

February 4, 2018 **YOU ARE UNLEAVENED!**

## **1Corinthians 5**

We've all heard the adage: **Bad company corrupts good character!** This is the biblical truth that Paul presents today!

**Main Point:** We the Church must protect ourselves against the corruption of sin from within, from those who claim to be Christians. Those among us who profess Christ must be confronted when sinning blatantly & unrepentantly. We must love enough to confront them for everyone's good. Apathy is not a virtue; restoration demands confrontation; and love compels correction! Sin is an enemy to our being & behavior!

### **PRAY & READ: 1Corinthians 5**

#### **1) (1Cor 5:1-5) Get the sinner out!**

- Judge "Christians" by their overt actions (*not motives*)
- Love provides correction & guidance until unrepentant
- Remove unrepentant from church for everyone's good
- Withdrawing fellowship forces sinner to contend

*How would delivering him to Satan bring the destruction of his flesh – **self-will** (not body!) The church's action (by majority) to excommunicate him (remove him from fellowship) was meant to force him to deal with his sin & protect the congregation:*

- Pointing a holy finger at his sin, "That's not of Christ"
- Letting him feel the penalty thru the loss of community
- Forced a decision between his sin and his church!

*(Remember: Christians were "outcasts" of society; no support)*

- Pray for & be ready to restore the penitent! (2Cor 2:7)

#### **2) (1Cor 5:6-8) Guard yourselves "as" the church**

- Sin is a perilous & pervasive enemy that blinds us!
- God made us holy (*nature*) to be holy (*attitude/action*)

**Clean out the old "leaven," for "you are in fact unleavened".**

- This is the testimony of Passover, Unleavened bread & Communion

### **COMMUNION SERVED\* - instructions to church**

Last week, Paul asked, "**Who are you to judge?**" because the church members were comparing their teachers & judging one minister/ministry as more valuable than another! But this week,

Paul asks the opposite question: "**Why don't you judge?**" (*Christians who are blatantly sinning?*) Paul is NOT flip-flopping; he's not confused – *and we shouldn't be either!*

#### **3) (1Cor 5:9-13) Guide the right people the right way!**

- Do not judge Unbelievers: testify (word/deed) of Christ
- Do judge "Christians" (of the church) who are sinning!

Every person in Christ stands with equal value before God: none is greater or lesser because we each stand in Christ's perfection – not our own! But, *as God's people, we're meant to act like God's people, striving to let Him show His character, goodness, & love in and thru us!* Our attitudes/action prove what we believe! So, Paul says we must monitor ourselves by the Spirit & word and when necessary, take action against public sinning among us! **But the action taken must be for the right reason & right motive:**

What are the right reasons for judging Christians?

**Correction & Repentance from sin!**

What are the proper motives for judging members?

**Love & Restoration to Christ & His church!**

One final observation from this scripture: This is exactly the reason we need to "shore up" the **meaning & understanding of church membership at FBCT:** it is a mutual covenant to love, support, guide & correct each other for good & God's glory!

**ILLUS.** No parent would ever let their children eat cookies for every meal because it's just not good for them: they'll get sick, malnourished or even worse! *So why do we permit members to go without the spiritual nutrition of worship, ministry, service and fellowship when they claim to be "Christians?"* **Apathy is not a virtue. Loving one another compels us to intervene in each other's lives for good! Love has no deaf ear, blind eye, or mute mouth! Why do we?**

### **INVITATION:**

- Is there some sinful choice/behavior you need to stop?
- Is there someone you love who needs correction?

## **WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Exodus 12:14-15**

**14)** *“This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD. 15) For seven days the bread you eat must be made without yeast. On the first day of the festival, remove every trace of yeast from your homes. Anyone who eats bread made with yeast during the seven days of the festival will be cut off from the community of Israel.*

This is the inauguration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread – an annual celebration for Israel. Thru the Passover, God delivered His people out of their slavery in Egypt and into His presence at Mt Sinai. To celebrate this change from Egyptian slaves to God’s people, He instructed them to bake a different kind of bread – bread without yeast. In the bible, yeast represents sin: so unleavened bread represents their new lives without sin as God’s holy people.

