

correcting carnality

1 CORINTHIANS

Sermon Series Notes



"The Lord's Supper" (I Corinthians 11:17-34)

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I. DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH

A. Good Divisions

1. Heresy

* 139. hairesis, hah'ee-res-is; from G138; prop. a choice, i.e. (spec.) a party or (abstr.) disunion:--heresy [which is the Gr. word itself], sect.

* This is a division that reveals who has God's approval. There is always a segment of the church you can be a part of that is not living in submission to Jesus Christ or is not doctrinally sound. We have had people who do not believe in the Trinity, who did not believe that Jesus is God (he is a god), who believe that the church and Israel are the same, that we are living in the millennium right now, that hell is not a place of fire, that no one goes to hell, that hell is simply annihilation, that we are still under the Law, that we as a church should only gather on the Sabbath, etc.etc.

2. Hypocrisy

* There will always be hypocrites in the church. Matt. 15: 14 Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

* If you are hanging out with the hypocrites, you are on a path to a pit!

* I Cor. 15: 33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

B. Bad Divisions

* 4978. schisma, skhis'-mah; from G4977; a split or gap ("schism"), lit. or fig.:--division, rent, schism.

1. Carnal Christians

* Note: I always like to point out that no one has ever gotten drunk at a Calvary Chapel communion service, because we have only served grape juice!

* It's one thing to be carnal, it's another to do it right in front of everyone. Can you imagine someone getting drunk at The Lord's Supper? And it seems that nobody confronted them in their sin.

* See Numbers 25:1-8

2. Cliques

* The church in this day had a regular meal they called the agape feast, or the "love feast" (agape = love). It was a time when the whole church gathered and shared in the Lord's Supper together. CCSP used to have this kind of a meal. Everyone brought something to the meal (pot luck/blessing). We had a meal, worship, then shared in The Lord's Supper together. Since the church is so large now, this kind of an event takes place in life groups

* I'm kind of glad we are too large to do it the way we used to, for a couple of reasons. One is that we had a lot of singles in those days, so pizza and Kentucky Fried Chicken were always there in abundance! Also, I remember how some people would situate themselves so they could get in the front of the serving line right after the prayer for the meal was over! Trying to set a good example, I usually ended up last in line, and it was always slim pickings, because those in front of the line just piled it on their plates with no regard for their pastor! (or anyone else behind them).

* At the love feasts in the church of Corinth, people would come and gather in their own little cliques. Rich friends gathered in one corner with a table full of food and drink, while on the other side of the room the lower class did well if they had a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken to share

* The church is to have no prejudice, racism, social classes, etc. (Gal.3:28).

II. REMEMBERING THE LORD'S DEATH (vv.23-26)

* Paul brings them back to the simple and yet profound purpose behind the Lord's Supper. It was not a meal to satisfy physical hunger, nor was it just another church social. The Lord's Supper was meant to be a memorial to sanctify God's people *spiritually*.

* See John 6:48-63 (note v.63); When Jesus took the cup at that final Passover meal, it did not contain His literal blood, nor was the bread His literal body.

* Whenever I remember the Lord's death, I remember that He died for me

* John 13: 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

* John 15: 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love.

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

- 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

* I John 4: 19 We love because he first loved us.

* When I remember the Lord's death, I remember that He died for all men (John 3:17).
"Red and yellow, black and white "

* Whenever I remember the Lord's death, I remember how He denied himself

* Luke 9: 22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

* And so the simple celebration of The Lord's Supper is meant to have a profound effect upon the believer/the church. When I proclaim His death, I am reminded of my call to follow Him. In remembrance of Him, prejudice, racism, selfishness, carnality sin is confronted, I am renewed spiritually, and the church is united in AGAPE (God's love).

* Invite everyone to come and share The Lord's Supper (last Wed of every month) I have a dream of doing three services on a Wednesday evening once per month (5, 7, and 9 pm)

II. PARTAKING IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER (vv.27-34)

A. What It Means

* None of us are worthy to partake

* An unworthy manner is a manner that does not **recognize** the body of the Lord

* 1252. diakrino, dee-ak-ree'-no; from G1223 and G2919; to separate thoroughly, i.e. (lit. and reflex.) to withdraw from, or (by impl.) oppose; fig. to discriminate (by impl. decide), or (reflex.) hesitate:--contend, make (to) differ (-ence), discern, doubt, judge, be partial, stagger, waver.

* I Cor.12: 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another **discerning** of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

* Spiritual blindness

- Not discerning the body and blood its just a cracker and some grape juice, or in the Corinthian church just a meal to satisfy physical hunger church service just a traditional thing to do, sermon just something I listen to (and sometimes enjoy; Ezek.33:32)

- Balaam's spiritual blindness

- II Peter 1:5-9

* The body of the Lord may refer not only to the literal body of Jesus (His sacrifice), but His body - the church (I Cor.12:27). They had failed to recognize the relationship they were to have with one another in Christ there should be no divisions we should care for one another (I Corinthians 12:21-26).

B. The Consequences

* vv.27-31 A revelation of why some in the church are weak, sick, and some have died. The implication is that they had not considered these things in light of the unworthy manner in which they were living see Haggai?

* We should never assume that sickness comes only as a judgment from God (John 9:1-2). But when we are sick, it is a good time to ask ourselves, "Is God trying to tell me something?" A time of illness is a good time for self-examination.

* Hebrews 12:5 "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

* Psalm 119: 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

C. The Need For Self-Examination

* Have you had a physical lately? When's the last time you had a spiritual?

* Even though we are not sharing in the Lord's Supper this weekend, we need to examine ourselves.

* We need the Spirit of God to aid in this examination (Jer.17:9-10; Psalm 139:23-24).

* Are you "in the faith?" (II Cor.13:5)

* When we gather as a church, is your focus in on spiritual food, or do you come to a church meeting with carnality, & leave with that same carnality.

* Who do you hang out with at church? Are you among those who have God's approval?

* When is the last time you took part in the Lord's Supper? Did it make a difference in your life?

* Christianity is others oriented When's the last time you did something that was "selfless?" When's the last time you shared what you have with someone you would not normally notice? When's the last time you had a meal with someone outside your social class? (I'm convicted!)

* Are the problems you are facing in life a result of your selfishness, lack of submission to Christ Are you being disciplined by the Lord? Your weakness could be turned to

strength your sickness healed your "premature" death avoided if you would just humble yourself and repent

CONCLUSION

* See The Body (Chuck Colson), story about Boston hospital chaplain