

LESSON 9: 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13

Separate from Sin

1. Two sins are identified in 5:1-2. What are they, and which one do you think bothers Paul the most? What is especially shocking about this case of immorality?
2. How should the Church respond to gross sin practiced by an unrepentant believer? What is the appropriate punishment, and what is the purpose of that punishment (vv. 4-5)? Should the Church confront immorality or other sins within its midst today? What are some reasons why it is often unwilling to do so?
3. What does it mean to turn someone “over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh” (v. 5)? Why is turning a fellow believer “over to Satan” an act of love and not of vindictiveness? When would such an act be vindictive?
4. Why is a lukewarm attitude toward sin so dangerous in the Church?
5. In verses 6-8, Christian life is compared to the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (see Exodus 12). What do the yeast, the bread without yeast, and the Passover symbolize? In referring to the Passover in these verses (vv. 6-8), what is Paul saying about the atmosphere of our Christian life? How will the leaven of sin ruin that atmosphere?
6. As a Christian, with what immoral people may you *not* associate, and with what immoral people may you associate (vv. 9-11)? What is the reason in each case? Why is Paul so emphatic about keeping the world out of the Church, but not the Church out of the world?