictionary

7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

“just as you are unleavened.”

- The saints **are unleavened**, not merely ought to be.
- Their practical conduct is to be grounded on their position.
- Paul, writing even to the Corinthians, reminds them of this, and insists upon it.
- He recalls them to what God's grace had done for them.
- He awakens their conscience to act consistently with and for Christ.

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Application of the Key Idea to I Corinthians 5:7-8 McCalley

The reason for the removal of the leaven of sin is two-fold:

1. First, they are **already** *unleavened*, which would be a reference to their position in Christ. They were already *redeemed*.
2. Second, **Christ, our lamb, has been slain** (**emphasis on this being in the past**); but conditionally the Corinthian church is still full of leaven.

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Redemption involves the payment of a price.

What was the price of Israel's redemption?

- **It was the lives of the lambs** that God provided as the substitutes for Israel's first-born sons who would have died otherwise (cf. Isaac in Gen. 22, and
- **Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father**).
- The first-born sons remained God's special portion (Num. 8:17- 18).
- The Egyptian first-born sons died as a punishment.
- The Egyptians had executed male Israelite babies (1:15-22) possibly for at least 80 years.
- God paid the price of Israel's redemption to Himself. He purchased the nation to be a special treasure for Himself and for a special purpose.

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God's call to the Israelites to live holy lives arose from what God **had already done for them.**

Consecration follows redemption; it is not a prerequisite for redemption.

Similarly, God calls us to be holy in view of what He has done for us and to us (cf. **Rom. 12:1-2**).

The figure of an unleavened lump at once recalls Christ as the true Passover lamb, and the consequent putting away of sin by His sacrifice.

8 *"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth."*

"Let us keep the feast" Paul is not referring exclusively to the Lord's Table, but rather to the whole period of the believer's life on earth, of which the unleavened feast is a type. Smith

- Therefore, they should purge out the old leaven and be in practice what they were in position before God in Christ, an unleavened lump as the result of the work of Christ.
 - Malice = "badness in quality"
 - *Wickedness ponēria* same word as in *Vv. 1 Fornication*
 - Sincerity = unalloyed, pure, unmixed
 - Truth = "true" in the sense of "real, ideal, genuine"

8 "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth."

Redemption, far from allowing of sins in the redeemed, is the basis of holiness, and all evil was **only then** fully judged when Christ our Passover was crucified.

McCalley

Let us therefore celebrate the feast are present tense, pointing to **continuous activity.**

- The Passover was celebrated yearly, but the celebration of its significance is the continual privilege of the church.
- Leaven, therefore, is never appropriate.
- The command is much like saying, “***Let us live our Christian lives.***”