

# DOCTRINE OF LEAVEN

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## In Relationship to Sanctification and Separation

- I. Leaven is invariably used in a bad sense in the Word of God. In fact, nothing good is ever said about leaven. It is a type of evil teaching, evil doctrine, and evil practice. It is always to be put away and cast out as an unclean thing.
- II. The Character of Leaven
  - A. Leaven is of a diffusive quality. It infuses itself into every part until the whole lump is leavened.
  - B. Leaven is of a assimilating quality. It turns the meal in which it abides into its own nature.
  - C. Leaven secretly and invisibly alters the meal.
  - D. Leaven changes the three measures of meal (Matthew 13:33), signifying inconsistency with the seven parables of Matthew 13, that the leavening process goes on throughout this dispensation.
    1. I Timothy 4:1-4, 12-16; II Timothy 3:1-5,13; 4:2-4; 2 Peter 2:1-3
    2. Revelation 2 & 3 -- The Seven Churches saying "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing" while they did not realize that they were "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Thus, God spewed them out of His mouth because He was not allowed in the church. (Revelation 3:16-20)
  - E. Leaven is that which characterized the old sin nature. Because we are all born sinners, we are imperfect and, consequently, psychologically out of balance as viewed by God. Because we are born with a sin nature, we are always prone to manifest leaven. Christ was the only person who ever walked the face of this earth who was not characterized by leaven. He is the believer's illustration of perfection.
    1. Leviticus 2 -- The meal offering sets forth the perfect humanity of Christ. The unleavened bread signifies the perfection of Christ.
    2. Leviticus 7:12-13 (Read Scofield Note.) -- This offering includes leavened bread, which sets forth the imperfection of the offerer.
- III. Ingredients of the Meal Offering (Leviticus 2)
  - A. Fine Flour, which sets forth the fact that nothing was uneven, unequal, or rough to the touch in Christ's humanity. No matter the pressure, there was always an even surface in response.
  - B. Oil, which is a type of the Holy Spirit. The fine flour was mingled with oil, and there was oil poured upon it (Leviticus 2:4-6). Such was the type in the fulfillment as we see the Lord Jesus Christ conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-23), anointed by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:6), and all that He did was wrought in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - C. Frankincense. As the oil teaches that all that Christ did was wrought by the Holy Spirit, the frankincense sets forth the fact that all was done for the glory of God. His life, as well as His death, ascended into heaven as a sweet-smelling fragrance in the nostrils of God.

- D. Salt (verse 13) is a preservative. The words which Christ spoke were not merely words of grace, but were also pungent in power and profitable to men although not readily received. Paul says in Colossians 4:6 to "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt." Gracious discourses may be popular, but salted discourses never will.

#### IV. Warnings Concerning Leaven

- A. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees." (Matthew 16:6-12; Matthew 23; Luke 12:1) The Pharisees set forth religion at its best.
- B. "Beware of the leaven of the Sadducees." (Matthew 16:6) The Sadducees set forth the leaven of rationalism.
- C. The leaven of Herod. (Mark 6:14-29; Mark 8:15) This sets forth worldliness.
- D. The leaven of licentiousness. (I Corinthians 5:6,7)
- E. The leaven of legalism. (Galatians 5:9)

#### V. Leaven in Regards to Separation

- A. The believer is to separate from unbelievers (II Cor. 6:14-17).
1. In Marriage -- Domestic life
  2. In business -- Commercial life
  3. In friendships -- Social life
  4. In spiritual areas -- to glorify God
- B. The believer is to separate from the fast crowd (I Pet. 4:3,4; Prov. 1:10-19).
- C. The believer is to separate from those who do not hold sound doctrine (Rom. 16:17).
1. Anything that opposes faith in Christ alone, such as grace received through visible sacraments or salvation received through a visible baptism (baptismal regeneration), or spirituality on the basis of tongues, rather than faith.
- D. The believer is to separate from believers who do not hold sound doctrine (I Thess. 3:14).
- E. The believer is to separate from carnal believers (I Cor. 5:10,11).
- F. Separation Concerning Questionable Things
1. Questionable things can also be a leavening agent. Our failure to separate from questionable things can result in a leavening effect.
  2. Does the deed or act enslave me? (I Cor. 6:12) Does the thought or deed, or act build me up spiritually? (I Cor. 10:23). Does the thought, deed, or act cause others to stumble? (I Cor. 3:12,13; Rom. 14:20,21). Does the thought, deed, or act glorify God? (I Cor. 10:31; Rom. 12:1&2).