

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 5:6-13

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-13.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses. Suggested themes in the text are provided in the box on the left. As the class progresses, you will have the opportunity to learn how to do this yourself.

A Passover lesson for the Church
(verses 6-8):

Be what you already are: clean

A perpetual festival

A command from the first letter

A clarification for the second

Who judges whom?

⁶Your boasting is not good.

Do you not know

that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

⁷Cleanse out the old leaven

that you may be a new lump,

as you really are unleavened.

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

⁸Let us therefore celebrate the festival,

not with the old leaven,

the leaven of malice and evil,

but with the unleavened bread

of sincerity and truth.

⁹I wrote to you in my letter

not to associate with sexually immoral people—

¹⁰not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world,

or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters,

since then you would need to go out of the world.

¹¹But now I am writing to you

not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother

if he is guilty of sexual immorality

or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—

not even to eat with such a one.

¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders?

Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

¹³God judges those outside.

“Purge the evil person from among you.”

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1. About what are they boasting?
2. What is implied by Paul's phrasing, "Do you not know?"
3. What is leaven (real leaven, like used in baking)?
4. Throughout the Bible, what is leaven most often used to symbolize?
5. What warning does Paul intend for them to hear? What are they in danger of if they refuse to discipline the sexually immoral man from 5:1-5?
6. Read Exodus 12:14-20. What happened to a person who ate what was leavened during the festival?
7. What does Paul mean by saying that they really are unleavened?
8. According to the passage, how did they become unleavened? (Note the grammar in verse 7.)

To understand more about Christ as our Passover Lamb, read the short article at:
www.gotquestions.org/Passover-Lamb.html

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❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-13 again.

9. In telling them to “cleanse out the old leaven,” do you think Paul is only referring to the immoral man from 5:1-5? Explain your answer based on the text.
10. The Corinthians thought that how they had been dealing with the immoral man was good, but Paul says that it was in keeping with “the old leaven...of malice and evil”. Why was their continued fellowship with that man really a display of malice and evil?
11. What would it look like for them to act with sincerity and truth in this situation?
12. How do we “celebrate the festival” today?
13. Verse 9 refers to a letter from Paul that has not survived to today. What did he tell them to do in that letter?
14. Based on last week’s passage, were they obeying Paul’s instructions?
15. Paul clarifies which sexually immoral people he meant for them not to associate with, and which ones they should continue to associate with. What was the distinguishing characteristic between the two? (see verse 11)

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16. Because of the particular situation that Paul addressed in 5:1-5, he has been focusing on the sin of sexual immorality, but is sexual sin the only reason for breaking fellowship with someone who claims to be a believer but is living in unrepentant sin? Where in the text do you get your answer?
17. What were they to do with anyone “bear[ing] the name of brother if he [was] guilty” of such sin?
18. What do you think “not even to eat with such a one” includes?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-13 again.

19. According to the passage, who has the responsibility of judging those outside of the church?
 - a. So then, how should we relate to those who are outside of the church?
20. According to the passage, who joins with God in having responsibility for judging those inside the church?
21. What should be our motivations, purposes, and goals when we exercise judgment over someone in the church?
22. If those inside the church were to cease all association with “the sexually immoral of this world,” what would that do to the spread of the gospel?

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23. How can a church's unwillingness to address blatant sin among its members negatively impact the spread of the gospel?
24. How is the Old Testament relevant to the life of the church? (Note that in this passage, Paul incorporates multiple Old Testament ideas, such as leaven, Passover, and purging evil. To help you think about this question, look ahead to 10:1-11.)
25. In our modern American society, we are often uncomfortable with the idea of being accountable to and for each other. How does this passage help you to see the responsibility that we have as a congregation to hold each other accountable?
- a. How do Paul's word pictures of servants and stewards from chapters 3-4 enhance your understanding?
26. Summarize the passage in one sentence.

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would live "leaven-free" lives, living up to who we are in Christ. Pray that we, with sincerity and truth, would hold each other accountable, for the sake of our souls and the glory of God's name.