

I CORINTHIANS

The Church Corrected

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I CORINTHIANS: The Church Corrected Rev. Mike Jones [Revised December 28, 2021]

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I CORINTHIANS Chapter 1

INTRO- Corinth is located at the southern end of Greece where two bays meet. In Paul's day it was one of the major centers of commerce and corruption. The Greeks had built many "Religious" Temples where the corruption of lust was worshiped and indulged in. The people who were saved to begin the Corinthian Church were saved from this way of life. There was an earlier letter written by Paul (5:9) and this one was sent to correct wrong impressions of that one; plus answer some questions the Church had (7:1), and to tend to some problems that had cropped up with different Pastors.



The beginning of the Corinthian Church is found in Acts 18:1-18.

I. THE CONFIRMATION 1:1-9

vs 1 God's Man

vs 2 God's Church- Christ is LORD. Ministers are servants. vs 3 God's Grace- Unmerited Favor brings unending peace

vs 4 Thanks to God- For Grace given by Jesus Christ

vs 5 Enriched by God- in speech and knowledge

vs 6 Confirmed by testimony of God- You received what you received from us because of what GOD did for us.

vs 7 Gifted by God- It was God who gave the gifts to the Church to enable us to wait right for Jesus to come again.

vs 8 Kept by God- Praise the Lord!

vs 9 God's Faithfulness- not mine

II. THE CONFUSION 1:10-16

A) The Reason for Unity- Name of our Lord Jesus Christ

B) The Revealing of the source of information- to show it's not just gossip.

C) The Reason for Division- men! Paul- rude speech, Apollos- polished, pleasing to ear, Cephas (Peter)- Original Disciple

D) The Reaction to Division

1. There is only one Christ

2. Even good things can be misused if they take Christ's place- Baptism

III. THE CROSS vs 17-18 God's Answer to Pride

A) Doesn't make "sense" to man because it does away with all self effort and leaves us with nothing to cling to except God's Word. B) The Power of God unto Salvation to all who believe.

Notice how Paul does this. First he shows that everything they are and have hinges on God. Then he points out the problem, showing the source to be men. Then he brings in the Cross which does away with men's effort. How this must have pricked the hearts of people who looked to the man instead of the message.

What do you look for in a Preacher?? A Pleasing Personality- or a heart tuned to God so he can deliver God's message!

GOD DEALS WITH CONCEIT 1:19-31 2:1-13

INTRO: Paul has been dealing with confusion brought about by people uplifting different men. He stresses in today's lesson that it is not the men or their ability that God uses but the message of the Cross. How this ought to deal the death blow to our pride in our ability. For after all "what hast thou that thou didst not receive?..." (I Cor 4:7). On the other hand, this lesson should teach us that GOD CAN USE ANYONE HE WANTS TO DO ANYTHING HE WANTS DONE- If we just make ourselves available!

I. GOD'S METHOD vs 19-21 PREACHING (Proclaiming God's message)

A) To bring man to the knowledge of his inadequacy to find or to please God.

B) What man could not earn or learn God reveals thru Preaching. 1. This makes it available to all!
2. This puts the responsibility on all Christians- "For how shall they hear without a preacher" (Rom 10:24)

II. GOD'S MESSAGE vs 22-25 CHRIST CRUCIFIED - The only way!

A) Not what men expect or look for- it leaves man's Pride and self-righteousness broken at the foot of the Cross. (Which is why men aren't saved. They want to be saved but refuse to accept God's Way.)

B) The Power of God and the Wisdom of God

See I Cor 2:1-13. This is the MANNER of preaching the Gospel and is of utmost importance- It reveals to us the fact that THE GOSPEL IS EFFECTIVE NOT BECAUSE OF THE PREACHER BUT BECAUSE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD THAT WORKS IN THE PREACHER.

III. GOD'S MESSENGERS vs 26-31 (See Jer 9:23-24)

A) Their Qualifications

1. Foolish- Moron
2. Weak- sickly II Cor 12:10
3. Base- Wrong side of track (Gideon)
4. Despised- Hated (David before Goliath)
5. Things that are not- nobodies (Mike Jones)

B) The Application

1. Rebuke to our Pride vs 29 no flesh glory
2. Reckoning of our Power vs 30 Jesus Christ
3. Responds by Glorifying God vs 31

NOTE: 1. Doesn't say not ANY mighty.
2. Doesn't say God will Bless Laziness
3. God takes ordinary people and uses them in extraordinary ways.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU?? 2:11-3:7 Heb 5:11-6:2

INTRO- The "That's good, that's bad routine from plane: plane stalls, parachute fails, haystack has pitchfork, missed haystack." Which illustrates the point that there are generally 2 sides to every situation. Spiritually this means that you're either saved or lost, if you're lost you either will be saved or you won't. If you're saved you're either a Carnal "milk" Christian or a Spiritual "meat" Christian. Let's look at these and see what kind of person you are.

I. THE NATURAL MAN

A) Born that way, anyone can be one!! (Shaped in sin, in iniquity conceived)

B) Unable to receive or understand the things of God. The Bible doesn't make sense, Church and spiritual things are dull and uninteresting, many times have really tried to live right and study the Bible and go to Church but it seems like trying to learn French- a different language is spoken.

Must be Born again, takes a miracle of God, only happens when understanding is left for Faith.

II. THE CARNAL CHRISTIAN

A) There is a Baby stage of Christianity- it is not wrong to be a baby and need the milk of the word- I Pet 2:1-2 Wherefore laying aside all malice and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby.

