

LEAVEN AS A TYPE OF SIN

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There are five types of leaven mentioned in the Word of God which describe five aspects of sin. Leaven is yeast and is used in baking bread.

[Leaven does not always indicate evil, as in *Mat 13:33*. The context in which “leaven” is used enables us to decide the significance of the word.]

The leaven of the Pharisees, *Mat 16:11, Lk 18:9-14, Lk 12:1, Mk 8:15, Mat 23:1-33*.

Jesus said, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy,” (Pretending to be something you are not), *Lk 12:1*, and in *Mat 23:1-33*, He describes exactly what that means. Especially refer to v3,5,25. A hypocrite is a person who pretends to be righteous before God, but is inwardly unrighteous. The leaven of the Pharisees is at work in us when we are **telling others what they should be doing but we are not doing it ourselves**, *Mat 23:3*. One brother testified that He taught his church on tithing, urged them to tithe, but he did not do it himself, until he was confronted by a faithful brother on the issue. Then he repented of this sin of hypocrisy and began tithing himself.

In *Lk 18:9-14*, the proud Pharisee boasted his own righteousness and despised the humble tax collector. This is the leaven of the Pharisees. Be strong to overcome pride, self righteousness and this leaven of the Pharisees

Leaven of the Sadducees, *Mat 16:11, Ac 23:6-8, Mat 22:23-32*.

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, in angels, in the Holy Spirit, or other spirits, *Ac 23:8*. Jesus said beware of the leaven of the Sadducees, *Mat 16:11*, and by this He meant, beware of the teaching of the Sadducees, *Mat 16:12*. To some extent the Sadducees had rejected the supernatural acts of God, and by their own reasoning had developed doctrines that were contrary to the Word of God. They had developed a teaching of their own to explain away the resurrection, *Mat 22:23-32*. Jesus replied to them that their mistake was due to not understanding the Scriptures or the power of God, *Mat 22:29*. We might use the word “unbelief” or “wrong belief” to describe the sin or leaven of the Sadducees. They were the “liberals”, “modernists” of their day.

Fear is an example of wrong belief. When we are fearful, we are believing that something bad is going to happen, which we cannot handle, and that God is not with us and in control, *Is 43:1-3, Is 41:10, 2Tim 1:7, Josh 1:9*.

Inferiority is an example of wrong belief.

Gal 3:28 tells us that in Christ all inequalities before God are removed and God sees us in Christ as complete and equal in Him, *Col 2:10, 1Jn 4:17, 2Cor 5:17*.

Refuse all unbelief and wrong belief and cast it out, *Jn 8:31,32*.

The leaven of Herod, *Mk 8:15, Mat 2:16*. The Herods were wicked, cruel and ruthless people. The leaven of Herod is the sin of violence and murder. The Word of God tells us that if we have hate towards another, we are murderers and do not have eternal life abiding within us, *1Jn 3:15*. Get rid of all unforgiveness, resentment, bitterness and hate now.

The leaven of Corinth, *1Cor 5:8*.

This is the leaven of immorality and the sins of the flesh. In the church of Corinth this was a major problem and Paul directed the church to deal with it in a firm manner, *1Cor 5:1-13*. Jesus tells us that the leaven of Corinth can operate in our thought life as well as in actions, *Mat 5:28*. Repent and flee from the lusts of the flesh, *2Tim 2:22*.

The leaven of the Galatians, *Gal 5:9*.

In Galatians the problem is legalism which brings with it a curse, *Gal 3:10*. Paul was strong to warn the churches of Galatia, *Gal 1:2*, that we are not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Christ, *Gal 2:16*. The leaven of the Galatians is found in us when we are relying on our own works and labours, to be accepted by God, and receive His blessings. All world religions, except one, believe that we get saved and go to heaven because we do good deeds, i.e. Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaeism, and some forms of unbiblical Christianity. True, Biblical, Christ centred Christianity, believes that we get right with God and are saved, only by faith in Jesus Christ, through the mercy, love and grace of God, *Eph 2:8-10*, *Tit 3:5,6*, *Gal 2:16*, *Rom 3:20-22*.

Refuse the lies of legalism, guilt, trying to live by rules and laws. Live by faith in Christ and the Word of God, being obedient to His will through faith, and the strength of the Holy Spirit. The Law of Christ, *1Cor 9:21*, is fulfilled in us as we live by faith in Christ. Christ lives His life in us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, *Gal 2:20*, *Rom 8:4*, *Rom 8:2*, through faith.