

BECOMING THE CHURCH

“Pursue UNITY for God’s Glory”

(1 Corinthians 1:10-17)

Last week: Defined the context = Church at Corinth was an unhealthy church. Influenced by the World Vs.

Divided church. **Disunity**. Lost focus on the purpose of the Church! = built factions within the church (i.e. Elders, deacons, women’s ministry, finance team, coffee& donuts team) = all having separate goals, identities, etc

Main POINT: Jesus has called this local church to be unified in her purpose to glorify God and love people well

READ 1 Cor. 1:10-17

(=Worship & Work!!)

“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all ¹⁰agree and that there be no ¹¹divisions among you, but that you be ¹²made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹ For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.” ¹³ ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized ¹⁴in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one would say you were baptized ¹⁵in my name. ¹⁶ Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in ¹⁷cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.” = Paul’s Plea for UNITY within the church of Corinth.

- A divided home, a divided church, a divided community – **begins with a divided heart. How is your heart?**

Matthew 12:25 “**And knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and no city or house divided against itself will stand.”**

One God, One Spirit, One Purpose – to Glorify God. How do we work together to accomplish this great task: To glorify and enjoy God forever? From His Word. **The Word has to work itself into our hearts** = true change

-We cannot serve our purposes (our dreams, our wants, our “rights”) and still accomplish God’s purposes

Matthew 6:24 “**No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, power, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].”**

So, what do you Value most? (Comfort? Security? Children? Career, your material possessions? Future?)

Speaking about what it means to truly follow Jesus, Jesus states in Matthew 16:25-27 “**For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will repay each one according to what he has done.**” = True discipleship means giving up anything that is more valuable than God, putting yourself last, and pursuing what God is pursuing. = To choose to accomplish God’s purposes with your life!

-What does God desire Most? That His glory is spread throughout the world – **beginning in YOUR Heart!!**

-What is God’s Purpose? That people on this earth would know and love God with all their being.

MISSION of the WELL: “*Love God and Others as we make disciples of all people.*” God’s Mission=PEOPLE!

So, the WELL’s Purpose, our common Mission, is **Worship & Work:** we **love** God best by a life of Worship/Work

- **Worship** = giving God glory in every part of your life, your day, your marriage, your family, your everything Minute by minute (at church, at home, in your car, in your job, at school, jogging, ...

- **WORK** = serving the Lord using your spiritual gifts, serving your church, this community w/ gospel

= God has called the WELL to be unified in *this* purpose. This is who we are. This is where we are going.

Vs. 10: “Now I exhort you, [encourage you, URGE you] brothers & sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all ¹⁰agree to [lit. “say the same thing”] and that there be no ¹¹divisions among you, but that you be ¹²made complete [**UNITED**] in the same mind and in the same judgment.

- In order for anyone to be united, their heart has to first be United to the overall cause: **For the Believer**, his cause must be Jesus Christ. = To love, to follow, and to make His name and glory known to all.
 - Is this TRUE in your life? Are you United to Christ Jesus through Faith? Through a relationship w/ Him?
 - The Unity Paul speaks of Here is a UNITY of Peace, a Unity of Doctrine (Beliefs), and Unity of Purpose (Not shallow sentimentalism, not superficial harmony, not even uniformity (=we can have differences)).
 - A divided church is a weak church, a church that dishonors Christ, and is not effective in God's ministry:
1. **Unity of Peace** -This is the Peace only Jesus can give (Jn 14:27); Peace from Holy Spirit; Peace by leaders! Heb. 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone [pursue peace] and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." Ro. 12:18 "Be at peace w/ all men as far as its poss. with you"
 2. **Unity of Doctrine** 1 Ti. 4:16 "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." 2 Ti. 2:2 "Entrust these doctrines to faithful men who teach others"
 3. **Unity of Purpose** – As the church we have one purpose: 1 Cor. 15:3 "Now I make known to you, brothers *and sisters*, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which you also stand, ² by which you also are saved, if you hold firmly to ³the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed down to you ⁴as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

Vs. 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." ¹³ ¹⁴Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized ¹⁵in the name of Paul? ¹⁶ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁷ so that no one would say you were baptized ¹⁸in my name. ¹⁹ Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

- It does not matter who led you to Faith in Christ (only that you were led to faith in Christ. **Have you been?**).
 - **It does not matter who baptized you** (only that you made a public profession of faith after salvation. **Have u?**)
 - It does not matter who your preacher is (only that your preacher preaches God's Word faithfully) 2 Ti. 2:15
- Vs. 17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, **but to preach the gospel**, not in ²cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void."

- It does not matter what local, gospel-preaching church you attend (only that you plug your life in and serve that Body of Christ faithfully with your life and giftings). = **8 church plants** (Tribes, Grove, Door, Northlake Bible Church, Argyle Community Church, Fellowship of the Parks, Cross Creek Justin, Valley Creek)
- God is NOT impressed with how good a preacher is, or how big a church is, or how awesome a church's ministries are **God wants faithfulness to His Purpose: His Glory and people's salvation.**
- God wants your life and our church to focus on Jesus Christ and His gospel message to the lost world: Phil. 2:8-11 "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death ⁹on a cross.¹⁰ For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹¹ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹² and *that* every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." = this is what the Church is to be about!!!

APPLICATION:

- As we begin a new year, in 2021, examine your heart: **Are you His?** Sure of your Salvation?
- **Is your heart divided** in any way between God and anything else? - Ask the Holy Spirit, even now, to show you of any Idols in your life that you need to let go.
- As we begin this new year, ask yourself, **has God led you to the WELL?** If so, has He not called you to invest your life here? With a common cause and purpose? Our Mission: *Love God and Others – disciples of people*
- **Where are you Known?** **Community Groups** -**Where are you serving?** **Forms** **Who are you investing in?** **Discipleship** = (whose life will be eternally different b/c you invested in them?)