

Calling A Spade A Spade

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 22nd, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

~ 1st Corinthians 5:6-7 (NASB)

I) Taking Sin Seriously Within The Family

- A) Having heard about a shocking case of incest within the church family in Corinth, Paul confronts their arrogance and passivity in the face of sin (1st Corinthians 5:1-2).
- B) Despite being physically absent (but still present in s/ Spirit), Paul administers judgment against the man caught in sin, delivering him over to the realm of Satan (5:3-5).
- C) Note that this is a community action (“when you are assembled”), in the name & power of “Lord Jesus” (5:4). The purpose of the action is for the man’s redemption (that he “may be saved”), but would probably result in his personal destruction, perhaps even death (5:5).

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D) Note once again (as last week in 4:18-21) that this judgment might seem extremely harsh to our more gentle tendencies. Couldn't Paul have worked with the man, couldn't there have been a less embarrassing manner in which to deal with the sin, why does Paul have to be so mean spirited?

2) The Church Is Not A Country Club

A) Paul drills the church for their "boasting" (5:6). The church bragged and strutted about their successes, heritage, teachers, etc. (1:1-4:21). But their successes had produced arrogance (cf. 4:18, 5:2), which caused a blindness to sin!

B) How can you brag, when there is overt sin in your midst? This should never be tolerated! These were not "style of ministry" issues, these were offences against "Christ our Passover," the One "sacrificed" (5:6-7). Keeping your communion with Christ pure means calling out sin (5:8).

3) A Quick Theology Of Judgment

A) Not wanting to be misunderstood, Paul emphasizes that judgment against "immoral people" (5:9) is not meant for those who do not know Jesus Christ (5:10), but is meant for those who are publicly claiming Christ (5:11).

B) The concern of every follower of Christ is for purity, and that the Lord's Table (meal) is kept pure from Christians who are living in active and unrepentant sin (5:11).

C) Judgment of the world belongs to God (5:12-13), but maintaining purity within the church family belongs to the community of the church family (5:13).

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