

Apostolic Discipline | 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

See session 11

Theological Instruction Concerning Holiness | 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

- Verses 6-7 -
 - **your glorying is not good** - It is difficult to discern with certainty the **glorying** to which Paul refers. In the context of v. 2 (**ye are puffed up**), the *boasting* most likely the reference is to the continual discussion (with no action) of the fornication in their midst.
 - **know ye not...** -
 - Here, as is often (but not exclusively) the case, **leaven** is considered unwholesome and destructive. Just like the Jews would **purge out the old leaven** from their homes at Passover time, the Corinthians were to get the evil out of their church.
 - Note the following:
 - There is a clear word for **unleavened** bread. The Greek ἄζυμος [azymos] is used nine times in the New Testament and means *unleavened bread*. It is very different from the word ἄρτον [arton] which is *leavened bread*. There is no place in the New Testament nor the Greek language where *arton* means *azymos*, and vice-versa. Therefore, the Last Supper, in which *arton* was served, must have been prior to the Passover and not a Passover seder.
 - Paul is again giving illustrations which would only be understood by a Jewish audience (see note on **Gentiles** in 5:1).
 - **Christ our Passover** -
 - Jesus Christ died at approx. 3:00 PM, just before the Passover began at sundown. This is the time the Passover lambs were slaughtered.
 - At this point, Christ became **the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world** (John 1:29).
- Verse 8 –
 - It is important to translate this literally from Greek so that a false command is not created.
 - The KJV **let us keep the feast** is given in the imperative (a command), while the Greek is in the subjunctive (a sense of possibility or desire).
 - Thus a better translation would be *purge out...in order that we might keep the feast...."*
 - Therefore, Paul is not giving a command for the church to **keep the feast** of the Passover. However, Paul is clearly implying (at minimum) that the Corinthian church is keeping the Passover. Since this appears to be a Messianic Jewish congregation, such is natural.
 - Should Gentiles observe the Passover?
 - The Passover was always a Jewish feast, and a Gentile adaptation of the feast for Christian purposes would be unhelpful in Jewish relations as well as potentially opening the door to legalism in the Gentile community.
 - If invited by a Jew (believing or unbelieving) to observe Passover with them, an acceptance of the invitation would be appropriate.

Church Discipline (When No Apostle is Present) | 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

- Verse 9 –
 - There has, it appears, been previous communication from Paul with the Corinthians.
 - This previous letter (perhaps among others) was not preserved either by the churches nor by the Holy Spirit.

