

Purging Impurity

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Purging
- Purging Sinful Impurities - it's a theme that we find throughout the entire Bible.
- For example - it's in the 51st Psalm - where King David asked the Lord to **PURGE** him with hyssop so that he could be clean.
- And in 2nd Chronicles 34 - we find King Josiah **PURGING** the idols - from the high places of Judah and Jerusalem.
- In Isaiah chapter 1 - we find the LORD of hosts - promising to thoroughly **PURGE** away the dross from the Children of Israel.
- And it's in Malachi chapter 3 - where we learn that the Messiah was going to sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver...
- ...in order to **PURGE** the Levites - like gold and silver - so that they could offer the LORD a righteous offering.
- And now - here in our text today - we find Paul - commanding the Christians in Corinth - to **PURGE** the old leaven from their church.

II. Outline

● Points

- Purge
- With this as our focus - we're going to spend our time today - considering what Paul meant...

- ...when he directed the original recipients of this epistle - to purge out the old leaven.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...We should purge the impurity of Depravity
 2. ...We should purge the impurity of Malice
 3. ...We should purge the impurity of Wickedness
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 5...
 - ...where we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Corinth - to purge impurity from their fellowship of faith.

III. Depravity

● Set up

- Context
 - As we make our way to the fifth chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take some time to put our text - back into it's context.
 - I should begin by reminding you that it was in our study last week when Paul challenged the Christians in Corinth...
 - ...for allowing a backslidden believer who was engaging in adultery - to remain in their fellowship of faith.
 - And if that wasn't bad enough - - they were puffed up with pride about their progressive perspective.
 - It's for this reason that Paul encouraged them to exercise church discipline - by delivering him to Satan for the destruction of his flesh.

- Now - here in our text today - we find Paul - helping them to realize that purging impurities should be a primary priority for every church.
- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 5 - beginning there at verse 6 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1Co 5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

• Glorying

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping the original recipients of this epistle to realize that...
- ...it's never a good thing - to glory in the sin that so easily ensnare us.
- Just to be clear - the word - glorying - found there in verse 6 - was translated from a Greek word...
- ...which was used in reference to the grounds for glorifying - or boasting about something.
- And while this word can be used in a good sense - like when we consider the Biblical basis for boasting about God...
- ...the same Greek word can be used in a negative sense - whenever a person sees their sin - as a reason to boast.
- And that's exactly how Paul was using that word - here in our text today.

• Leaven

- I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Version of the Bible rendered verse 6 - they put it like this...

1Co 5:6 Your boasting [over the supposed spirituality of your church] is not good [indeed, it is vulgar and inappropriate]. Do you not know that [just] a little leaven ferments the whole batch [of dough, just as a little sin corrupts a person or an entire church]?

- In other words - the very thing that they were boasting about - was actually causing their church to be corrupted.
- And in order to help them understand the pervasiveness of the perversion that they were boasting about...
 - ...Paul presented a parabolic parallel - by comparing the corruption of carnality...
 - ...to the way that a little bit of leaven - will permeate - and ferment an entire lump of dough.
 - And with this as our focus - we should take some time consider the meaning of this metaphor.
- Dough
 - Now - I realize that there are probably some here today who embraced the sourdough trend that started during the pandemic back in 2020.
 - And so - some of us have a comprehensive understanding of how leaven is necessary - to create natural fermentation in dough.
 - For those of us who DON'T make our own bread - you might like to know that...
 - ...a sourdough starter is a living culture of wild yeast and beneficial bacteria - or - microorganisms that feed on the flour and water.

- And as the microorganisms receive regular "feedings" with more flour and water...
- ...the yeast produces the gasses that create all of the bubbles that cause the dough to rise.
- That's right - the nooks and crannies in sourdough bread are all created by the gas of yeast microbes - - - and it's delicious.
- Examples
 - Now - as we consider how it only takes a little leaven - to leaven the whole lump of dough...
 - ...we must not fail to grasp the parabolic parallel that Paul was presenting here in our text today.
 - To be clear - Paul was comparing the leaven that causes fermentation to occur throughout the entire lump of dough...
 - ...to the way that our impurities can cause the degradation of depravity to permeate our fellowship of faith.
 - And with that being the case - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that...
 - ...Paul also challenged the original recipients of this epistle - to purge out the leaven of depravity.
- Purge
 - Let's consider how He put it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 6 - where Paul declared...

1Co 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1Co 5:7a Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened.

