

First Corinthians 5:6-13  
Fellowship and membership must at times be limited

**Unaddressed sin contaminates a congregation—5:6-8**

- 1) A clear statement about their sin—<sup>6</sup> *Your<sup>pl</sup> boast is not good.*
- 2) Answer a self-evident question—*Do you<sup>pl</sup> not know that a little leaven permeates the whole batch of dough?*
  - a) Is the leaven (sourdough) the incest, the boasting, both, or ...?
- 3) Two commands to be obeyed:
  - a) Purify the congregation—<sup>7</sup> *Clean out the old leaven* (cf. Exodus 12:15)
    - i) Results in freshness—*so that you<sup>pl</sup> may be a new batch of dough, just as you<sup>pl</sup> are without leaven.* (i.e. be what you genuinely are)
    - ii) Reason—*For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed on our behalf.*
  - b) Live authentic lives—<sup>8</sup> *So then, let us celebrate the feast,*
    - i) Negatively—*not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice* (attitudes) *and wickedness* (actions),
    - ii) Positively—*but with the unleavened bread of integrity and truth.*

**The necessity of excommunication by a congregation—5:9-13**

- 1) Previous instruction—5:9-10 <sup>9</sup> *I wrote to you<sup>pl</sup> in my epistle ...*
  - a) Content—*not to intermingle with sexually immoral people.*
  - b) Clarification—<sup>10</sup> *In no way did I mean the sexually immoral people of this world, or the greedy or swindlers, or idolaters, since then you<sup>pl</sup> would be obligated to go out of the world.* (these sins characterized Corinth at this time)
- 2) Current instruction—5:11-13 <sup>11</sup> *But now I write to you<sup>pl</sup> ...*
  - a) Content of the current instruction—5:11 *not to intermingle* (share social activity) *with anyone who is named a brother,* (cf. proper shunning 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:14-15)
    - i) The detailed list of professing Christians to avoid
      - (1) *who is sexually immoral [ pornos ],*—a broad term including fornication, adultery, prostitution, homosexuality, bestiality, etc. (cf. 5:9-10; 6:9)
      - (2) *or greedy [ pleonektes ],*—one who unrestrainedly wants more (cf. 5:10; 6:10)
      - (3) *or an idolater [ eidololatrias ],*—one who worships idols (cf. 5:10; 6:9; 10:7)
      - (4) *or a verbal abuser [ loidoros ],*—one who attacks others with speech (cf. 6:10)
      - (5) *or a drunkard [ methusos ],*—one who is regularly intoxicated (cf. 6:10)
      - (6) *or a swindler [ harpax ]*—one who forcefully goes after the possessions of others (cf. 5:10; 6:10)
    - ii) The extent of not intermingling with such professing Christians—*not even to eat together with such a person.* (cf. the church's common meals and private meals)
  - b) Reasons behind the current instruction—5:12-13
    - i) The distinguishing marks of church membership—5:12-13a
      - (1) Non-Christians/members—<sup>12</sup> *For what do I have to do with judging outsiders?*
      - (2) Christians/members—*Do you<sup>pl</sup>* (emphatic) *not judge insiders?* (assumes a “Yes” response; similar to the discipline in a synagogue)
      - (3) <sup>13</sup> *But God will judge outsiders.*
    - ii) The meaning of church discipline—5:13b *And you<sup>pl</sup> will exclude the wicked person from among you<sup>pl</sup>.* (cf. Deuteronomy 17:7, 12; 19:19; 21:21; 22:21-24; 24:7 for the relationship of discipline to the specific sins listed in 5:11)