

The word "leaven," does it always imply sin or sinfulness ?

The use of leaven in the Old Testament did carry with it a connotation of sin, sinful growth. However lets take a look at how the word "leaven," is used in the new testament.

Definition: leaven:

Noun: A substance used to produce fermentation in dough or a liquid

Noun: An influence that works subtly to lighten or modify something

Verb: Cause to puff up with a leaven

In the New Testament the word leaven is used in different ways:

- 1). Jesus referred to the doctrine that the Pharisees spread, in the negative as being leaven.
Jesus said to them, **Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees, Matthew 16:6.**
He said to His disciples, Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy, Luke 12:1.
- 2). Jesus spoke a parable, using an example of the kingdom of heaven / the kingdom of God, as coming to fruition, through the principle and influence of leaven, (*that works in our lives unawares*)
For more information on both parables accounts click on, [leaven worked through](#).
And again He said, **Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened, Luke 13:20-21 & {Matthew 13:33}.**
- 3). In the letter to the Corinthians we see leaven referred to as sin and old behaviors that we need to purge out, so that we become that new man that we were created to be.
Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? ⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth, ⁹ A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, **1st Corinthians 5:6-9.**

Conclusion:

Leaven used in the New Testament does not necessary imply sin or sinfulness. More accurately it implies an influence that modifies something that we are generally not aware of. Example, as the kingdom of God is as a seed planted (*in our hearts*) that if we water and nourish it, it will spring up and grow, we know not how, **Mark 4:26-27**. And the other uses of the word are used in the negative to warn us as to certain behaviors that can creep in unawares.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD BUT IN POWER
1st Corinthians 4:20

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Mark 16:20