- Now - I wanna stop right here - so we can consider what Paul meant when he commanded the Christians in Corinth - to purge out the old leaven.
- That word - purge - found there in the beginning of verse 7 - was translated from a Greek word...
 - ...which was used of something that is thoroughly cleansed.
 - And in the context of this passage - Paul was using that word - metaphorically - with an implied accusation...
 - ...that the original recipients needed to cleanse themselves of the old leaven of depravity.
- Connection
 - In order to grasp the context of this command - we should consider the Passover connection that Paul makes - here in our text today.
 - Look with me again - there at verse 7 - where Paul declared...

1Co 5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.
 - Here in this verse - we find Paul - connecting the purging of leaven - with the Passover - which was fulfilled by Christ Jesus.
 - And in order to grasp this connection - we should take some time to consider the connection...
 - ...between the Feast of Unleavened Bread - and the annual Passover celebration...
 - ...that commemorates the way in which the Lord freed the Children of Israel from the land of Egypt.
 - With this as our focus - let's consider how the Lord told the people to purge the leaven from their homes - prior to Passover.

- Feast
- It's in Exodus chapter 12 - beginning at verse 15 - where the Lord presented Moses with these instructions - by declaring...

Exo 12:15 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Exo 12:16 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you.

Exo 12:17 'So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.

Exo 12:18 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

Exo 12:19 'For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.

Exo 12:20 'You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.' ”

- Now - as we consider these instructions - there should be no doubt that Paul was harkening back to the feast of unleavened bread...
- ...when he commanded the Christians in Corinth - to purge out the old leaven - so that they could be a new lump.
- And as we consider how those who consumed leavened bread during those days - would be cut off from their community...
- ...Paul was encouraging the Christians in Corinth to purge from the church - those who were puffed up with the leaven of depravity...

- ...so that their congregation could maintain the positional purity - that was imputed through the sacrifice of our Savior - Jesus.

- **Passover**

- In order to further grasp the point that Paul was making - let's take a moment to consider the instructions that pertain to the Passover lamb.
- It's in Exodus chapter 12 - beginning at verse 21 - where we learn that...

Exo 12:21 Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.

Exo 12:22 "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

Exo 12:23 "For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

Exo 12:24 "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.

- After purging the leaven from their homes - the children of Israel were instructed to sacrifice a Passover lamb...
- ...so that the blood of the lamb could serve as an indicator of their faith.
- And as the Lord prepared to pour out the 10th plague on the land of Egypt...
- ...He promised to protect the people - who were in the houses where the blood of the lamb was on the lintel and the posts of the door.
- And listen - all of this was prophetically pointing to the sacrifice of our Savior - Jesus.

- **Feast**

- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider how Paul explained this - here in our text today.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 7 - where he commanded the Christians in Corinth to...
1Co 5:7 ...purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.
1Co 5:8a Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven...
- Now - let's stop right here so that we can consider the feast that Paul was referring to.
- You might not know this - but - there are actually seven Jewish feasts - which begin in the spring with the Passover - followed by...
 - ...the Feast of Unleavened Bread - the Feast of Firstfruits - the Feast of Weeks - the Feast of Trumpets - the Day of Atonement - and the Feast of Tabernacles.
 - As we consider this list of Israel's seven feasts - we should take a moment to ask...
 - ...which of these feasts was Paul referring to - when he encouraged them to Christians in Corinth - to keep the feast?
- Shadow
 - In order to answer this question - I should take a moment to remind you of the statement that Paul made - about the Old Testament feasts - and Sabbaths.
 - It's in Colossians chapter 2 - verses 16 and 17 - where he declared...
Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,
Col 2:17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

- According to Paul - the foods - the festivals - the new moon observances and the sabbaths are all shadows - cast by the substance of our Savior.
- And it's for this reason that Paul assured the Christians in Colossea that...
 - ...they weren't required to observe the dietary restrictions - and the religious festivals - found in the Old Testament.
 - That being the case - it seems to me that the feast that Paul was referring to...
 - ...is the sacrament that commemorates the sacrifice of our Savior - which is better known as communion.
- Communion
 - Now - when we get to the 11th chapter of this epistle - we will learn more about the details surrounding this sacrament.
 - For the sake of our study today - it'll help you to know that the Lord Jesus instituted the sacrament of Communion - during the Passover Seder.
 - And as the Passover lambs were being prepared for slaughter there in Jerusalem - - the Lord Jesus - Who is our Passover...
 - ...was preparing to offer Himself - a sacrifice for sin - according to the prophetic shadow - seen in the original Passover.
 - Not only that - but - this was also the first day of the feast of unleavened bread.
 - And seeing how all of the leaven had been purged from the upper room - in preparation for that feast...
 - ...the Lord Jesus distributed unleavened bread to His disciples - during the Last supper.
 - Love Feasts

