

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

December 29, 2021

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

The Corinthian Letters

The Long Letter (First Corinthians)

Text – 1 Corinthians 5 – *Impurity Within the Church*

Memory Verse – 1 Corinthians 5:6

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

I. The Problem of Fornication (vv 1 – 2)

A. The Account (report - v.1)

1. *commonly* – meaning completely; everywhere – this report was substantiated.
2. Be very careful about *witch-hunts*. Don't go looking for trouble. Make sure you have all of the facts.

B. The Act (v. 1)

fornication – Strong defines this as harlotry including adultery and incest; and in a figurative sense, idolatry.

Webster defines it as follows:

1. The incontinence or lewdness of unmarried persons, male or female; also, the criminal conversation of a married man with an unmarried woman.
2. Adultery. Matthew 5.
3. Incest. 1 Corinthians 5.
4. Idolatry; a forsaking of the true God, and worshipping of idols. 2 Chronicles 21, Revelation 19.

This particular act of fornication was further clarified by the apostle to be incest between a man and his stepmother. Paul is quick to remind them that this sin was seen as wicked even among the lost. (See 2 Samuel 12:14)

C. The Attitude of the Corinthians (v. 2)

1. *puffed up* – literally meaning inflated; prideful
2. they should have *rather mourned* – meaning grieved, which would have produced humility

II. The Purging of Fornication (vs. 2b – 5)

A. The Offender Must Be Rebuked Publicly by the Church

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (Revelation 3:19)

Also 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:15

1. This applies to sin

“Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.” (1 Timothy 5:20)

2. This also applies to false doctrine (Titus 1:9 – 13)

3. This is for their repentance.

4. This also serves to warn others.

B. The Offender Must Be Removed from the Church

Matthew 18:15 – 20

C. The Offender Can Be Restored (2 Corinthians 2:5 – 11)

III. The Picture of Leaven (vs. 5 – 8)

A. Leaven Represents Sin (Matthew 16:6; Matthew 13:33; Galatians 5:7 - 9)

B. Leaven Was to Be Removed (Exodus 12:15 – 20)

IV. The New Principle Regarding Fornication (vs. 9 – 13)

A. Paul had previously told them not to fellowship with those from the world who were fornicators.

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

(Ephesians 5:11; Also 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 18)

B. Now he admonishes them to separate from those who are “believers” who are guilty of the same thing.