



That's Bad Tea

By Derek Kiser on April 5, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 5

I had a traumatic experience after a parenting class right before my first son was born. My wife and I went out to eat after the training near the hospital. I asked for sweet tea to drink. Have any of you ever had tea when someone had not cleaned out the tea urn or had old tea in it? It is a super bitter taste that is not pleasant. This occasion was like that but worse. Someone put coffee bags in the tea maker so they were serving me sweetened cold coffee. I remember that taste every time I get bad tea that is old. It is hard to describe the bad taste, but you know it when you taste it.

Verses 6-8 of this passage talks about getting rid of the leaven in the bread. They were to throw out the old bread dough that had leaven in it. I do not claim to be a baking or Old Testament expert, but my understanding is the leaven was what they used to act as yeast to make the bread rise. There were occasions they were not allowed to have leaven in their house and only eat unleavened bread. Since the Bible does not advertise itself as a baking book there must be something else going on.

This passage is talking about sexual sin in the church. No leaven, not even a little bit, was allowed to be in the bread because it would ruin the entire batch. Sin, even a little, will mess up the church. The church at Corinth had a lot of sexual sin going on that was not being addressed. Of one situation Paul said that not even the outside pagan world would tolerate that kind of sin. Paul wanted the church to know God takes sin seriously and so should they. No sin is okay to tolerate because it will cause problems in the entire church. This is a topic that will continually be an issue the church has to deal with. If you have not noticed the concept of one man, one woman being married together is under attack. If we are honest, that topic has even taken a backseat to people redefining what it means to be a man or a woman. The church will continually come under attack in the coming years. Trying to keep the biblical definition of male and female as well as marriage will require constant line drawing.

What was Paul's main point in all of this? Jesus, the Passover Lamb, had been sacrificed. Jesus died. We are a new people--the Church is God's people. We are different, we must look different, we must be clean and we must be holy.

PRAYER: God, help us be the Church. Help us be kind in our responses, but truthful where Your Word speaks. Let us be wise, but willing to have hard conversations for the sake of the Church.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 6

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