It is not wrong to be a baby- it is wrong to stay a baby You are YET Carnal I Cor 3:3

B) Signs of a Carnal Christian

1. They follow men instead of the God they proclaim- I Cor 3:3a This causes envy, strife, and division which is manifested in:

a. Preacher Religion- playing one preacher against another, dropping out of church when a new pastor comes. [Some follow pastor]

b. Preacher/Deacon conflict- leaders ought to love one another [Some follow Deacon]

c. "Grouping in the Church- a man or a family will gather their own little group and question others that don't do exactly as they do. [Some follow men.]

2. They walk as men- I Cor 3:3b

a. A number of people on our Church rolls show signs of living worse lives than the average sinner of our community.

b. The only recognizable difference between some Church and the other people in our community is that the Church members attend Church every so often- there is no real difference in the day to day walk (IF your Christianity does not work on Saturday night or Monday morning then it is not of much value on Sunday.) Dress like, walk like, talk like world!!

3. They are dull of hearing (No Push) Heb 5:11

a. over 1/3 of the members of this church have not attended service in the 4 months I've been here

b. Over 1/2 of the members of this church do not attend CTS, Sunday Night Service, or Wed. Night Service

c. Because of this "hearing: problem they are "unskilled in the word of righteous" (Heb 5:13) and end up hindering instead of helping the work of God

1. Can't teach- must be taught

2. Can't witness- so lost perish (How horrible that hundreds stand around and watch a man die because they don't know what to do.

3. Bring shame instead of Glory to God's Name.

III. THE SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN

A) Has the mind of Christ because of the indwelling Holy Spirit

This means he looks at things from the Spiritual instead of Physical viewpoint

1. Like Abraham- He has hope when there is no hope
2. Like Daniel- He recognizes a power beyond any on earth
3. Like Job- trials life his eyes to God instead of turning in self pity. He looks foolish to the

world.

B) Because of use he is able to distinguish between good and evil- and is therefore not misled by fads and gimmicks that bring so much trouble to the world. He knows which path to follow- life has a purpose and a plan now and a future to look forward to.

We are not talking about talent but the use of spiritual wisdom Ex. of dad, 3rd grade education but mature man - Cp to person with 6 years of college but had to work in drug store.

CONC.

Are you a Natural man puzzled by the things of God- be born again (Puzzle))

Are you a Carnal Christian still on the bottle? (Use bottle of milk)

Are you a Spiritual Christian who eats the meat? (Use steak biscuit)

THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE 2:14-3:5; Heb 5:11-14; I Pet 2:2

There are only two kinds of People in the world- SAVED and LOST. Yet Paul and Peter seemed to divide the Saved into 2 "classes"- Carnal (or Babies) and Spiritual. I want to look at these three types of people, find out which group each of us belongs to and then find out how to go from one group to the next.

I. THE NATURAL MAN I Cor 2:14 Unregenerated, Lost.

A) Controlled by Satan- Ep 2:1-3 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

B) Can't understand the Things of the Spirit of God (vs 14)- You can't "Convince" a dead man he needs life!! Life must come from God. You are "casting your pearls before swine" to try to teach him the things of the Spirit of God. You can teach him "Morals" to civilize him and Laws to regulate him but only God can change his heart.

II. THE CARNAL CHRISTIAN I Cor 3:1-4 In the beginning, a Baby Christian. The problem is that he has STAYED a Baby (You are YET Carnal). There has been no growth.

A) Must have "Milk" instead of the "Meat" of the Word. They are not able to bear the Meat [vs 2]. It "chokes them" because they are not able to discern between the good and the evil (Heb 5:14)

B) Looks for services and sermons that excite the Flesh. For that reason they are "Hung up" on preachers that they like (vs 4 *while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?*)

C) Characterized by "Envy, strife, and divisions" (vs 3). "Take their marbles and go home" if they don't get their way. Unable to develop relationships with others-- Contrast this to the Spirit Filled person in Ep 5 who is constantly submitting to his place. [Most Church splits and divisions come from people who are determined to have THEIR way no matter who, or what, it hurts]

D) Walk as men (vs 3). That is, they walk (live) like the unsaved. The sad truth is that is some "Christians" didn't continually tell you they were saved you wouldn't know it. They act just like the world in what they Covet, how they're Clothed, and in their Character

III. THE SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN (2:15)

A) Discernment- vs 15 should read "he that is spiritual discerneth all things, yet he himself is discerned of no man".

DISCERNMENT= The ability to distinguish between things. In this case, the ability to discern between worldly wisdom and Spirit teaching (vs 12)

This Discernment is a result of Continued Growth in relationship to the Spirit- Heb 5:14 *Strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of (habitual) use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*

B) The Mind of Christ- vs 16 The Submitting mind of a Servant. See Phil 2:3-8. Ep 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another...

The Spiritual Person looks at things from God's viewpoint (Abraham vs Lot) and is more interested in serving God than being served.

THE PROBLEM OF CARNALITY 2:14-3:15

INTRO.-Paul has just dwelt with the Problem of conceit and he now begins to show the Corinthians how foolish it is for them to think themselves overly wise when they were so unwise in the Basic things of God. The Problem of Carnality that Paul deals with in today's lesson is one that has continued to plague the Church through out history. May God help us to learn some valuable lessons from it.

1. THE PEOPLE 2:14-3:4 Paul lists three types of people in these verses:

A) Natural Man (vs 14) Unregenerate, Lost. Cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God. (Remember that! You can't convince a dead man he needs life. Life must come from God!)

B) Spiritual Man (vs 15) Able to judge (discern) all things because he has the mind of Christ. (Lives in submission to the Spirit.)

