

Church Purity in a Polluted Culture - Part 1

1 Corinthians 1:1-17



Habakkuk showed a BIG GOD

Now What?

“Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor 10:6, 11, 12 ESV)

The Founding of the Church

- Paul first came to Corinth on his _____ missionary journey.
- In Acts 18:1-17, Paul upon arriving in Corinth, met Aquila and his wife Priscilla, Jews who had been driven out of Rome, and were like himself, _____. Paul stayed with them and preached regularly in the synagogue every Sabbath.
- Paul ministered in Corinth for 1-½ years, establishing a solid church in the midst of this depraved culture, and left the care of the church in the hands of _____.
- Some time later, Paul received reports while at Ephesus on his _____ missionary journey, that factions, quarreling, and unspiritual divisions had developed. Paul writes to set these issues straight and deal with other church problems.

Called to Be Saints (1:1-3)

“Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1:1-3 NIV)

- In Greek writings, the author identifies himself along with any other supporting contributors at the _____ of the letter.
- Written to:
 - Corinthians → “...church of God in Corinth,”
 - _____ → “...all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...”
- Paul calls them/us:
 - Sanctified (hagiozo) = to _____
 - Holy (hagios) = _____

- Common Christian greeting:
 - Grace = God’s unmerited _____
 - Peace = fruits of a right relationship with a _____

Benefits of Being a Saint (1:4-9)

“I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.” (1 Corinthians 1:4-9 NIV)

- Enriched = made wealthy in what they _____, and what they _____.
- Corinthians were not some ragtag, ungifted, ignorant band of believers. Paul tells us that as a result of God’s enriching process; they have established a _____ for Jesus Christ.

Splits and Quarrels in the Church (1:10-17)

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought... What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.” ...For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.” (1 Corinthians 1:10-17 NIV)

- *agree with one another* = auto (the same thing) + lego (to speak) - Note: This Greek word “lego” refers not just to the connection of spoken words together making a sentence, but the _____ and _____ behind those words.
- *perfectly united* = fit together completely as a _____ in:
 - mind = understanding of _____
 - thought = judgment or _____ derived from a standard
- Leader icons:
 - I follow Paul = the _____ One
 - I follow Apollos = the _____ One
 - I follow Cephas, or Peter = the In-Your-Face One.
 - I follow Christ = the I-Don’t-Answer-To-Anyone-But-God One

Paul in essence is saying, “My purpose is to preach the gospel of Christ, not to make a name for myself, and therefore, I will do nothing that will cause the preaching of the cross of Christ to be emptied of its power!”

Is that our purpose?