

Week 09
057/308

Transforming Daily
“ . . . evil company corrupts good habits . . . ”
1 Corinthians 15:33

Though Paul meant this statement in light of the debate over resurrection, the statement is a universal truth and has practical application. Implied in the context, Paul was telling the Corinthians that the reason they were struggling with the doctrine of resurrection was they were in the company of some who were teaching false doctrine. Paul's conclusion, "Awake to righteousness, and do not sin." In other words, Paul was telling the Corinthians that they needed to reacquaint themselves with the truth of the gospel (that he had taught them), get away from the "evil company," and remain steadfast.

Paul's admonishment is good for anyone who is facing false teachers and their teachings no matter the doctrinal issue. Get your doctrine straight. Resist evil company. Live the Scriptures as you received them from Godly instructors. Otherwise, confusion and the lack of confidence to live by faith may very well result in the life of the believer.

One of my closest brothers in Christ got tripped up regarding this very principle. He got distracted from the basic fundamentals of Christian doctrine and was led out into the choppy waters of emotion and personal experience over faith and sound biblical doctrine. In the end, his confidence to live by faith was shaken, and worse, his influence affected many others just as adversely.

No one is perfect, that's not the issue. What is the issue is that, just as no one is perfect, everyone is susceptible to being led and influenced by evil company, or at least by wrong doctrine. The only defense is a great offense. Know God's Word so that when you are confronted by wrong doctrine you can recognize it. Further, discipline your life with a time of prayer, Scripture reading, and soul winning.

Do you know God's Word? Are you anchored and well grounded in the doctrines of Scripture? Is God's Word the grid work through which you process everything? It should be because Scripture is the only foolproof instruction that informs us that evil company corrupts good habits.