C) Carnal Man (3:1-4) Babes in Christ. (Note- it is not wrong to be a Babe in Christ; but it is wrong to stay a Babe in Christ.)

1. Must have milk and not meat. See Heb 5:13-14 and I Pet 2:2

2. Follows men rather than the God they proclaim. (Envy, strife, and divisions are marks of Babes in Christ. What a shame it is when the grown members of a Church allow themselves to be led astray by spoiled Babies crying for their way!)

3. Walk as men- that is, they walk like the unsaved. (If some "Christians" didn't keep telling you they were saved- YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT!).

II. THE PASTORS 3:5-15

A) (vs 5) <Ministers (Servants) that God used.

B) (vs 6) Do different tasks but God does the Work.

C) (vs 7) 0+0 =0 GOD GIVES THE INCREASE.

D) vs 8) Have the same Goal and must answer to the same God!

E) (vs 9) Laborers together with God- WHAT A PRIVILEGE

F) (vs 10-15) Answerable to God for what is done- WHAT A RESPONSIBILITY

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Note in vs 12 that 3 of the works will stand the fire and three won't. Also note that stubble burns almost instantly, hay takes a little longer, and wood even longer- BUT THEY ALL BURN.

vs 14 and 15 talk about loss of Rewards and not of Salvation. (The Bible teaches that a saved person may deny the Faith and be lost but these verses are talking about Christians examining the works they are doing in the light of their being tried by God. Some may say, "Well, I don't care if I get a reward as long as I get to Heaven." HOW CAN ONE TRULY SAY HE LOVES GOD AND NOT WANT TO SERVE HIM?)

GUIDELINES FOR PASTORS, PARENTS, AND PEOPLE 3:16-4:-

WE ARE TO REMEMBER WE ARE:

I. SERVANTS 3:16-23

A) vs. 16-17 Working in GOD'S "Vineyard" - the Temple of God

1. Indwelt by the Holy Spirit
2. Defended by God

B) vs 18-20 Must use God's Methods- Wisdom of World foolishness with God.

C) vs 21-23 Must Work for God's Glory and not our own.

II. STEWARDS 4:1-7 "The Lowest Rower") A Steward owned nothing; he was a slave who managed his master's wealth.)

A) Must be Faithful. (The Books will be checked)

B) Must understand Judgment

1. Judgment of men- "Don't sweat"
2. Judgment of self- can't (You're too close to see)
3. Judgment of God- HE'S the one we'll answer to!

(Purpose of Stewardship: To please God. After all the tools we work with were given of God and not of self- vs 7.)

III. SPECTACLES 4:8-17

A) vs 8-13 Example of Sufferings. (You who claim to be so Spiritual- Where are your scars, and blisters??? Why do your enemies love you instead of hate you ???) NOTE what the apostles are considered- "the filth of the world, and the offscouring of all things- The trash and garbage of the world. Remember, Christ made himself of NO REPUTATION.

B) vs 14-17 Example in life (Though men call us fools for rejecting the world's wealth and way!)

1. You are my children in the Gospel
2. Follow my example- For I follow Christ.
3. Others will tell you how I live.

IV. SPANKER 4:18-21

A) vs 18 Rebellion was known

B) vs 19-20 Results were sought

C) vs 21 Repentance was urged

Note "Puffed Up" in 4:6, 18,19- Paul is actually saying, "Full of Hot Air!"

Note in 4:21 that the Actions of the Child determine the attitude of the Parent.

MANAGERS OF THE MYSTERY I Cor 4:1-5

(Preached 4-4-86 S C Conference. First FWB Florence) The first time I spoke to the S C Conference I spoke on "Who will come help me shovel manure?" from Proverbs- *Where no oxen are the crib is clean but much increase is by the strength of the ox.* The next time I talked about "Is your sword bloody?" from Jer 48:10 *Cursed is he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully (Half- hearted), and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.* Tonight I want to look at how to be a "Manager of the Mystery"

The word "steward" in vs 1 is the word we use for "Manager" or "Overseer". It is used to designate someone placed in a position of responsibility for someone else's goods. In this case he is said to be put in charge of handling the "Mysteries of God". (A "Mystery" in the New Testament is a Truth previously hidden that is now revealed by God. The main New Testament "Mystery" is the establishment of the Church as the body of Christ (Ep 3:9-10)). This "Manager" therefore, is charged with the responsibility of "seeing after" God's Church. According to these verses I think there are 2 main things a "Manager" must take into consideration 1) His Accountability and 2) His Judgment

I. His ACCOUNTABILITY is 2-fold: A) as the minister (servant) of Christ and B) as Stewards of the Mystery of God.

A) Servant of Christ- There has been a great deal of debate about the place of the Pastor in the Church in the past few years. Some place him beneath the feet of the members which is wrong. Others make him the head of the Church which is the position of Christ. I believe he is the "neck" of the Body. Not glamorous but very necessary. He LIFTS and SHOWS the Head, serves as a vital channel between the Head and the Body, and communicates for the body (The vocal cords are located in the neck. The sound originates there but it come out of the mouth!). Sadly, some Pastors seek to serve themselves or some special members instead of Christ.

B) Stewards of the Mystery of God- The first part involved what a man DID, this part involves what a man SAYS. Since we are talking about Pastors then this means he is accountable to God for his Sermons.(Hag 1:13 The LORD'S Messenger in the LORD'S message) (A good Sermon needs 3 vital ingredients: 1. Information 2. Inspiration and 3. Perspiration)

Sermons are normally about 4 different topics: (Not including "bike Safety"!)

