



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 15 Out with the Old
By Pastor Jody May 08/03/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 5:6-13 ESV

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."

Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."

People - "Thanks be to God."

Pray

Illustration

So, I want you all to be in prayer for us, Heather and I are starting a new diet this week, you may have heard of it, **The Whole Thirty**.¹ The purpose of this diet is to complete, a 30-day elimination diet, for a variety of reasons, primarily to improve their health and relationship with food. Many believe it helps identify food sensitivities, reduce inflammation, and reset their eating

¹<https://whole30.com/original-program-rules/>



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habits. It involves cutting out certain foods like sugar, grains, legumes, dairy, and alcohol for 30 days, then systematically reintroducing them to see how they affect the body. It is a total reset of your system. It helps you discover what foods are best for your body type.

As we age all our bodies have challenges and the process of **out with the old** is a great way to honor God with the health, He has given you, and learn to steward your energy and life for His purposes. So, I know that many of you don't want to hear this, but dieting is not just about vanity, it is not just about physical appearances, it is not even just about being healthy, it is about learning to be a good servant, so that you are optimizing all that God has given you to live for Him, it is the principle of good stewardship.

For Heather, her biggest concerns are in the area of digestive health, and that has been something she has dealt with since childhood. Her body, she will tell you, doesn't do good with the things we all crave like sugars! For me, one of my priorities as I age is to keep feeling good which improves my mental health and keeps me from being distracted by aches and pains. Joint pain is what I have collected from years of sports and injuries. The goal in cleaning out our systems is to discover what foods will be the most helpful at this stage in our lives to prolong what years we have left for ministry.

We actually did this together just over 10 years ago, so it is about time for us to clean out the old system and do a reboot again. Then on the other side, we will still be able to enjoy the foods we like but we will understand the price we will have to pay, to do so. The part I want you to hear today, that if we want our physical bodies to do what they are supposed to do, which is support our will/desire to live for God, then it is necessary to do some Spring Cleaning every once in a while, to accomplish such a goal.

Introduction

The Lord does the same thing for the church. I know that I have heard it said that the church is like a hospital for the hurting, and you would be absolutely right! The **problem is though, many in the church never want to heal**; they never want to say goodbye to old lifestyles, to old haunts, to old attitudes.



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The reality is, they are treating the church as a Hospice instead of a Hospital, they want to go there to die the way they are. They just want to use the fellowship of the saints to hide from the world and its' consequences for the way in which they will live.

Jesus understood this and you can read about His ideas for cleaning out the old. Go read the first three chapters of Revelations, and you will see that our **Lord has no desire for us to treat the church as a come and die place, it is a come and live home!** It is a place that embraces eternal life living for the Kingdom of God, it doesn't embrace sinful living for the Kingdom of Self! It is a place that doesn't tolerate staying the way you are, we are constantly being called to conform into the image of Christ. This makes sense for the person that loves Jesus, what He has done for them, and wants to be changed! That's one of the things that marks a Christian in this world, they don't want to stay the same (as we all read the book of James this week)!

In Ephesians Paul has this description in how a man is to love his wife, but look at the model he gives and tell me if you think Jesus is ok with us staying the same?

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

These verses do not describe a future resurrection based correction, it describes the process of sanctification in this present life at this present time. The picture is of the husband's sacrificing like Jesus sacrificed so that in this present time sanctification happens NOW for the bride. Jesus right now through the Spirit, through the Word, through the church, is cleaning out the old, he is sanctifying His people, in order to present her to Himself, as one who is HOLY! Our trajectory in the life of the church is to become more Holy.



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Therefore, we need to see this part of that process, as displayed in Corinthians, is to clean out the old! (Kind of like the fridge).

This week we are going to look at three different categories of getting rid of things that don't belong in the church, elevating Christ and our desire to be more like Him. First, **we want to clean out the old**. Paul even uses an example of removing old leaven for fear of what it can do to the church. Next, we will discuss **how to cleanse the pallet**. That is how to get rid of the taste in our mouths for the things that are not good for the church. Then lastly, we will **cleave away the fat**, the excess that does not belong in the church. Once you recognize that which needs to go Paul has some very plain directions for us. All of that to help us learn this main point this morning.

MP:

**Church Cleaning is a messy process,
but it is a necessary step to honor Jesus.**

We want to be a people that honor Jesus HCC, Amen!? Lets' tackle this mess together, lets confess sin together and throw away that which we don't need, and let us honor God with our lives in all we say and do.

1. Clean out the old.

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.

