

## Clean Out the Old Leaven Outline

### *1st Corinthians Chapter 5*

- I. Where we must begin.
  - A. The absolute supreme authority of God's Word.
  - B. Sola Scriptura—the sole final authority of all things.
- II. The question: “*What is the church to think about and do about ongoing sin within the church*”
- III. The report.
  - A. The news had widely spread.
  - B. The nature of the report is very serious.
    1. Sexual immorality—*Pornea*
      - a. The wrong use of sexual desire and activity. It refers to sex that is not between a husband and wife.
    2. Biblical pornea: incest, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, all sex before marriage, rape.
  - C. The sin-- incest
    1. Leviticus 18:8— *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.*
    2. Deuteronomy 22:20—*A man shall not take his father's wife.*
- IV. The reason nothing was being done about this (Verse 2).
  - A. A lack of humility.
  - B. A lack of sorrow.
  - C. A lack of discipline.
- V. The purpose of discipline.
  - A. For the protection of the church and for the removal of the protection of the church for the sinner.
  - B. To realize the consequences of continuing in the sin.
  - C. To remind him of the nature of salvation.

D. The results of tolerating sin.

## Clean Out the Old Leaven Pastoral Notes

### *1st Corinthians Chapter 5*

Jesus wants His church to be pure and holy.... So says the Apostle Paul when he taught the Christians at Ephesus that the Lord desires His church to have “**no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.**”

Jesus wants His church to be pure...and preachers know if they want the church to really be pure... all you have to do is preach on sexual immorality...because everyone will leave...leaving an empty but pure church!...

This morning we come to a difficult passage.. difficult because like the entire letter of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians goes counter to our culture.... Counter to where we live... counter to what is being accepted and encouraged in our society...specifically it has something to do with sexual immorality.

Let me emphasize this morning is about the professing Christian in sin... how we as Christians deal with non-Christians in sin is a world apart

Before we look at this passage... I feel strongly for the need to begin with this:

For us to get through the teachings of Paul from this point on, we need to be in agreement regarding the authority of Scripture... the authority of God’s word. If you do not accept the absolute authority and truth of God’s word... you will have trouble with where this all ends up.

This word is in direct opposition to where the world is and where the world is heading... **The Bible never adjusts itself to be accepted by the ever changing culture**... the Bible is stable...it is a granite immovable rock of complete absolute truth.

The problem today within the church... is that it is easier to bend with the culture than to stand on God’s word...more and more Christian denominations are bending to the cultural norms than standing firm on God’s norms.

The culture has strayed so far from God’s standards that for us to embrace them makes us look as intolerant, unloving, judgmental, and ignorant... we now feel as though we should walk on eggshells around topics involving gender and sexual orientation so as not to sound unloving and exclusive rather than inclusive.... For example

For me to say that homosexuality is a sin is now considered offensive even in many churches!...it has been offensive to some in this church!... how can this be?... it can only be if they have diminished the supremacy of God’s word...to be all inclusive of all lifestyles and all forms of sexual preferences... one must compromise God’s word..

You got to get rid of Paul!... and they are trying!...the slippery slope...example:

Just two weeks ago Bishop John Eck of the Church of England ... Bishop John wrote an open letter to the diocese there in Worcester, "Setting out why he believes that the celebration and honoring a monogamous faithful same-sex relationships by the Church of England would be consonant with the scriptural witness."...

In other words... As long as they are monogamous, gay marriages would be in line with God's Word...

This is sometimes referred to as the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, going back to John Wesley, better known as the founder of Methodism. The idea that there are four basic authorities in religion; **scripture, tradition, reason and experience**.... Wesleyan tradition has always said Scripture is superior to the other three...but the church of England is now saying otherwise.

The Church of England has elevated reason and experience over tradition AND over Scripture.... In fact... borrowing some words of a eighteenth century Bishop...Bishop John Eck says "*if in life one 'finds or thinks it finds' that its own discoveries cannot be reconciled with holy Scripture and that... of the two, holy Scripture is the one that must give way.*"

If there are two authorities that appear to be irreconcilable, then the modern authority would be one and biblical authority would be the other....the modern authority becomes the authority.