1. Salvation- Rom 10:13-14 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?* After the person is saved then the preacher's message is 3 fold: I Cor 14:3 *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

2. Edification- To build up in the doctrines of God

3. Exhortation- Encourage to continue

4. Comfort- Enable to handle life's problems

II. HIS JUDGMENT

A) The basis of His judgment- His faithfulness

B) The "Bewares" of His judgment-

1. Don't allow other's judgment to sway you (Example of judging between Noah's and Jonah's ministry. One preached 1 day and saved a city; the other preached 120 years and saved only his family. But I like Noah's attitude better!)

2. Don't judge your own self- you'll see yourself as too good or too bad. Do YOUR job in YOUR PLACE and remember- II Cor 10:12 *For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves*

with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise

As a " Manager of the Mystery" are you able to give a good account of your Ministry? Do you know what you are to be judged for and how you are to be judged?

DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH 5:-

This Chapter deals with sin in the CHURCH. It involves Church Discipline. Principles of Personal Discipline are covered in Matt. 5:15-22 (You offended) and Matt. 18:21-26 (You were offended).

I. THE SIN vs 1-2

- A) Of the Member- Fornication with Step-mother vs 1
- B) Of the Church- Too "puffed up" to deal with the problem. vs 2 (Sin cannot be ignored! If the doctor says you have cancer, you may ignore it for awhile and go about your business but it'll find you out eventually.) SEE NOTE 1

II. THE SENTENCE vs 3-5

- A) The Sin was obvious enough to be sentenced without face to face meeting- "reported commonly" vs 3
- B) Judgment was not in the name of a man but in the Name of Christ. vs 4
- C) Deliver to Satan for destruction of flesh (for the purpose of) saving the soul. (in other words, Don't let this person think they can get by with sin. Make them realize that it must be dwelt with. YOU CANNOT TAKE GOD'S FORGIVENESS FOR GRANTED!!) SEE NOTES 2 & 3

III. THE SEPARATION vs 6-13

- A) If sin is not dealt with it infects the whole Church vs 5
- B) Dealing with Sin is never easy vs 7
- C) This does not mean we isolate ourselves from the world vs 9-10
- D) It does mean that THE CHURCH must purge out sin.

Note the sins listed:

Fornication- Sexual Sins

Covetous- Greed

Idolater- Worshippers of anything other than God.

Railers- Slanders, Gossips

Drunkard- Drunkards

Extortioners- Swindler, robber

- E) Don't worry about Judging the world-God will do that! Clean up your own back yard.

NOTES:

1. This was open, flagrant sin. The man had not been "overtaken in a fault" (Gal 6:1) but was doing a known sin, willfully.
2. This is not a case of "me judging you about what I THINK is right" but a matter of knowing it is wrong because GOD said so.
3. Delivering to Satan for the destruction of the flesh:
 - a. See I Cor 11:30 where many were weak and sickly and even died for not judging sin at the Lord's Table.
 - b. See I Tim 1:20 where Two put away faith and were delivered unto Satan to learn not to blaspheme

DISCIPLINE

I. THE PURPOSE OF DISCIPLINE

- A) To Preserve the honor of God's Name (God is a Holy God!)
- B) To assure the purity of the Church (Remember Achan's sin and it's result!)
- C) To Reclaim and Reconcile the offender. ("that the spirit may be saved" I Cor. 5:5) He evidently repented and is reclaimed in II Cor. 2:6-8)

Discipline is not supposed to be fun!!! It hurts the one giving it and the one getting it. It is never done to show how good one person is compared to another- it is to deal with sin and bring back into fellowship.

II. THE PLAN OF RECONCILIATION

A) If you are the Offender Matt 5:15-22

1. Get it taken care of before you approach God.
2. Do it quickly! Don't let it linger for even a night. It's serious! Deal with it immediately.

B) If you were Offended Matt. 18:21-26

1. Go to the offender privately and try to get it straight. (This is not just one time. Go until convinced you can do no more.)
2. Take others with you to reconcile the difference- not to stand with you against him. (They are witnesses of what the Bible has to say about your difference).
3. Bring it before the Church that they may make a Biblical decision. If he still will not be reconciled then the Church breaks fellowship with him (Excommunication).

Excommunication is not just for the sin committed but for refusing to repent of it. Its purpose is to cause the offender to see the seriousness of sin and repent.

III. POWER FOR DISCIPLINE Matt 18:18-20

- A) Power in Proclamation vs 18 To bind or loose
- B) Power in Prayer vs 19 (If we can agree God will give it to us- 'That's why it's so important that our fellowship is unbroken.)
- C) Power in Presence vs 20 (When we discipline someone in the Name of Christ, it's just like He was there doing it.

How often should my brother sin against me, and I forgive him???

"Until seventy times seven." (Matt. 18:21-22)

God has given unto us the ministry of reconciliation and we are ambassadors for Christ so forgiveness for us is a way of life. (II Corinthians 5:17-20)

AN UNHOLY CHURCH I Cor 5:6-7

I Cor 5:6-7 *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:*

I once asked someone where the best seafood in town was but I stopped eating there when several mice ran across the table as we were eating!!

I declined to eat at someone's home once because when I entered thru the kitchen the cat was on the stove sampling supper!!

I once advised my sister-in-law not to eat a sandwich because when she lifted it up I saw a roach hanging on the back side!!

One of the few times I was sick at sea I tried to calm my stomach with some coke from the coke machine but I got worst instead of better. The next day when they were cleaning the machine and found the container of coke syrup was full of roaches explained the problem.