- With all of this in mind - it seems to me that the feast that Paul was referring to here in our text today...
- ...wasn't the annual feast of unleavened bread - which was actually a commemoration of Israel's exodus from Egypt.
- The Feast that Paul was referring to was probably the communal feast that Paul goes on to describe - in 1st Corinthians chapter 11.
- And while this communal feast - which was also called a love feast - included a congregational meal...
 - ...the Christian community would also commemorate the Last Supper - according to the instructions of the Lord.
 - And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged them to purge out the depravity of the old leaven.
- Old/New
- Let's consider again how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 5 - look with me beginning there at 7 - where he declared...

1Co 5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1Co 5:8a Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven...
- Now - I wanna stop right here again - so that we can consider the difference between the Old Leaven - and the New Leaven.
- As we consider the context - I have a hard time believing that he was referring to the literal leaven - that's found in most bread.
- No - instead - I believe that Paul was referring to the leaven of depravity...

- ...that causes carnal Christians to become believers - who are puffed up with pride.
- Not only that - but - the leaven of depravity can easily permeate our Christian congregation - if we allow it.

- Depravity

- In order to further explain my point - let's take some time to consider the parallels...
- ...between Paul's command - to purge out the old leaven - - and his command to putt off of the old man.
- With this as our focus - hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - - and let's turn in our Bible to Ephesians chapter 4.
- And as we make our way to the fourth chapter of Ephesians - I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
- ...there are times when the word - leaven - is used metaphorically - in reference to the mental and moral depravity...
- ...which is able to infect other Christians in the same community - with carnal corruption.
- And it's for this reason that the command to purge out the old leaven - is synonymous with the call to put off the old man.

- Application

- Corrupt
- Let's consider how Paul put it here in Ephesians chapter 4 - look with me - beginning there at verse 20 - where he declared...

Eph 4:20 But you have not so learned Christ,

Eph 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

Eph 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,
Eph 4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
Eph 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - directing the disciples of Christ - to put off the old nature...
- ...which includes the depravity of deceitful lusts - that we once pursued with perverse passion.
- And much like leaven - that causes fermentation as it leavens a lump of dough...
- ...the depravity of our old nature will also permeate our entire life - as we become more and more corrupt.
- It's for this reason that he commanded every Christian to put off the old man which grows corrupt - according to the deceitful lusts.
- Community
- And listen - this is not only important for Christians - individually - but - this is also important for Christians - corporately.
- Much like leaven - which is able to permeate an entire lump of dough...
- ...the carnal Christian who continues to engage in the depravity of their deceitful lusts...
- ...will cause their corruption to spread throughout the entire congregation.
- And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged the original recipients of this epistle - to purge out the old leaven...
- ...so that their Christian community - could truly enter into corporate communion with Christ Jesus.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because - listen...

1. ...We should not only purge the impurity of depravity...

2. ...but - we should also purge the impurity of malice.

- With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 5...

- ...where we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Corinth - to purge out the leaven of malice.

- Let's consider how Paul put it - beginning there at verse 7 - where he declared...

IV. Malice

● Text

1Co 5:7 ...purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1Co 5:8ab Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice...

• Malice

- Now - I wanna stop right here - so that we can consider what Paul meant...

- ...when he encouraged the Christians in Corinth - to purge the leaven of malice - so that they could properly keep the feast.

- For the sake of clarity - I should take a moment to point out that - the word - malice - found there in the middle of verse 8...

- ...was translated from a Greek word - which speaks of a specific kind of depravity - which is based on the desire to injure others.

- Malice also includes the ill will to afflict others - and at the same time...
- ...Malice also includes the depraved imagination to do what is evil.
- Babes
- This was the same Greek word that Paul used in 1st Corinthians chapter 14 it's verse 20 - where he declared...