Fast forward 1500 years to the Lord’s last supper with His 12 disciples. They were celebrating Passover, eating unleavened bread as a reminder that God made them holy. Jesus says, ***“I am the bread of life”*** – equating Himself to the bread without yeast as the Savior without sin! In Him, we become “sinless” – our sin debt is paid in full & our sin nature is regenerated in holiness. Thru salvation in Jesus, we leave our old lives of sin behind & begin new lives as God’s holy people!

**Sermon in a Sentence: You Are Unleavened!**

## **WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN: “Puffed Up with Sin!”**

ILLUS. 2 different breads; 1 flat & 1 fluffy

*What’s the difference?*

*Why is the fluffy bread puffed up and the other flat?*

The difference is that the puffed up bread has yeast in it and the flat bread doesn’t. In the bible, God always uses yeast to mean sin because we can see how it changes bread. When you put just a tiny bit of yeast in flour, it makes the bread puffy! (Kool-aid)

Now, yeast isn’t a bad thing if you want puffy bread! But sin is bad because God doesn’t want “puffed up Christians,” people who say they know Him but don’t talk or act like it. Instead of showing God’s goodness in their lives, they do sinful things that are wrong & selfish.

God says that His church is too precious to get all “puffed up” because of sin! He wants us to guard ourselves and our church against people who call themselves Christians but are sinning and don’t care! If we don’t guard ourselves, even one of these puffed up Christians can make all of us puffy!

## **2Thes 3:14,15 (NLT)**

**14***Take note of those who refuse to obey what we say in this letter. Stay away from them so they will be ashamed. 15***Don’t think of them as enemies, but warn them as you would a brother or sister.**

## **Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV)**

**15)** *“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16) But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17) If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

## **BENEDICTION: 2Thes 3:16 (NIV)**

**Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.**

## 1Corinthians 5:1-13 (NIV)

**1)** *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife (stepmother).* **2)** *And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?* **3)** *For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this.* **4)** *So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,* **5)** *hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.*

**6)** *Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?* **7)** *Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb (& our Unleavened Bread of holy Life with God) has been sacrificed.* **8)** *Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

**9)** *I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—* **10)** *not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.* **11)** *But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.*

**12)** *What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?* **13)** *God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."*

## STUDY: 1Cor 5

**1) immorality...does not exist even among the Gentiles (pagans)**

- porneia = sexual immorality; a “selling of” purity
- ethnos= Gentiles (nonJews); today, “pagans” is better
- Believing Gentiles are referred to as...Jews (NT)
- Unbelievers are referred to as “Gentiles!”

**3-5) For I, on my part...have already judged him...**

- krino = judge, decide, separate
- I have decided to deliver...for destruction of the flesh
- “Flesh” – not body or sinful nature, but “self-will, lust”

Delivering him over to Satan to sense the weight of his sin & feel the loss of fellowship is needed for repentance/restoration!

And this act by ALL the members of the church in unison IS an act of Love! True Love requires discipline (teaching/training)! The command to **“love one another”** requires us to intervene in each other's lives when we see or hear a “loved one” speaking/acting sinfully? Of course love demands caring beyond the possible cost of hurt feelings! There is much more at stake than feelings: the church is God's witness on earth to testify of life His way – gloriously, not grossly!

*Can we really say we love each other if we are unwilling to confront sinfulness for the right reason/motive, even at the risk of temporarily hurting someone's feelings?*

## **COMMUNION SERVED (and clarified!)**

### READ: 1Cor 5:6-8

**7)** *For Christ our Passover has been sacrificed (and He gave us new birth, new identities, new spirits)*

- we are not “puffed up w/ hot air” as leaven does to bread
- our faith in Christ has made us clean (sinless in nature)

**8)** *this bread of communion represents sincerity and truth by which we commune in Christ – our new life. Lets celebrate the feast together with love & purity, not malice & wickedness.*