

Exodus 12:15

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Before Passover, the Children of Israel were to remove leaven (yeast) from their homes and from their lives for seven days. In the bible, leaven always represents sin. I wonder how our lives as Christians would change if we all made a practice, once a month, or once a quarter, or once a year, to remove leaven from our lives for a period of time?

So you may be wondering what sin am I talking about, because we shouldn't be sinning? Well God was telling the Children of Israel to remove those things that would cause leaven (or sin) in the bread (their hearts), or for us that would cause sin in ourselves, our homes and even in our churches.

I don't know if you have ever seen yeast (leaven) before. I remember many, many years ago when automatic bread makers were the big thing. I had one and discovered that whenever I made bread, or pizza dough, or dough for doughnuts, I always needed yeast. So if you have seen those little packages of yeast at the store, you find they are like small seeds, not very big at all. But once you add them to dough, then these tiny little seed like things, called yeast or leaven, would permeate the entire batch of dough in just a few hours.

Think about that, how long are movies now a days? Just a few hours, but in that few hours, depending on what movie you are watching, all those little pieces of sin throughout the movie start to permeate your mind, which will eventually get into our hearts, remember the same heart we say that Jesus lives in.

But movies are just one example, but let's look at something that is way smaller than the big screen at the movies or even our TV, and it is one that we are all guilty of looking at for more than just a few hours a day, and that's our cell, or smart phones. Haven't they become leaven in our lives? We stare at them for hours, ignoring everyone around us, because we want to get the dirt on, "*What did he or she say?*" or "*Oh look at that picture they posted of themselves, and they call themselves Christians*" or "*I love cat videos, I can watch them all day, but I don't have time to read God's word*" and that is only a few things on social media, and I am sure you can think of a lot more.

I think instead of calling it "Social Media" they should call it "Social dirt on ya." Because when we finally put our phones down, how much dirt, on how many people have we read about, and not just those we know, but strangers that we have never, nor will we ever meet. But someone posts something bad about him or her, and now we already hate or dislike them, even though we don't really know him or her. Some are hooked on shopping online, or on sports, or on their

favorite singer or actor/actress, or _____. (You fill in the blank) And all this junk we are putting in our heads throughout the day. Think again about the example of watching a movie, yet how much more time do some spend staring at their phones more than watching a two-hour movie. And we will watch a movie once or twice a week, but we stare at our phones every day, all day long and even into the night. If the first thing you look at in the morning is your phone, even before you even say good morning God, then you have a new god that you are allowing the filth in to start your day with.

I wonder if we got rid of the leaven (Phones) from our lives and really only used them when we really need it, instead of using it as a “he said-she said” thing, or I need a worldly fix. I wonder if the next verse, that we all know and love, would actually start to happen in our lives?

† **Romans 12:2** *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

How can we renew our minds with the things of God if we are cramming the things of this world (leaven) into our minds as we stare at a small screen full of leaven all day? Because the more we stare at our phones, the more we are doing what Paul was telling the Romans not to do “**do not be conformed to this world**” Because staring at a cell phone conforms us all more to this world, and less like Christians. But once we start putting it down and leaving it down, then we will “**be transformed by the renewing of your mind**” and the results will be that we “**may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**”

† **2 Corinthians 13:11** *Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

† **2 Timothy 4:5 (NLT2)** *But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.*

† **2 Peter 2:7-8 (MSG)** *But that good man Lot, driven nearly out of his mind by the sexual filth and perversity, was rescued. Surrounded by moral rot day after day after day, that righteous man was in constant torment.*