1Co 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

- When it comes to our understanding of God's word - - Christians should make sure that we are becoming mature believers.
- But when it comes to the malicious desire to injure those who have hurt our feelings...
- ...Paul encouraged us to be more like babes - and just to be clear...
- ...little babies aren't malicious - and the reason why is because - they haven't yet developed the mental faculties necessary...
- ...for engaging in the malicious forethought - that is so common among adults.
- Milk
- With this in mind - let's consider how the apostle Peter put it - in 1st Peter chapter 2 - beginning at verse 1 - Peter declared...

1Pe 2:1 ...laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

1Pe 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

1Pe 2:3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

- Rather than engaging in the depraved imagination of malicious forethought...
- ...the apostle Peter encouraged every Christian - to consume the pure milk of God's word...
- ...so that we can become mature believers - who have purged the impurity of malice - from our minds.
- And while it's true that the christian who purges the impurity of malice from our minds - will benefit individually...
- ...it's also true that we all benefit - corporately - when we all agree to purge the impurity of malice - from our minds
- Forethought
 - In order to grasp the communal benefit of purging the impurity of Malice - let's consider the way that Paul put it - in his letter to the church in Ephesus.
 - With this as our focus - hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Ephesians chapter 4.
 - And as we make our way to the fourth chapter of Ephesians - I wanna take some time to challenge those...
 - ...who expend a great deal of mental energy - engaging in the carnal contemplations that center around malicious thinking.
 - This includes the spiteful schemes of people who plot their revenge - on those who offended them.
 - This also includes the the bitter anger of those who are holding a grudge against those who rubbed them the wrong way.
 - And it's sad to say that these malicious thoughts can corrupt our communion - with each other - and with Christ.

● Application

- Put Away

- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged every Christian - to put away every malicious thought - so that we can forgive one another.
- Let's consider how he put it here in Ephesians chapter 4 - look with me beginning there at verse 29 - where Paul declared...

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Ephesus...
 - ...to put away the bitterness - the wrath - the anger the clamor and the evil speaking that is all rooted in malicious intent.
 - And one reason why us due to the fact that - those who allow the leaven of malice - to ferment in their minds...
 - ...will allow this carnal corruption to spread throughout their church...
 - ...as the spiteful schemes of malicious plotting will always manifest as congregational contentions.
- Forgiving
 - Let's consider the how the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verses 31 and 32 - they put it like this...

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor [perpetual animosity, resentment, strife, fault-finding] and slander be put away from

you, along with every kind of malice [all spitefulness, verbal abuse, malevolence].

Eph 4:32 Be kind and helpful to one another, tender-hearted [compassionate, understanding], forgiving one another [readily and freely], just as God in Christ also forgave you.

- Rather than allowing malicious thoughts - to manifest as spitefulness - verbal abuse - and malevolence...
- ...Paul encouraged every believer to become compassionate Christians who extend the same forgiveness that we've received.
- And with this as our goal - it's crucial for Christians to purge the impurity of malice from our minds...
 - ...so that we can maintain the unity of our Christian community...
 - ...according to the instructions that Paul presented - here in our text today.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because - listen...
 1. ...We should not only purge the impurity of Depravity...
 2. ...and - we should not only purge the impurity of Malice...
 3. ...but - we should also purge the impurity of Wickedness
- With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 5...
- ...where we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Corinth - to purge out the leaven of wickedness.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - beginning again there at verse 7 - where he declared...

V. Wickedness

● Text

1Co 5:7 ...purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

• Wickedness

- As we take another look at these verses - we must not fail to notice that...
- ...Paul was not only commanding the Christians in Corinth to purge out the leaven of malice - which is mostly contained in the mind...
- ...but he was also commanding them to purge out the leaven of - wickedness...
- ...which was translated from a Greek word - that refers to both - evil counsels - and evil deeds.
- And what this means is that - Christians have not only been called to purge the impurities - found in our minds...
- ...but - we've also been called to purge the physical impurities that affect our church - by our words - and our actions.
- One reason why is because - wicked words - and deeds - are able to defile our Christian community.

• Defile

- Let's consider how the Lord Jesus put it - in Mark chapter 7 - beginning at verse 15 - where He declared...

Mar 7:15 "There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.

Mar 7:16 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Mar 7:17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable.

Mar 7:18 So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him,

Mar 7:19 "because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?"

Mar 7:20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

Mar 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Mar 7:22 "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

Mar 7:23 "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - helping His disciples to understand that the food we eat won't defile us - spiritually speaking.
- And so - if you enjoy a nice warm slice of sourdough bread - with warm melted butter filling the pockets created by microbe gas...
- ...then - you can rejoice in knowing that - leavened bread won't defile us - in a sinful sort of way.
- No - instead - it's evil desires that fill our hearts - that defile our minds.
- And those who act upon those evil desires - by engaging in the works of wickedness - are defiled by their wicked deeds.