If culture changes and the Bible does not... the Bible becomes outdated.

If the Bible is in conflict with modern culture... then it must give way to the modern culture... the Bible failed to stay relevant to ever changing society.... this is happening all over evangelical Christianity!

We must all agree on the supremacy of God's word over all of life... when it comes to Scripture, as Martin Luther put it, *Scripture is norma, normans non normata* ...It's one of my favorite statements from Martin Luther, the great Reformer... **And it simply comes down to this, Scripture is the norm [standard] of norms that can't be normed.**

Norms of society change... what were the standards of society in 1500's are no longer the norms of today... so Scripture is the norm of all norms and cannot and will not change. It is the authority of authorities that cannot be compromised.

Scripture is, and this means *sola scriptura*... Scripture alone.. It doesn't mean that scripture is alone in the sense that we know nothing by any other source.... It means that it is the sole final authority in all things....get this... And if you acknowledge that when it comes to sexuality and gender and marriage, you are not going to be involved in debates over this issue for very long.

The Bible is very, very clear on all these and more issues that our culture is redefining... will God's word be your authority in all of life?

Now... I really don't think that any of you are wondering what I might say from this pulpit regarding sexual immorality... I don't think any of you are out there wondering if I'm for or against it... I would imagine that all of you expect me to come down against any form of sexual immorality...from this pulpit.

Well... I don't think the Corinthian church back in 50 AD was wondering what the apostle Paul would say regarding sexual immorality as well... I don't think any of them wondered if any form of sexual immorality was ok for the church...

By the time 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians was written... the apostle had spent 18 months with the new church teaching it the complete oracles of God...during the four years after that... other pastors carried on the preaching and teaching of God's word and the gospel of Jesus Christ...so by the time the church received this letter...they would have been very founded in what God desired of them... how they were to live as Christians...

They certainly wouldn't have been ignorant regarding sexual immorality...so what Paul says to them in chapter five is not new information...he's not educating them on what is right and what is wrong when it comes to human sexuality... they already know all that...

It is anger and outrage... for this church knew better than to tolerate any form of sexual immorality within the church...but they did.

Chapter 5 is not about condemning the sinner... Paul's main concern is not the guy! It is the potential for sin to corrupt the entire church!...Paul's anger is NOT directed at the sinner...but at the church members who stood by and knowingly did nothing about the flagrant sin going on.

Paul will address in more detail the sin of sexual immorality in chapter 6... but here he attacks the church for their knowledge, tolerance, and acceptance of sin in the church.... This passage answers the question "*What is the church to think about and do about ongoing sin within the church*"... This is difficult!... this may even rub some of you wrong...

When it comes to what people do in their personal lives... we pretty much want to leave that to them to deal with... right?...it's none of my business!... and confronting another person regarding their sin is not something we cherish the idea of...nobody want to do that.

But what we find out here is that to not confront flagrant ongoing sin in the church can be devastating for the church AND for the individual in sin....let's work our way through this... beginning with the report.

## 1. The report

A couple of things about the report that Paul has received:

**1. The news had widely spread...** this wasn't just some small gossip in the church... this news made it all the way to Ephesus where the apostle was staying... it also implies it had spread over the region...the matter was being talked about... it was not a secret.... It's completely out in the open...the whole church knew about it.

This is not about just some sin... a sin... of course we all sin... we all fall short of the glory of God... if sinners weren't allowed in the church... the church would be empty... let's be clear... this is about ongoing, flagrant, lifestyle sin.

**2. The nature of the report is very serious...** Paul says that this sexual immorality of such a kind that even the Gentiles view it as immoral.... The Gentiles here would be referring to the Roman pagans... even they do not engage in such sexual immorality.