In each of these cases, something that should have been good and beneficial had lost its value because of contamination. I want us today to see that this same thing has happened in the Church; and then I want us to remember that *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* I John 1:9.

We see this "trend" in the story of Jonah. God had to get the Prophet right before He could save a country! This same situation is facing America today. We are living in the age of the Lukewarm, non committed, ineffectual Church that is more interesting in Meeting than in mattering! In Society than in Salvation! If there is any hope for America it will be when the Church rediscovers its PURITY, its PURPOSE, and its PRIORITIES.

I. THE PURITY OF THE CHURCH- God's Command is still *Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you* (II Cor 6:17). We are IN the World but we must never be OF the World- It's alright for the boat to be in the water but we're in trouble when the water gets in the boat! We live in a day when it's impossible to tell the Church from the world in activities, attire, or affection:

A) Activities- Church people today do things and go places without a thought for testimony or moral pollution. It's almost a case of anything goes as long as the law doesn't catch me, forgetting that you'll answer to the LORD as well as the Law!

B) Attire- Bikini, hip hugger bathing suits are found on Church people today as often as on the world. Christians are "walking Bill-boards" (With messages on their clothes) for anything the world offers. God's command is Modest, practical attire to emphasize the man of the heart instead of the body of the person!

C) Affection- I John 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* I know God must be sick to His stomach with people who say they love Him but talk only about the world and make every excuse imaginable to keep from coming to God's house so they can go to the pigpens of the world! When you love someone or something you look for opportunities to be with them (You make a date, you go fishing or shopping, etc). When GOD is your FIRST LOVE then you seek ways to be WITH Him and Learn OF Him instead of seeking excuses to avoid Him.

A Natural Progression [WITHOUT FAIL] is that when you lose your Purity you lose your purpose- A dirty drinking glass is set aside until it is cleaned.

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH- Matt 28:19-20 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.* The Purpose of the Church can be described in 2 simple Principles:

It is to get people to:

- A) KNOW CHRIST as their personal Savior.
- B) SHOW CHRIST in their Changed life.

A Church in which people are not being Saved or are not being Developed as Christians is failing in its function and should either be Revived or Abandoned!!

The Reason the Church loses it's Purpose and it's Purity is because it forgets it's Priorities- A child dressed for Church thinks it's Purpose is to Play and Purity doesn't matter; until it learns Mother's Priorities!!

III. THE PRIORITIES OF THE CHURCH-

A) Love for God above all else-Rev 2:4 *I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.* When we love the Praises of Men, the Pleasures of the World, or the Pursuit of "Fun" more than God God has to stop working THROUGH us and start working ON us. One reason God is not doing more today is because His "tools" are dull so God has to spend His time sharpening His tools instead of clearing up new ground!

B) Light for a Sin Darkened World- Ye are the light of the world. The world is like a little kid in a room full of toys; every new flashy thing that comes along attracts his attention but when he gets in trouble he wants "Mommy". The world laughs at the Church a lot but it looks for its light when the skies grow dark. No matter how bright the light inside, if the "lamp shade" is covered with dirt the light can't get to a sin darkened world!!

Has God "put you on the shelf" because of impurity?? Come take a "bath" at the altar and become the person God intended you to be.

OWNERSHIP 6:1-20

I. AMONG THE BRETHREN 1-8

A) Christians should not go to court against their brother.

B) Saints shall judge: 1. the world 2. the angels. So surely they should be able to decide on smaller matters.

C) The least Saint would be a better judge than any lost man.

D) If Brother goes to Law against Brother they're both wrong! and bring reproach to the Church.

E) It is better to suffer wrong than to downgrade the work of Christ! (Remember- God keeps Records. Rom. 12:18-21)

(This is a continuation of the thought begun in Chapter 5 about Discipline in the Church. If the brothers have a problem and Bible guidelines are followed it would result in the problem being solved in the Church and not in the world. If the problem is not solved it would result in the Church breaking fellowship- Then if necessary the brother could go to Law for the excommunicated is considered a heathen).

II. OF THE BODY 9-14

A) THE PRINCIPLES 9-14

1. The Unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. (We used to be rotten sinners but now we're Children of God! And the price of all these things has been paid for by Christ. This means we have responsibility to live like Children of the King. Remember that Christ said we would know the tree by the fruit that it bore.)

2. All things are lawful but all are not expedient (Profitable) (It would be lawful for me to have hogs in my yard-but the land belongs to the Church and they wouldn't like me making a pig pen of the parsonage. And when it rained my neighbors surely wouldn't like the smell! Even so my "rights" do not overrule my responsibility to God who owns me nor to my neighbor who must live with me).

B) The Practice 15-20

1. What the Body does affect the Spirit. (Example is given of fornication in which 2 become 1. No matter what the world claims today, it is much more than a "physical" thing- it affects a person's inner being. Other good examples are habits like drink, drugs, laziness...)

2. God has bought our Body (I Cor 15:36-40) and Spirit. God Chose us, Christ paid for us, and the Holy Spirit indwells us. **BE CAREFUL HOW YOU TREAT GOD'S PROPERTY**

HELL SINS 1 Cor 6:9-11

Lest anyone think I am "Sending people to Hell" with my own prejudices or preferences I will simply use the List of "Hell Sins" that is given to us by God in His Word

1 Cor 6:9-11(KJV) *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

1 Cor 6:9-11 (NIV) Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Cor 6:9-11 (AMP) Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived (misled); neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, 10 Nor cheats - swindlers and thieves; nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God. 11 And such some of you were (once). But you were washed clean [purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin]; and you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed); and you were justified (pronounced righteous, by trust) in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the (Holy) Spirit of our God.

