

We go together like unleavened bread and passover lamb.

Purge out the old leaven, be a new lump. Be holy because you are made holy by Christ.

The church (the body) is holy in God's eyes.

Now, Christ taught that as the church, grows evil, uncleanness will creep into the Body.

[Luk 13:18-21 NKJV] 18 Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? 19 "It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches." 20 And again He said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? 21 "It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Paul gives the church instruction on handling this.

He is very specific in his instructions and calls them out for their arrogance in the matter that plagued their church - sexual immorality - a man sleeping with his stepmother.

Last week we discussed this and we discussed the role of the church in both discipline and restoration.

Apparently, this was an enduring issue that needed clarity for the church in Corinth — THE CHURCH in Corinth, Christ's bride.

Paul continues to offer instruction in this matter.

v.9 - We've discussed this already.

-Paul had previously written a letter, lost to time, that dealt with how the church was behaving in regards to sexual immorality (pornos).

Let's take a pause - that statement alone seems like a blanket statement - very black and white. Don't do it. Don't keep company with fornicators - sexually immoral people.

But wait, there's more:

v.10 - I didn't mean...LIST...of this world, since you would need to go out of this world.

A few things:

1. Paul had to correct their entire mindset. The implication is that the church had walled themselves off from the world, BUT were comfortable in fellowship with wickedness in the Body under the guise of "he's one of us." They failed to identify the birds nesting in the branches, the leaven in the lump, while isolating themselves from broken, deceived, wounded and oblivious people.

2.You would have to go out of this world - YET here we are.

[Mat 5:13-16 NKJV] 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all [who are] in the house. 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

[Mat 10:16 NKJV] 16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

This destroys the prevailing practice of the holy huddle - church isolation - in reach, where we focus exclusively on our own selves to the detriment of those outside the Body - whom Christ died that they might be saved. That was us! Christ's church is comprised entirely of sinners who have come to Jesus Christ in full acknowledgment of our wickedness. But we have been changed - we are all new creations - having left the corpse of our old selves in a ditch somewhere along the way.

[Rom 6:17-19 NKJV] 17 But God be thanked that [though] you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human [terms] because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members [as] slaves of

uncleanness, and of lawlessness [leading] to [more] lawlessness, so now present your members [as] slaves [of] righteousness for holiness.

[1Pe 4:3 NKJV] 3 For we [have spent] enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

That's us. Thank God for his great grace towards us.

v.11-BUT...don't keep company with anyone named a brother who is...

*The paradigm has to shift - don't give your time to fakers. That sound hard, it is certainly challenging. The context for this teaching is in regards to the unrepentant, willfully disobedient, not the one who is struggling, scrapping, broken hearted.

sexually immoral

covetous - that's a hard one. I guess we're not hanging out later guys

idolater - worshipper of something else, specifically or this church ACTUAL idols, actual religious icons and statues and things like that.

reviler - to blaspheme, rail, to speak profanely, to speak abusively

drunkard - big freedom in christ today is...microbrews

extortioner - this is a criminal act - REF - snatching away from another by strife, greed and oppression that which does not lawfully belong to him. The element of covetousness and usury is involved in the meaning of this word; for it is greedily gotten gain.

*That sounds pretty legalistic, pretty hard nosed, people will just start faking it. (You can't fake it til you make it in the kingdom). You can tell a tree by the fruit that it bears, and this is why its important to be part of the family of God - to bear one another's burdens. By one's fruit is how we should be able to judge if they are living a lukewarm existence.

Not doing these things won't bring you Christ - BUT if you are Christ's, if you are abiding in the vine of Christ, you will naturally bear these fruits. If you are saying, wait - I'm not bearing these fruits - I would ask, are you tied into Christ?

Not in a condemning way, I want you to be.

v.12 - we expect the world to live to the standard of holiness and paint it as 'morality' in fact there are huge swaths of the church that are perfectly content with exerting their resources and influence to persuade masses of unbelievers, unloved people, to live "moral" lives.

[1Co 2:14 NKJV] 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

[Rom 8:5 NKJV] 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those [who live] according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

[Jhn 3:3 NKJV] 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Paul says, "what do I have to do with judging those who are outside?" - the implication is nothing, I have nothing to do with it. We expect people to live like Christians without ever talking to them about Jesus - without them ever having experienced the Grace and kindness of our Lord. They don't have the eyes to see it.

[Rom 2:4 NKJV] 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

It is God's goodness that leads us to repentance, not morality. Behavior follows.

[Mat 23:25-26 NKJV] 25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 "Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

*judge those who are inside - use your judgment, not your condemnation. I love meeting legit believers. It's so awesome to watch God's holy spirit

moving in somebody's life. When we see the fruit and we can affirm - yep, that person is legit - by Christ. Not that they won't have failures, but they are [1Co 16:15 KJV] ...[that] they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

v.13- those outside are in God's jurisdiction, as we all are, - they will answer to God the same as everybody. It is not our place to sit in that seat. Our pants aren't big enough. No matter how smart we think we are. God give us grace for one another and those outside.

put away from yourselves the evil person - old testament ref - Deut - wickedness is contagious.

[1Co 10:12 NKJV] 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.