Sexual immorality is translated from the Greek word *Pornea*...guess which word we get from that?... pornography... literally it refers to **the wrong use of sexual desire and activity**.... It refers to **sex that is not between a husband and wife**....

The word and its forms appear no less than 65 times in the New Testament.... If you tally up all the times sexual sin is mentioned in the Bible... sexual sin is the number one sin mentioned in the Bible.... And it is the most uncomfortable sin for us to talk about in church!

I wanted to be careful with what the Bible calls sexual sin... so I looked up all the places in God's law and made a list of what God considers sexual sins... they include incest...adultery... homosexuality...besituality... all sex before marriage... rape... and the penalty for all of these was death by stoning...

Except for one case... if a woman yells out during the rape for help... she would not be stoned... if she remained silent... stoned....all this to say that God takes sexual sin very seriously... God designed sex... He wants us to stay within His design... it works best that way... no IT ONLY WORKS that way!

The problem is now... everyone want to do whatever they want... it doesn't work!

Back to Corinth:

Remember the context of Corinth... Corinth was on a major trade route making it a trade center... remember the narrow piece of land called the isthmus... separating two major seas... the Aegean Sea and the Ionian Sea... a three mile or so wide strip of land... instead of taking weeks to go around the horn... ships would stop at Corinth...

They would resupply... they would engage in engagements sailors do when in port...it was a libertarian port...It was a wild city...It was so wild and full of sinful activity the derogatory term

“Corinthianize” came about describing the sinful activity of Corinth... Corinth was at the base of a 2000 ft mountain called the “Acrocorinth”... on the summit of the Acrocorinth was the temple of Aphrodite with its 1000 temple prostitutes who created a “unique form of worship”... all this to say the culture the Corinthian church was established out of and now exists in... a very immoral culture.

But as immoral as this culture was... verse 1 tells us that even the pagans... the “Corinthianizers” didn’t participate in such sinful behavior.... And what was that?... **that someone has his father’s wife....** Incest.

So... there is a man in the church who HAS his father’s wife.... Now this isn’t the man’s mother... it is his step-mother. He **Has** his father’s wife which literally means he is sleeping with his step-mother.

This breaks Jewish Levitical law... Leviticus 18:8 says **You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s wife; it is your father’s nakedness....** interesting... all sorts of theories about this relationship....

1. This man is with his Father’s wife for financial reasons... the father may be dead and the son gets into a relationship with his father’s wife to prevent her from maying again... if she married someone else.... He would lose his inheritance.

2. It is very possible that the father was much older than the wife... his original wife had died... he remarried... men often remarried extremely young girls... and it was possible the step mother was as young or younger than the son!.... and they were very attracted to each other.

The problem with both of those theories is there is absolutely no biblical support for either of them!... the bottom line is that the man had his father’s wife... which went against biblical law... and Roman law.

Deuteronomy 22:20 **A man shall not take his father’s wife...**By the way... the result of violating Leviticus 18:8 and Deuteronomy 22:20 was the guilty would be stoned to death... shows us how seriously God takes sexual immorality.

So Paul gets a report that a man in church is sleeping with his father’s wife and everyone in the church and outside of the church knows about it!..that’s the report.... the second is:

**2. The reason nothing was being done about this...** I see two things that existed within the Corinthian church that resulted in their wrongful acceptance of this: A lack of humility and a lack of sorrow.

**1. A lack of humility...** instead there was pride and arrogance... verse 2... **you have become puffed up...** in other words... whatever you are doing... whatever you are involved in... whatever you want to do is more important than this issue.

Your more concerned about what you think than what God thinks...

**You are puffed up**... all you're concerned with are your interests... one commentator suggested they might have been proud that they thought of themselves as being overly gracious... that they were showing amazing tolerance and grace... that if they had reproved this guy... if they called him out on his sin... that would have been in the face of the free grace that is found in Jesus.

