



## [1 Corinthians 5:7-8](#)

(7) Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. (8) Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

*New King James Version*

Paul plainly instructs that the purpose of keeping the Days of Unleavened Bread is to remind us of our need to remove [sin](#) from our lives. Because of the serious sins that a Corinthian member had committed, and the congregation's general acceptance of this situation, Paul advises them to use the Days of Unleavened Bread to "purge out the old leaven." They should examine their attitudes and put these sins out of their lives and out of the congregation. He reminds them that the [Passover](#) is a memorial of the death of Christ, who died for us that we may receive forgiveness of sins. They "truly are unleavened," he says, in the sense that they had repented and been justified through [faith](#) in the sacrifice of Christ. However, since they had allowed leaven to return into their lives, they needed to get rid of it.

This is the heart of why we are still required to put leaven out of our homes. Leaven represents sin, and deleavening our homes symbolizes purging sin from our lives. However, cleansing our lives of sin is a lifetime process that will not be completely fulfilled until we are resurrected and transformed into spirit. As long as we are still flesh and blood, we will never be absolutely perfect—we will never free ourselves completely and totally of sin. This constant struggle to overcome human nature and put on God's nature is

called *sanctification*. Nevertheless, we must continually strive to conform to the image of [Jesus Christ](#), that is, to be a truly perfect human being ( [Philippians 3:12-14](#)).

[God](#) wants us to observe the Days of Unleavened Bread year after year to remind us that we are not perfect and that our lives are a constant struggle against sin. When we deleaven our homes, we find that, no matter how hard we try, we cannot find every tiny crumb that may be imbedded in carpet or hidden behind an appliance. This illustrates how deceitful sin is and teaches us that we must constantly examine ourselves to purge it out of our lives. Removing sin is hard work! The Days of Unleavened Bread remind us annually of this constant warfare that all Christians must wage throughout their lives.

Why then must we remove leaven from our homes but need not be circumcised? The answer is that physical circumcision no longer has a purpose under the New Covenant. Its symbolism is fulfilled in the process of [repentance](#), [baptism](#), and receipt of the Holy Spirit. However, the object lesson of delevaning our homes still has great meaning and purpose for us. The symbolism of putting sin out of our lives will not be completely fulfilled until we are born into the [Kingdom of God](#) and become like Him who cannot sin ([I John 3:9](#)).

— Earl L. Henn (1934-1997)

**To learn more, see:**

[\*\*Why We Must Put Out Leaven\*\*](#)

**Related Topics:**

[Days of Unleavened Bread](#)

[Leaven](#)

[Leaven as a Type of Sin](#)

[Leaven as Analogy](#)

[Leaven as Metaphor](#)

[Leaven as Symbol](#)

[Leavening](#)

[Leavening Process](#)

[Sanctification](#)

[Sin](#)