What boasting? In human wisdom (1:18-31) leaders you have (3:21) your strength and accomplishments (4:7) all that boasting got you to this point. Paul in 5:2 says that your boastful leaders are **arrogant about, Incest!?** The collective wisdom of your leaders led you to boast in some wicked foolishness! Their folly has led them to this specific act that has put the church in danger (v6): **"Do you not know a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** – Translation, IT RUINS EVERYTHING! These so-called leaders of your church, have missed a foundational teaching of OT scripture to **be Holy for I am Holy** Lev 19:2. Now Paul will go on to explain the necessity of rejecting



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this false bravado and the need for rejecting the unrepentant sinner for if you don't the ramifications are deadly.

Paul uses here in these 2 verses the picture **of leaven used to make bread rise**, and the picture of the Passover lamb. Many suspect that in the calendar when Corinthians is written, we are close to this holiday, which remember is also the day of Christ's sacrifice, His death on the cross as the Passover Lamb for ALL the elect. Part of that holiday, a Jew would go through the house and throw out any old leaven, ensuring the bread you would make for the holiday of Passover would have no leaven which was the practice since they left Egypt in Exodus. Once the house was cleansed, **out with the old**, then the Jewish family would take or purchase their lamb at the temple, for the slaughter and the subsequent meal to come. The whole event was done emphasizing let us clean out our homes, let us get rid of things in our lives in preparation for the receiving of the lamb.

Paul is building the argument, not by claiming to be wiser, not through arguments over being their true leader as their spiritual father (4:15), not through the strength of his accomplishments (the three things they boasted in), all of these areas he surpasses the Corinthians. Rather he builds his argument on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which no argument from man can stand against. His point - **When we receive the Lord and Savior our life is not our own, your spiritual house is not your private abode. It's not about what you can bring into the relationship with you, it's about what needs to be thrown out.**

You see the JOY of the Gospel, is that Jesus comes to us first, and wants to tabernacle with us, live with us, before we are ever able to clean up! Family the good news is that even while we were sinners the Christ dies for us (Rom 5:8 - *Sola Fide*)! **But it is at that point**, when we are taken as His people, when we are brought near when we were far off, when we are redeemed from our evil master, the redeemed **WANT to clean out the house!** Then as a recipient of a better covenant the people of God are always cleaning out their lives BECAUSE they have already received the Lamb of sacrifice, Jesus! The presence of Jesus in our lives demands that we be a people that are not



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satisfied with having leaven in our lives, or the things that can taint our abode for the master is **NOW home with us!**

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.

Paul wants the Corinthians to celebrate FOR Jesus' coming and living with His people **demands celebration!** You know sometimes we are **reluctant, to get rid of the old**, that just means we do not understand the good of that which we have received! To celebrate Jesus' life, it is an ongoing matter of looking at our own lives, looking at the lives of those around us, and cleaning out the old or that which keeps us from becoming more like Christ (it may even mean leaving the church you like...)!

Hebrews 12:1 ESV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us also lay aside every weight, and sin** which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

If we aren't willing to do that family, Paul calls that the leaven of **malice and evil**. Malice, that is the willful choosing of keeping what you are and what you want to be because you don't care how it reflects on Christ, and you don't care how it affects others. But by embracing the hard work of cleaning out the old we can celebrate with others the bread of Christ's labor, sincerity and truth.

Do you want to know what a healthy church looks **like one that shares the good bread of sincerity and truth?** There is nothing like a church where the people can confess freely their sins and not be condemned, and people can say what needs to be said about sin in others and not be reviled. Those two things show that the bread of Jesus being served there, has no leaven in it. Let it be said of us HCC, we were less concerned with manufactured altar calls but we were more concerned with the fruit of true conviction which is shown in a person's life of repentant living among the lives in the church.

MP reworded: But to become that, we have to accept that Church Cleaning is a messy process, but it is a necessary step to honor Jesus.



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Now, that don't come easy family. Many times, we have spent too much time and have given too much heart to this world which produced cravings not for a Holiness that is good for us. Instead, our diet of faulty spirituality, a lack of understanding the Gospel, and a habit of suppressing conviction on sin, has made our taste buds crave junk, the sweet & salty. Whenever that happens sometimes you must go hardcore and clean your pallet, you have got to get that taste out of your mouth!

2. Cleanse your pallet.

⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—

Now in v.9 you may think he means 1 Cor, but the reality he is speaking of a previous note, one that the church did not keep passing it around like an epistle. Paul has already written to the Corinthians about sexual immorality, which now lets you know that any righteous indignation Paul has comes from the place of having to correct the church again, based on the poor leadership and what seems an on-purpose mishandling of Christian doctrine (**Malice**).