This is the church today is it not?... It's a perverted understanding of grace!...*Love the sinner accept the sin show them grace*... that's a form of being puffed up... proud that you are so full of acceptance and grace... so happy with yourself.... *We are so INCLUSIVE!*

But this is hard... this is difficult... difficult because we live in the culture... the culture comes at us... and because of that... we deal with such perversions within our own families...very few within the church have been untouched by the breakdown of Godly values and norms...

Many of you have had to face having family members and close friends involved in same sex relationships... gender confusion... sexual immorality that is no longer considered by our culture as immoral... but goes in the face of God's word... and the path of least resistance is to compromise... to accept... to justify...churches are in the same boat.

This year a portion of a sermon has gone fairly viral from a very, very prominent pastor... one who I used to admire and respect...listen to this... he's obviously conflicted...

*"A gay person who still wants to attend church after the way they've been treated, I'm telling you, they have more faith than I do, They have more faith than a lot of you."*

*"I know 1 Corinthians 6, and I know Leviticus, and I know Romans 1, so interesting to talk about all that stuff," STUFF? "But just, oh my goodness, a gay man or woman who wants to worship their heavenly Father, who did not answer the cry of their heart when they were 12 and 13 and 14 and 15. God said, 'No,' and they still love God?"*

*"We have some things to learn from a group of men and women who love Jesus that much and who want to worship with us," he continued. "I know the verses; I know the clobber passages, right? We got to figure this out."*

He's not talking about the lost pagans of our culture... he's talking about PROFESSING CHRISTIAN HOMOSEXUALS ... it could be any sexual sin... adultery... sin outside of marriage...

That to me is a bit puffed up... God's word is not stuff....My opinion never trumps the word of God!... *not only are you puffed up but...you have not mourned.*

**2. A lack of sorrow**...the idea of being broken hearted.... Or full of grief... it is hard to find people today who mourn over what sexual sin has done to people's lives...we don't mourn because it's just not a big thing anymore...



Paul is telling the church *you just don't care... things just go on... everything normal...* what should have been considered a tragedy and travesty in the church had become ho hum...to let this continue in the church... to never confront the sinner in his sin is to say you don't care about that sinner....It's ok with you that he stays in opposition to God... which leads us into a third thing:

**3. lack of discipline...**Church discipline....(2) **so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst....*put out of your fellowship....be removed from you***

Now that sounds harsh!

The point of church discipline is ALWAYS restoration... the idea is for the sinful person to become convicted of his sin and get right with the Lord... but if he is never confronted... he will never be convicted and get right with the Lord!

*It must be ok... nobody gets upset about it... no problem here.....* actually... the most loving thing you can do for one LIVING in sin is to confront them in their sin... so is all going on in this church because of a lack of humility.... They are all puffed up...

They lack sorrow... and they don't even consider any discipline to the sinner.... It's just all ok.... so Paul...using his influence as the church founder... their original shepherd...

**Read verse 3**

Under the authority of Jesus Christ

**Read verse 4**

And then Paul says something very strange...

**3. The purpose of discipline...**

**Read verse 5**

There is a purpose in discipline.... Actually discipline has three purposes...all of them are for the restoration of the sinner.... None of it is for punishment.... But to bring them back to right standing before God.

**1. For the protection of the church and for the removal of the protection of the church for the sinner**

**Deliver such a one to Satan...** remove this person OUT of the church... and back into the world...we all live in one of two realms... we live in God's realm if you are a believer..... and you live in Satan's realm if you are an unbeliever...

To remove a believer back into the realm of Satan is going to shake the true believer up... you don't want to be there!...the world is hostile to true believers... especially sinning believers.../// in

a sense... the church is a protected life for the believer... remove that protection and it's miserable!