● Application

- Congregation
- Not only that - but - those who engage in the works of wickedness - are also guilty of defiling their Christian community.
- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to prepare for the feast - by purging the impurities of depravity - malice - and wickedness.

- And while it's true that the Christian is truly unleavened - by faith in the Passover sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ...
- ...it's also true that we have also been called to maintain the purity of our communion with Christ...
 - ...by continuing to purge the sinful impurities - that could corrupt our Christian congregation.
 - And with this as our goal - let's consider the instructions that Paul presented - here in our text today.
- Sincerity
 - Look with me again - there at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

1Co 5:8 ...let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
 - Here in the final section of this verse - we find Paul - directing the disciples of Christ - to keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity.
 - And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - the word - sincerity - was used of that which is pure.
 - The root word was used of that which is judged in the light of the sun - and found to be genuine.
 - In light of this definition - Paul was simply encouraging the Christians in Corinth...
 - ...to enter into the communion of their Christian congregation - with a pure - and genuine faith.
- Truth
 - Not only that - but - he also encouraged them to keep the feast with the unleavened bread of truth.

- That word - truth - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of that which corresponds with reality.
- And in the context of the Christian faith - TRUTH is that which corresponds with the instructions found in God's word.
- What this means is that - the Christian who wants to keep the feast with the unleavened bread of truth...
 - ...should make sure that we're aligning our lives to the instructions that the Lord has revealed - within the Holy Bible.
 - In this way - we will protect the purity of our Christian community - according to the truth of God's word.
- Incarnate
 - I should also remind you that - truth has not only been revealed through doctrinal instructions - - TRUTH was also manifest in our Messiah.
 - Let's consider how the Lord Jesus explained this - in John chapter 14 - it's verse 6 - where He declared...

Jhn 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- Here in this verse - we find the Lord Jesus - helping His audience to understand that - He is the incarnation of TRUTH.
- And what this means is that - truth is not only the doctrinal instructions that we find in the word of God...
 - ...but - Truth is also an everlasting reality that is revealed in the physical manifestation of our Messiah.
 - Therefore - those who want to keep the feast with the unleavened bread of truth...

- ...should make sure that our communion is centered around the person - and work of our Savior - Jesus.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - it's crucial for Christians to realize that...

- ...we all bear the personal responsibility of purging the impurities that we still struggle with.

- With this as our goal - I encourage you to remember that...

1. ...We've been called to purge the impurity of Depravity...

- ...by putting off the old man - which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts that are hidden in our hearts.

2. ...We should also purge the impurity of Malice...

- ...by learning how to forgive those who have offended us - in the same way that God in Christ has forgiven us.

3. ...Finally - We should purge the impurity of Wickedness...

- ...by refraining from the works of wickedness - which defile our Christian community.
- In this way - we will keep the love feast of Christian communion - in a way that pleases our Savior - Jesus.

• Grace

- Finally - I wanna take a moment to remind you that - every Christian finds themselves - somewhere between Salvation - and Glorification.

- In other words - - we are all a work in progress - as we travel the path towards perfection - by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.
- And while it's true that there are times when a carnal Christian must be purged from their church - in order to stop their leaven from spreading...
- ...it's also true that this sort of church discipline is only necessary - when a backslidden believer - refuses to repent of their sin.
- Apart from that - Christians should learn how to be gracious with one another - as we give room for the Holy Spirit...
 - ...to bring other believers to a point of conviction - so that they might purge the impurities from their own lives.
 - And in this way - we will avoid the legalistic tendencies that might lead us to become overly critical Christians.
- Hypocrisy
 - Christian - listen - if you think that the Holy Spirit is calling you to become the purge police here at Calvary South Austin...
 - ...please trust me when I tell you that - He is NOT.
 - And if you're a Christian who is quick to criticize the sinful struggles that you see in others...
 - ...I encourage you to consider the hypocrisy of the person who criticizes the Christian who has a spec in their eye...
 - ...while walking around with a huge plank - protruding from their eye socket.
 - Before you take it upon yourself - to purge the impurities of others you should first make sure that you've purged your own impurities...
 - ...so that we can keep the feast - with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth - by faith in Jesus Christ.

