

1. During the eight days of Passover - only foods that had no yeast were allowed to be eaten.
2. The first day was called Passover and the remaining seven days were identified as the "Feast of Unleavened Bread." (Exodus 23:15 and Leviticus 23:6)
3. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is probably the most well-known of all the feasts of Israel.
4. God commanded the Jews to eat only the pure unleavened bread during the week following Passover. (Exodus 12:15-20 and 13:1-10)
5. Leaven in the Bible symbolized sin and evil. (leaven/leavened is used 38 times in 28 verses) (Galatians 5:9)
6. It is small but powerful - it works secretly - it puffs up the dough - it spreads. (Matthew 16:5-12)
7. The eating of the unleavened bread over a period of seven days symbolized a holy walk with the Lord. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)
8. As celebrants of the festival of Passover - used here as a picture of the Christian life - they were to observe it as "bread without yeast - the bread of sincerity and truth.
9. Christ is for believers what the Passover was for the Jews. In Egypt they had offered their sacrifice in order that the angel might pass over them.
10. Paul is using this imagery to remind his readers that the death of Christ had delivered them from slavery to evil and made them the people of God.
11. There is emphasis on the beginning of a new life - and here the symbolism of yeast makes an important point.
12. Israel was commanded to remove all yeast before the sacrifice (Exod. 12:15; 13:7), and in Paul's day a feature of Passover observance was a solemn search for and destruction of all yeast before the feast began.
13. This had to be done before the sacrifice (the kid or lamb) was offered in the temple. Paul points out that *Christ, our Passover* has already been sacrificed.
14. It is time and more than time that all yeast (i.e. all evil) was put away.
15. In his letter to Corinth Paul is drawing attention to the devastating contradiction in the Corinthians' tolerance of leaven in the lump
16. The Passover lamb (*i.e.* Jesus) has already been sacrificed; the festival celebrations (which normally lasted a week for the Jews) have already begun and should be a permanent feature of the redeemed community.

17. But still there is leaven in the community, and a very large piece of leaven too. The very nature of the Christian community was based on the new Passover sacrifice (Jesus Christ) and thus demands absolute purity.
18. So - in Paul's mind; 'You are unleavened, purified from the evil which is yours by nature; so - become what you are.'
19. This is the essence of his incentive for holy living; 'Look at what God in Christ has done for you... Now get on with becoming what he has made possible.'
20. That is the reason for his insistence on celebration.
21. The Christian's Paschal feast does not last a week, but all of their life.