

# Watch Out For Leaven – Part 3

## Matthew 16:6

<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said unto them, **TAKE HEED** and beware of the **LEAVEN** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

## Matthew 16:6

<sup>6</sup> And Jesus said to them, “**WATCH OUT** and beware of the **LEAVEN** of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Again, this is a warning to “watch out” for leaven in our *doctrine* and for leaven in our *attitude* (i.e. hypocrisy). However, there’s one other form of leaven that we need to be careful to look out for.

## 1 Corinthians 5:8

<sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the **LEAVEN OF MALICE AND WICKEDNESS**;

Here, Paul reminds the believers in Corinth that there’s also a leaven of “malice” and “wickedness.” (Malice represents evil intentions or internal sin. Wickedness represents evil practices or external sin.) Apparently, sin (whether we externalize it or simply keep it in our minds) is like *leaven*.

What makes sin like leaven?

Sin is like leaven in that it only takes a small amount of it to defile and corrupt the whole lump. (Remember we said to you that the nature of leaven is that it will continue to spread until it has saturated the entire substance.) Similarly, it only takes a small amount of sin before it infects an entire body.

## 1 Corinthians 5:6

<sup>6</sup> Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that **A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENETH THE WHOLE LUMP?**

## Hebrews 12:15

<sup>15</sup> Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any **ROOT** of bitterness springing up trouble you, **AND THEREBY MANY BE DEFILED**;

Here we re told to “look diligently” (i.e. watch out) for any “root” of bitterness. *Roots* are similar to leaven in that they are *hidden* AND because they have the potential to *defile* an entire tree!

Therefore, when the Bible talks about the leaven of sin, what it's really referring to is the danger of *hidden* sins. It's our hidden (unconfessed) sins that have the potential to *defile* us AND those around us!

(This 'root of bitterness' that is described for us in verse 15 is an example of an unconfessed sin. We know this because Esau tried to repent of it later but could not!)

### [Hebrews 12:17](#)

<sup>17</sup> **For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for HE FOUND NO PLACE OF REPENTANCE, though he sought it carefully with tears.**

This is why we must “look diligently” or “watch out” for any hidden sins (or leaven) because they have the potential to corrupt our entire life. Moreover, you can tell when we have hidden sins (leaven) present in our life because we become “puffed up.” Whenever you become proud of your sin (i.e. defending it), that's a sign that your sin is *leavening* or defiling you!

### [1 Corinthians 5:1–2](#)

<sup>1</sup> **It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> And YE ARE PUFFED UP, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.**

Notice how this man's sin caused him AND the entire congregation to become “puffed up” or proud. This is what happens when we don't correct the sin in our life—it eventually causes us to become proud. (This is where we are as a society. Sins that we once condemned and felt shame concerning, we are now proud of them. We even say to sinners, “We are proud of you.” This is all a sign that we are leavened as a society.)

### [1 Corinthians 5:7](#)

<sup>7</sup> **PURGE OUT THEREFORE THE OLD LEAVEN, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.**

Notice how Paul commands the Corinthians to “purge out the old leaven.” In other words, get rid of it immediately before it spreads on to others. How do we do this?

### [James 4:4](#)

<sup>4</sup> **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS ENMITY WITH GOD? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

Notice how James is suggesting that their union with the world is leavening and defiling them, causing them to become enemies (separated from) God!

So, what does he offer as a solution?

#### James 4:8

<sup>8</sup> **DRAW NIGH TO GOD, and he will draw nigh to you...**

The command to “draw near to God” *begins* with humbling oneself.

#### James 4:10

<sup>10</sup> **HUMBLE YOURSELVES in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**

Notice that when we humble ourselves we receive *grace* from God (i.e. “he will lift you up”).

In addition to drawing near *to God*, James admonishes them to turn *from their sin*.

#### James 4:8

<sup>8</sup> **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. CLEANSE YOUR HANDS, YE SINNERS;**

The way to truly cleanse ourselves from sin is to walk in the truth.

#### 1 John 1:7

<sup>7</sup> **But if we WALK IN THE LIGHT, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.**

Finally, James tells his audience to purify themselves of *double-mindedness*.

#### James 4:8

<sup>8</sup> **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and PURIFY YOUR HEARTS, YE DOUBLE MINDED.**

Part of the reason why we keep being defiled by sin is because we won't make up our minds. One minute we are “a friend” (or agree) with the *word*, and the next moment we are “a friend” (or agree) with the *world*. We can't seem to make up our minds!

### 1 Kings 18:21

<sup>21</sup> And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, **HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS?** if the Lord *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

### 1 Corinthians 5:7–8

<sup>7</sup> Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **CHRIST OUR PASSOVER** is sacrificed for us: <sup>8</sup> Therefore **LET US KEEP THE FEAST, NOT WITH OLD LEAVEN**, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

Notice that the command to “purge out the leaven” is connected with a reminder to keep the Feast of Passover with *unleavened bread*. Getting rid of the leaven in our lives takes on a greater significance when we understand that the Passover was kept without leaven!

### Exodus 12:13–15 (KJV 1900)

<sup>13</sup> And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, **I WILL PASS OVER YOU**, and **THE PLAGUE SHALL NOT BE UPON YOU** to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup> And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. <sup>15</sup> Seven days shall ye eat **UNLEAVENED BREAD**; even the first day ye shall **PUT AWAY LEAVEN OUT OF YOUR HOUSES**: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be **CUT OFF FROM ISRAEL**.

In order to receive the blessing of the Passover (and not be cut off from Israel), God’s people had to keep the feast with *unleavened bread*. Not only could leaven NOT be found in their *bread*, but leaven could NOT be found in their *houses*!

Similarly, we’re coming to a time that unless we remove the sin (leaven) from our doctrine and from our lives, the plague shall be upon us and we will be cut off from God’s people!

### Revelation 18:2, 4

<sup>2</sup> And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, And is become the habitation of devils, And the hold of every foul spirit, And a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. <sup>4</sup> And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE**, That ye be not partakers of her sins, And that ye **RECEIVE NOT HER PLAGUES**.