Now in order to do a little cleaning up, again Paul is going to use the OT to solidify what he means. **I will also tell you this is why you CANNOT unhitch from the OT any teachings to the NT because people will do whatever they want!** I mean if we live in the Grace of the NT then law has no effect on us now right!?

The OT is to instruct us and to inform us on how to live as a New Covenant believer. The [LBCF 1689 \(19.2-4\)](#) speaks to its necessity for life and flourishing recognizing that law had three divisions: the moral, ceremonial, and the judicial, and that the common thread in all of it was the eternal precepts given by God to glorify Himself. Dr. Tom Hicks wrote on the laws' good use in his book [What is a Reformed Baptist](#) and he states.²

At the right time, the Holy Spirit opens the eyes of the elect to their unlawfulness through the preaching of God's law and leads them to the gospel of Jesus Christ, His cross and resurrection, so that they see and

² Tom Hicks, *What is a Reformed Baptist* (Cape Coral, FL: Founders Press, 2024) 77-78.



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delight in the goodness and holiness of God and agree with the law's judgment upon them, such that they cast themselves upon Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of their souls. – Tom Hicks

You will not be able to cleanse your pallet of this world if you don't ingest the whole of God's Word. By reading the OT it will get your pallet of the sweet taste of a cheap grace.

Now back to v.10 as we seek to cleanse the pallet more.

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.

This is good truth for any church at any age. Paul says I did not tell you **not to** associate with people outside of the church, that's not what I meant. The reality is you cannot live without doing business with people who do not have the same beliefs and practice as you. It is not a command to associate with people who are dangerous or support causes without thinking on morality issues but **what Paul does embrace** is that the church's witness is to be around the world (take your holiness into the world). That is why he is working hard at getting them to imitate him (4:16) and be Holy. Remember **the theology we know is that God saves people who are in the midst of sin, and we the church are the ones that take them the good news, while they are in the midst of their depravity.**

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.

Ok so here is the root of this text today. Paul says that anyone who bears the name of brother, a church member, if they are guilty of sexual immorality don't fellowship with them, in other words have less to do with them than you do the lost people in Corinth, and again the purpose of that from last week is to drive them to repentance. But Paul doesn't stop there, he goes on and lists out some other folks, and this is where this got interesting for me this week.

He says don't associate with the greedy, an idolater, a reviler, a drunkard or a swindler, not even to eat with such a one.



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- Someone who has **greed** is a glutton that covets and takes when it is not honest, needed, nor warranted. Perhaps that comes from the person that is never satisfied by why God has providentially provided for them, made evidence by a constant string of complaints about life, or a hoarding/gluttonous mentality.
- Someone who is an **idolater** is someone who combines their Christianity with the Greek Pagan religions (syncretism). That is someone who likes to have their cake and eat it too. Perhaps this is the person that can't leave their identity they built in this world even though it does not fit well nor is it needed in the church.
- Someone who is a **reviler** is a liar, they cast aspersions, they gas light people on purpose, they like to gossip, they call around looking for people to get on their side, they are the ones that like to fill you in on who is doing what.
- Someone who is a **drunkard** lives a fake life; they are people that have-to-have false bravado in the face of this world. In our current day it reminds me of someone that likes to hide behind fake social media identities and tells everyone all is good here or use it to make themselves look good.
- Someone who is a **swindler** uses unethical practices (NT tax collector) to take what is not theirs. They don't have a problem saving money in unethical ways, they will borrow money without paying it back, they use the things of others while offering nothing in return, they are quick to remember when they are owed and quick to forget when they owe. They are a don't call me if you need a thing but don't have a problem calling on you. They are always the number one person to please.

All these people Paul says, you are not to have anything to do with them. Paul says **not to eat with them**, which is the sign of trust and hospitality in the ancient world. You can do that with the world but DO NOT do it with these people because they are fake...

Now here's the thing, it is easy to point out the sexually immoral person among the church, right? It starts with an easy dividing line, anyone that is having sex outside the God defined marriage between a man and a woman. But what about all these other things? Look, if we are serious and open in this room today, how many of us, in the listing of the behaviors here by Paul,



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would hide if Paul came and visited HCC today? AS in if this was the first century church and you knew Paul as an apostle had the HS indwelling for the purpose of discernment, he could read your mind? Like how much is too much for Paul?

I don't know but let me say this. If you are the person where other people are the problems, they make you mad, they caused you to act a certain way, where you blame the world for what you don't like, where others are the ones in the wrong, then you might want to pray that for the next couple of months that God would break you, and remake you, before He decides to take you?

Family, please let us cleanse our pallet now. If you have something on that list you are doing right now, cut it out and clean it out, and digest more of God, more humility, more submission to conviction! Cleaning out can be messy but it is very necessary for the health of the church and the honor of Jesus.