Gal 5:19-21 (KJV) *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Rev 21:7-8(KJV) *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Rev 21:7-8 (NIV) He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Rev 21:7-8 (AMP) 7 He who is victorious shall inherit all these things, and I will be God to him and he shall be My son. 8 But as for the cowards and the ignoble and the contemptible and the cravenly lacking in courage and the cowardly submissive; and as for the unbelieving and faithless; and as for the depraved and defiled with abominations; and as for murderers and the lewd and adulterous and the practicers of magic arts and the idolaters [those who give supreme devotion to any one or anything other than God] and all liars [those who knowingly convey untruth by word or deed, all of these shall have] their part in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone. This is the second death.

WHOSE BODY IS IT, ANYWAY?? 1 Cor 6:20

(1 Cor 6:20) *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.* The cry today from people of every generation is "This is my Body. I can do what I want with it.". They use that argument to justify abortions, dependence on drugs, watching or participating in sexual activity, and a host of other wrongs. The question we must answer is Just whose body is it anyway?

I. THE PRICE THAT WAS PAID FOR IT- "You are bought with a price"

The Cost of an Object Reveals its Value. In that case, you are the most valuable object every created because the greatest price possible was paid for you-(1 Pet 1:18-19) *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; {19} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

II. THE PERSON WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO- "Which are God's"

Ownership determines Obligations-Twice Paul tells us in this book that we are brought with a Price, here and (1 Cor 7:23) *Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.* Paul is asking us this tremendous question- Dare any of you, having been bought at the tremendous cost of the cross of Calvary, think that you can use your body for selfish pleasures instead of for God's Glory or as an instrument to please men instead of God?

God the Father Created our Body; God the Son redeemed our Body; and God the Holy Spirit indwells our body and makes it the temple of God. You are not your own. You don't have the right to do your own thing

III. THE PURPOSE WE MUST STRIVE FOR- "Glorify God in you your Body and in your Spirit". There are 3 main times in a person's life that show how our obligation to God must control our body:

A) Birth- Children are a Reward from God, not a penalty for a momentary pleasure. They were given to YOU to care for because God knew YOUR abilities. In Practical terms this means: No sex outside Marriage (See vs 16), No Abortions (Before I formed thee in the Belly I knew thee), No rejection of Children, etc.

B) Life- (Rom 12:1-2) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* This means you must be careful:

What you put IN your Body- Drugs, Drink, Food

What you put ON your Body- clothes, Tattoos

What you do WITH your Body- Sinful Actions

C) Death- Your Body is God's Property. God should determine when He is through with it -- Euthanasia, Suicide--When Job's Wife, in the midst of death and destruction, said "Curse God and Die". Job said she talked as a foolish woman. I know those Periods of Prolonged sickness cause us to long for relief for ourselves or our loved ones. Over and over, however, I have seen that Sickness and Sorrow many times speaks louder than Sermons. And regardless of your circumstances, you must have faith in the never failing Love of God.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING MARRIAGE 7:-

(Paul now begins to try to answer some of the questions that the Church had asked.)

I. THE SEX 1-5

- A) Good for man not to touch a woman
- B) To avoid temptation let every man have own wife
- C) Love and respect are due each partner
- D) Regularity is enjoined

II.A) The Gift of self control comes from God (Cp Matt 19:10-12)

- B) Celibacy is desirable
- C) Those not having gift of self control should marry

III. THE SEPARATION 10-16

- A) If possible stay with partner
- B) If separated-remain unmarried, attempt reconciliation
- C) If one partner leaves the other is not held responsible

IV. THE SERVICE 17-24

- A) Serve God where you're saved
- B) Remember real "Owner" is God

V. THE SPIRITUAL 25-40

- A) In persecution it is better to be single
- B) Still it's not a sin to marry
- C) Marriage tends to divide attention
- D) It is good to have no need of marriage

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What about "by permission: (vs 6) "I, not the Lord" (vs 12) and such like statements?" Far from disclaiming inspiration, the apostle associates his teaching with the Lord's. Cases had arisen, as the Gospel overflowed Jewish limitations, not comprehended in the words of Jesus which were an instruction, primarily, to Israel. These new conditions demanded authoritative settlement, and only the inspired words of an Apostle could give that" (Dr. Scofield)

It is well to remember that it was against the Law for Jews to marry Gentiles and a "mixed" marriage of this type was supposed to be annulled (Ezra 9:-10:-). This line of thought is what prompted this question.

CHRISTIAN AND SEX I Corinth 7:1-5

Sexual Innuendoes are used to market almost everything in society today. Divorce because of Sexual infidelity is becoming increasingly common even among Christians. We need to understand what God has to say about this important Subject

I. SEXUAL REQUIREMENTS-

A) Relationships- Prov 5:15-23 Never right outside of marriage

1. Two are needed- don't allow self abuse (Adam needed Eve for Fellowship, as a Help Mate, and to produce offspring. Animals, another man, and even God could not meet these requirements)

2. Love and not just Lust- Love seeks to serve another, Lust simply seeks self satisfaction.

Christians don't Use (or Abuse) others; they realize their responsibility to each other- I Cor 7:3-4 *Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.*

B) Regularity- I Cor 7:5 *Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency (The Sexual Relationship is not to Bribe or Bind but to Bless).*

II. SEXUAL REGULATIONS-

To disobey the rules brings:

A) Disgrace to God- I Cor 6:15-20 *Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. (vs 15)*

B) Dishonor- for you and for those around you *(But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away Prov 6:32-33).*

C) Disease- Prov 5:1-11 *And thou mourn as the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed. Prov 5:11 (VD, Aids, etc)*

D) Death- Prov 6:24-33 Her house (the Adulterous Woman) is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

III. SEXUAL RESPONSIBILITIES-

A) Aware of societies pressures to do wrong. Christians need to be constantly aware that the "World" is trying to mold us into its image instead of allowing us to be conformed to the image of Christ. It does so by trying to corrupt our minds, defile our bodies, and lead us into sin so that God has to cease His Work THRU us in order to work ON us to get us back into proper relationship.

