

Know ye not? A Little Leaven

“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?”
- 1 Corinthians 5:6

1. The Corinthian Problem

- a. An identity problem. The Corinthians wished to glory in their flesh. (1 Cor 1:29)
- b. This is not unique to the Corinthians in Paul's epistles. The Galatians had the same problem. (Gal 6:13)
- c. These continue to be “milk” doctrines. “Know ye not?” (You ought to) (1 Cor 3:2)
- d. Last time: “Ye are the temple of God”. Take heed. Don't glory in men. Labor with God. (1 Cor 3:9-10, 21, 1 Cor 1:31, 2:2-5)
- e. The Corinthians do not take heed, there is unfaithfulness in their labor.

2. Evil communication corrupts (1 Cor 15:33)

- a. Paul exhorts faithfulness. This is the goal of ministry. (2 Tim 2:2)
 - i. We are stewards of the mysteries of God. (1 Cor 2:6-8, 4:1)
 - ii. The requirement of God is faithfulness. (1 Cor 4:2)
 - iii. The Corinthians lack faithfulness, Paul admonishes them to follow him. (1 Cor 4:16)
- b. Deeds not named among the Gentiles - one having his father's wife. Fornication. (1 Cor 5:1)
- c. The Corinthians are puffed up in this. Paul says, deliver him to Satan. (1 Cor 5:5)
 - i. In principle do not be double minded. If you're unfaithful, get out. (Jm 1:8, Pr 25:19)
 - ii. Separate from the unfaithful. The Corinthians lacked judgement. (1 Cor 5:13)
 - iii. Reconciliation is always desired. The Corinthians cannot handle it. (Gal 6:1-2)
- d. Putting up with wrong doctrine only causes its spread. (2 Tim 2:16-17)

3. A little leaven (doctrinal error)

- a. Leaven - A mass of sour dough, which, mixed with a larger quantity of dough or paste, produces fermentation in it and renders it light.
- b. Jews were not allowed leavened bread during passover. (Ex 12:15)
- c. Leaven is used as an analogy in multiple ways. The kingdom is like leaven. It is also used to describe wrong doctrine. (Mt 13:33, Mt 16:6, 12)
- d. This is not the only time Paul brings this up. (Gal 5:9)
- e. Who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? (Gal 5:7-12)
- f. Cut off them which trouble you. Keep the doctrine pure. Stay faithful. (Rm 6:17-19)
- g. Purge out the old leaven. Don't let it mix with what you are now. A new lump. (1 Cor 5:7)
- h. This is not discussing keeping an actual feast. The Corinthians were glorying in wrong things. This is about learning doctrine, being able to discern, and walking worthy.