

I Corinthians 5:1-8

Remove the Old Leaven

Introduction:

My mother spent about 80% of her time working in the kitchen. Besides taking care of her children with clothing, comfort and the necessities of life; she cooked pies and bread. I will never forget the little bread loafs she made. They were delicious and as fresh as can be. Her little loafs of bread were all lined up on the table ready to be put in her wooden drawers that helped caused the bread to rise. The yeast and warm covering produced a fluffy loaf of bread over a rather short period of time; and then off to the oven to be baked.

The significance of what yeast can do was unknown to me at that time. Yeast in the Bible has a positive effect as well as a negative. For yeast is compared to the growth of the Kingdom of God. It is also compared to sin and corruption that permeates the whole substance of society, church and individual.

I. The Case of Sexual Immorality – v. 1-5

A. The Nature of this Sin

1. Porneia – Gk. (a wide spectrum of sexual sin such as, fornication, incest, adultery, prostitution and other related sins)
2. “his father’s wife’ (biological mother, step mother, or widow of the father?)
Lev. 20:11; Deut. 22:30; 27:20)

B. Attitude of the church members

1. Arrogant
2. License to engage in immorality – See I Cor. 6:12-13
3. They felt no grief – “mourned” Jam. 4:9

C. The Punishment of the Offender – v. 3-5; Col. 2:5

1. Paul has handed this man over to Satan – (Col. 1:13; I John 5:19; Eph. 2:12)
2. Paul has handed this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh – I Cor. 11:30

D. Examples of punishment to consider:

1. A more extreme case of Ananias and Spphria – Act 5:1-10
2. The blindness of Elymas the magician – Acts 13:8-11
3. Paul himself fell the humbling effect of being caught up into Paradise – II Cor. 12:4-10
4. Satan may be used of the Lord to afflict the body in the case of Job – Job 2;6 f.
5. The Christian community had to expel the incestuous man to avoid offense to the presence of the Holy Spirit – Eph. 4:30; I Thess. 5:19

II. The Necessity of Church Discipline – v.6-8

A. Kitchen illustration – What yeast can do – Matt. 13:33; Gal. 5:9

B. Strict Imperative

1. Clean out the old leaven – “Do it now”
2. The only remedy – II Cor. 5:17
3. Richard Bennett, converted Roman Catholic priest – Turn To: Revelation 17:1-6

C. Confident Statement:

1. Christ our Passover – I Pet. 1;18-19
2. Before the sacrifice remove the yeast – Exo. 12:15; 13:7
3. New life in “sincerity and truth” v.8

3/17/2013