B) Aware of need to teach. Paul commands the aged women to TEACH the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young people will (and should) learn about the requirements and responsibilities of being a sexual being.

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed Genesis 2:25. Christians can allow "Sex Education" to come in back alleys and thru humanistic school classes; or they can accept their responsibility to explain that God intended man to be sexual- a "Gift" that demands Discipline but has potential for great Delight; or tremendous Disaster.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING MEAT OFFERED TO IDOLS 8:-

I. THE PRINCIPLE vs 1-3

A) Knowledge Blows up- Love Builds up 1

B) The knowledge we have is not nearly as much as we are supposed to have.

C) Loving God we are Known to God (God does not judge us by knowledge but by our LOVING USE of that knowledge)

II. THE PRACTICE vs 4-8

A) We realize that idols are nothing and there is but one true God but...

B) Some have not this knowledge and to them it is SIN. (Cp Rom 14:22-23)

III. THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY vs 9-13

A) My liberty can become my brother's stumbling block:

1. By persuading a weak conscience to do wrong.
2. Thus leading him to sin.

B) My liberty/stumbling block then becomes sin against my brother and Christ.

C) IT IS BETTER TO FORSAKE A "RIGHT" THAN LEAD SOMEONE WRONG.

IS IT RIGHT??? Check by the rule of:

1. Expedience (I Cor 6:12) Is it profitable?
2. Enslavement (I Cor 6:12) Will it control?
3. Example (I Cor 8:9-10) Will it lead others wrong?
4. Edification (I Cor 10:23) Does it build up?

I Cor 10:31 *WHETHER THEREFORE YE EAT, OR DRINK, OR WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.*

QUESTIONABLE THINGS I Cor 8:- 10:23-33

Paul is now dealing with things that are not necessarily wrong but are viewed by different people in different ways. The immediate problem was meat offered to Idols. This sacrificial meat was sold at a cheaper price than normal meat and therefore many people used it. Some thought you were promoting Idolatry to do so. Paul discusses this problem and then gives us some principles that can help you decide what is right for a Christian.

I. THE PRIDE vs 1-3 (Consider your Attitude)

A) Knowledge BLOWS up- Love BUILDS up (and this is our Goal)

B) We know some but not nearly what we should know

C) God looks at our motive (One man plunges a knife into a man to kill him, another to cure him.

The difference is the loving use of knowledge). IS YOUR GOAL TO BUILD UP THE BODY? OR SELF??

II. THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY vs 4-8 (Consider your Brother's Knowledge)

A) We are saved by Grace through Faith and there is absolutely no work we can do to be saved or stay saved. Keeping the Law does not save or "unsave" me but in everyone there is not that knowledge. (Law's debt was completely paid in Christ's death. But remember that Faith without works is dead being alone. A real Faith produces works)

B) Howbeit in every man there is not that knowledge (vs 7) and whatsoever is not of Faith is sin (If I think it's sin then it is sin because to do it would be rebellion).

DO YOU HELP PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE?? OR DO YOU REJECT THEM BECAUSE THEY DON'T DO EXACTLY LIKE YOU??

III. THE PRACTICE vs 9-11 (Consider your Brother's Conscience)

A) My claiming my "Right" can lead another wrong (as an older Christian I'm setting an example). I must beware lest I lead someone to do what THEY think is wrong (Not simply dislikes [oysters] but anything that will cause them to stumble in the Way).

B) This is a SERIOUS Problem because we're talking about a person denouncing Faith and falling away from God! WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT- YOUR RIGHTS? OR YOUR BROTHER'S SOUL?

IV. THE PRINCIPLES vs 12-13 (Consider Christ)

A) Of Consideration- Regard for a Brother's welfare. (Liberty must be regulated by love and limited when there is a danger of hindering a Brother's spiritual progress). RIGHTS BRING RESPONSIBILITIES!! (I have the right to swing my fist but that right stops at your jaw!).

B) Of Conscience- I Cor 10:29 *Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other.* Rom 14:14 *I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean*

C) Of Consequences- vs 12 *When ye sin so against the Brethern, and wound their weak conscience, ye SIN AGAINST CHRIST*

HOW CAN I KNOW IT'S RIGHT? Check by the rule of:

Expedience- I Cor 6:12a Is it profitable to my spiritual life?

Enslavement- I Cor 6:12b Will it control me?

Example- I Cor 8:9-10 Will it lead others wrong?

Edification- I Cor 10:23 Does it build up me and the Church?

DECIDING QUESTIONABLE THINGS I Cor 8: I Cor 10:23-33 Rom 14:

Through the years these are some of the "Questionable Things" I have been asked about by Church Members. Some of them seem "trivial" now but in the climate of that day they were "real" issues that needed real answers.