3. Cleave away the fat.

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."

So, Paul leaves us with a warning. First, stop worrying about those in the world, you preach to them the Gospel, you live among them as a Royal Priesthood, you be Holy in front of them, so they notice Jesus in you. We are not here to condemn them, that happens for the lost when Jesus returns.

Second, we are to judge, to clean out, to cleanse, to cleave away those who are unrepentant in the church – **Purge the evil person from among you**. That is actually part of the business of the church, over time we trim the fat if you will, that part that is unhealthy. We are able to do this family, Jesus gave us the way in the SoM, 7:1-5³, you just have to get the log out of your eye first. Judge yourself rightly and honestly, before you judge others, but judging the works of others, of those that profess faith, 'IS' an absolute must!

³ <https://www.highlandsc.com/sermons/sermon-on-the-mount-week-27-judge-with-right-judgment/>



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Now we are going to stop here with this point because the rest of Corinthians will give us guidelines on how to do this. As in this letter we will come to know what it looks like when a greedy, idolatrous, reviler, drunkard, and swindler goes too far and looks as if they are unrepentant. BTW that command to **purge the evil one from among you** that too is an OT theme and command that Paul is using from Deuteronomy. It was necessary for the elect back then to keep the covenanted community clean, and it is necessary now.

But I want to **leave you with this encouragement**. Perhaps today you have a fear, because you know you have tendencies to be self-protective/self-preserving/self-edifying, that is why you question whether you are too greedy, or quick to spread slander, or perhaps like a swindler you work hard at making things go your way. You fear being idolatrous because you enjoy interacting with people like the world does to get ahead or living without cares is comfortable because it is the way of life you know - but God is alien to you. God can't be controlled, He can't be manipulated, He can't be taken advantage of, there is no way to get from God a feeling of peace, **UNLESS you have Christ**.

You see family, Jesus was around a bunch of religious people just like us that tried to use Him to get what they wanted too, and his actions towards them was forgiveness not condemnation. His offer to us is the same offer to His people 2,000 years ago, **don't trust in what you can do for yourself but place your trust in me**, and I will go before you to the Father. I will make a way for you around being condemned, I will take the punishment for your sin, I will do the dealings but in a righteous way so that your Salvation can never be taken. The result of all of this you can live with eternal life, the feeling that you don't need to worry about protecting yourself anymore, because you know I got you - PEACE. That's how we defeat these things church, we dive deeper into the love of Jesus and His Gospel.

MP:

**Church Cleaning is a messy process,
but it is a necessary step to honor Jesus.**

And it is something we all should want to do...



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[CALL TO OBEY]

Don't judge those outside the church.

Take the time to develop relationships that are not dependent but are mutually beneficial. You give them the gospel they need, and they remind you of why you need Jesus.

Be more disciplined inside the church.

- **Confront the small things first.**

Embrace the idea that you are called to judge your other family members and friends in here but start with small things first.

- **Means we need to confront our own sin issues first.**

Practice Mat 7:1-5; and pray and ask God to show you what is the log you need to work out of your eye, so you are available to help a brother/sister get the speck out of theirs'.

[What does it look like to cultivate an attitude of correction? Rebuke Podcast CBT Seminary.](#)

MP:

**Church Cleaning is a messy process,
but it is a necessary step to honor Jesus.**

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you



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drink it, in remembrance of me.”²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. When the Lord was confronted with the temptations to use Satan's powers over the world, to gain the upper hand, he refused Him. Instead, He trusted in the Father, accepted everything that came His way, and perfected submission giving God the glory. Praise be to Him for His commitment to the Father!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. We were the ones that gave into the temptation to use the world's ways to get ahead, to protect ourselves, to find an easier path and the punishment for our betrayal was death. But thanks be to God being rich in Mercy gave His life, on the cross, for the payment of sin forever to be kept in God's good grace. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 Chapter 26 Paragraph 7 The Church

To every church gathered in this way, conforming to Christ's mind as declared in his Word, he has given all power and authority that is in any way necessary to conduct the form of worship and discipline that he has instituted for them to observe. He has also given them commands and rules to use and carry out that power rightly and properly.¹⁴

¹⁴Matthew 18:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:4, 5; 1 Corinthians 5:13; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8.

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]



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[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that gives us the command to be Holy for He is Holy and provided His son as the way to achieve it.

Go in the name of the Son, that gave us His life, the perfect substitute for the required perfect life, forever solidifying our acceptance in heaven.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that convicts us of sin, helps us to confront it in others, and propels us to share the good news with this world.



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