

November 1, 2020
I Corinthians 5:6-13
Sins And Sinners

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Paul used a metaphor they would understand, a little yeast soon works it's way through the whole batch of dough. Another saying that is familiar to most is, one bad apple will spoil the whole batch. A small manageable disease can grow into an irreversible disease that can eventually kill someone. The need for church discipline is based on the same principle. Known sin must be confronted and remember, this is ultimately an act of love for: God, the church, and the offender.

"I never got away from Jesus, and Him crucified, and I found that when my people were gripped by this great evangelical doctrine of Christ and Him crucified, I had no need to give them instructions about morality. I found that one followed as the sure and inevitable fruit of the other . . . I find my Indians begin to put on the garments of holiness and their common life begins to be sanctified even in small matters when they are possessed by the doctrine of Christ and Him crucified." *DAVID BRAINERD*

It is impossible to be occupied with the love of Christ and sin at the same time. *JOHN MACARTHUR*

APPLICATION:

Leaven in our passage today represents sin. Most of the time in Scripture this is the case, but it is not always the case. In this pericope the sin being addressed is that of an incestuous man. When one looks closely at this passage one will see that the context is intensely focused on the infection spreading through the congregation of pride and boasting about their toleration of this man. This is the leaven Paul is addressing with the church. Meditate on verse six, "Your boasting is not good, Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?"

Surely the sinning "so-called brother", see verse 11, has a part in this. If this sinning, unrepentant man needs to fall under church discipline, so be it. However, the sin that was so adversely affecting the congregation was that of their pride. Paul is here reproving them in hope that they will clean out the old leaven and become a new batch without leaven, see verse seven.

The introduction of this sin addresses the sinning man and makes no mention of the woman. If she was a professing Christian and or a member of the Corinthian church she too would have been addressed in regard to church discipline. My hope is that today's title now has more meaning. There was sin in the camp, it began with the erring man. Because of their tolerance of the situation the whole church fell into sin. Those outside of the church were to be judged by God, in the church it was the believers responsibility. This action is

called church discipline. Identify and clear out any leaven (sin) that may be in your life and church. Remember, restoration is the goal. Honor God in all you do!