1 Timothy 1:18-20

**18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my [a]son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, 19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to [b]their faith. 20 [c]Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, why? To punish them eternally?...no! so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.**

*I removed Hymenaeus and Alexander from the fellowship into the hands of Satan..... to shake them up!...to wake them up... to get them to see their sin.... To bring them back into the fellowship*

*If you want to be in sexual sin?... then go to that kingdom... the kingdom that is all about that... see how that is!!! Can you imagine?...Another purpose for discipline is:*

## **2. To realize the consequences of continuing in the sin**

**(5) For the destruction of his flesh...**...this is not talking about death but rather the damage that a life of sexual sin will do to you... we all grapple with the flesh... we yield to the flesh and get momentary pleasure from it...

But if we continue in it, it will destroy us...so discipline puts him out of the church and into the world of sin... where he is free to continue in that sin... hoping he realizes the dead end he's on.

**Whatever you yield to... and continue to yield to... you will eventually become a slave to it...** talk to those addicted to pornography... it's the Romans 7 problem.

**but I am fleshly, sold [a]into bondage to sin. 15 For I do not understand what I am doing; for I am not practicing what I want to do, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 However, if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, that the Law is good. 17 But now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I do the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me.**

**21 I find then the [b]principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22 For I joyfully agree with the law of God [c]in the inner person, 23 but I see a different law in [d]the parts of my body waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner [e]of the law of sin, the law which is in [f]my body's parts. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from [g]the body of this death?**

One of the purposes for church discipline is to get that person to be freed from the flesh by getting sick of it... repulsed by it....**25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

We discipline to remove the protection of the church... to help destroy the flesh... but the most important...

**3. To remind him of the nature of salvation...** (5) **so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord...** we discipline to get them into heaven... if they're true Christians they will respond...

#### **4. The results of tolerating sin**

Tolerating ongoing sin in the church eventually effects the entire church...to show us this... Paul takes us back to the Passover and to the feast of unleavened bread.... How appropriate for us this morning being communion Sunday.

#### **Read verse 6**

Leaven is used throughout the Bible as "influence"...usually the "influence of evil"...the "lump" is the church...so Paul is saying "***a little evil influence will influence the entire church body***"...

It really is a great picture... if you bake bread... you know something about yeast... you put a tablespoon of yeast in some warm water... you add a few cups of flour... mix it well and leave it alone for an hour or two... what happens?...the yeast ferments....it expands and the dough doubles in size....it doesn't take much yeast to affect the entire bowl of flour.....

**Sins nature is to ferment**... to affect whatever it is in touch with... it grows... Back in the Old Testament... in Exodus 12... God was preparing Israel to leave Egypt... they had been in bondage to Egypt... God instructed His people to sprinkle lambs blood on the doorposts and mantles.

The last of the ten plagues was about to take place... death to all the firstborn babies... the angel of death "Passed Over" all the houses with the blood of the lambs on the doorposts and mantles... saving the firstborns of those houses....

Israel then had to leave their houses quickly to get out of Egypt... they baked bread to take with them... but the Lord instructed them to not use leaven in the bread.... They didn't have time for the bread to rise...

But a bigger reason... bread represented the sustenance of life... the Passover and Exodus from Egypt represented Israel's old life in Egypt to their new life in the Promised Land... leaven represented their old life...captivity in Egypt... the way of the world... they were to leave that life behind.

So the Lord commanded them that “**Nothing leavened shall be seen among you**”...every bit of leaven had to be thrown out.... The old life left behind.

We as Christians are to be separated from our old lives... we are to bring none of our old life into our new life in Christ... that is what Paul is getting at in verse 7

**Read verse 7**

Some leaven had gotten into the church... you church must remove it!... you cannot remain unleavened.... Pure... if you have evil in the church!... the church is to be unleavened... each person in the church is to be unleavened... the only way we're unleavened is because Jesus Christ... the truly unblemished perfect sacrificial Passover lamb has been sacrificed ... now through the blood of Jesus Christ...

Just as the blood of the lamb on the doorposts ensured the angel of death would Passover them, sparing the lives of the firstborn...the blood of Jesus Christ... spilled on that cross...liberates every believer from divine eternal judgement and purifies them from all sin... so that they are presented as pure and holy before God.

**Read verse 8**