1. Should a Christian Gamble? Play the Lottery? Raffle tickets to win rifles, cakes, etc.? (My rule of thumb is that if you pay money on the chance of winning something then that is gambling. It's alright to take a chance to win a reward but not if you pay- We give out candy bars to the winner of Bingo at Church sometimes. It would be gambling if the people paid to take the chance of winning the candy.)
2. What about Games which use Dice or playing cards?
3. Should a Christian attend Movies? own a VCR and rent movies? Pay for cable to receive movies?
4. Should a Christian eat in a restaurant that serves liquor? buy from a grocery store that sells liquor?

Here are some Guidelines to help you determine what to do:

1. Desire to Do what God Wants- not just what you want
2. Compare Scriptures- don't use just a portion of scripture out of context to justify what you want to do.
3. Pray for Wisdom
4. Heed the Holy Spirit's leadership- listen to His voice
5. Can you do it in the name of Jesus
6. Does it offend other Christians. [We're not talking about PREFERENCES but CONVICTIONS. (The Church busy body came up to the Preacher one time and said, "Your tie offends me". The Pastor reached for a pair of scissors and told the woman to cut off that that offended her. After she cut off his tie and handed back the scissors the pastor then looked at her and said, "Your tongue offends me!....."]

Check by:

1. The rule of Expedience- I Cor 6:12 *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient. Will it profit my Spiritual life?*
2. The Rule of Enslavement- I Cor 6:12b *All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Will it Control me?*
3. The Rule of Example- I Cor 8:9-10 *But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hath knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols. Will it lead others wrong?*
4. The Rule of Edification- I Cor 10:23 *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. Does it build up me and the Church?*

REMEMBER THIS: "THE VERY FACT THAT IT'S QUESTIONABLE MEANS YOU NEED TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION"

QUESTIONS CONCERNING MINISTERS I Cor 9:-

A Good Sermon needs: Meditation, Illustration, Application, and SOMEONE TO PRESENT IT.

How do you know if you're called to Preach?

I Cor 9:15 Desire God's Glory above all

16 You can't get away from Preaching

17 A burden is placed on you to preach

18 You realize your responsibility to lost humanity and you're willing to become a servant in order to get them saved.

I. THE MINISTER'S RIGHTS vs 1-11

A) They bring the Gospel

B) They have the right to be supported by the "harvest".

C) A giver of the Spiritual has a right to the natural.

II. THE MINISTER'S REJECTION vs 12-16

A) Lest the Gospel be hindered

B) Lest the glorying be void

1. The right was there

2. The rejection was because he HAD to preach because he was GOD'S SERVANT.

III. THE MINISTER'S REWARD vs 17-18

A) A dispensation of the Gospel

B) A discharge of the Gospel Responsibility.

IV. THE MINISTER'S READINESS vs 19-23

A) To serve- where God called

B) To sacrifice- as God asked

V. THE MINISTER'S RACE vs 24-27

A) One receives reward

B) Temperance is required

C) Responsibility brings restraint

Paul said a Pastor has the right to expect his flock to support him. Paul did not use this right lest the people say he was ministering for money.

RUNNERS INTO THE RACE I Cor 9:24-27

Paul had been giving some guidelines about questionable things in chapter 8 (Meat offered to idols. It was cheaper to buy but was it wrong to eat it?? Paul shows them their responsibility to God involved a responsibility to other people also). He now give himself and his rights as a minister as an example of giving up your rights for God's Glory. In doing this Paul gives the very heart of a minister and that's what I want us to see today; in the hopes that God will give someone here that same kind of heart.

I. WE NEED SOME RUNNERS vs 24

Ezek 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Matt 9:37-38 The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into the harvest.

John 4:35 Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. The harvest is perishing while multitudes lounge around the house discussing harvest methods!

II. WE NEED THEM TRAINED vs 25-26

A) vs 25 Give them Guidelines

1. Timothy- *II Tim 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. II Tim 2:2 The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful me, who shall be able to reach others also. vs 15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God.*

2. Joshua- *Ex 33:11 And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face; as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.*

3. Samuel- *I Sam 3:21 And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the Word of the Lord.*

B) Give them a Goal- vs 26 Point to Abundant Life in Christ. We proclaim a person, not a program. We are made all things to all men that we might by all means save some.

III. WE NEED THEM DEDICATED vs 27 Willing to make the needed sacrifices. It takes 12 years to dig a church out.

God is looking for Runners to enlist in the Race. Are you willing to join the ranks today??

HOW TO DESTROY EGO WITHOUT KILLING AMBITION I Cor 10:31-33

QUESTIONS:

1) What is your ambition while on earth? ME- To Know and Do the Will of God in every area of my life.

2) What is your Ambition as a Christian- Not seeking my own profit but the profit of many that they may be saved.

3) What is the Difference between a Servant and a Slave? Love instead of Obligation (*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him* (John 14:23).

Ego Puts Self First but Ambition seeks to be better in order to serve better. Have an Ambition that is guided by the Spirit

AMBITION IN NIV

Ambition to do what God called YOU to do: Rom 15:20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

Ambition that does not spotlight ME but the God I represent: 1 Th 4:11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you,

BEWARE OF SELF CENTERED AMBITION:

Guided by the Flesh: Gal 5:20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

Goal is putting yourself above others: Phil 1:17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. Phil 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Can lead to bitterness and boasting: James 3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

Can infect those around you: James 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

MISUSING CHRISTIAN LIBERTY I Cor. 10:-

INTRO.- Paul has been talking about Christian Liberty in the past few chapters. In chapter 8 he laid down some ground rules so that Liberty would be governed by Love. In chapter 9 he gave a personal example of how this worked. Now he's going to look at Liberty in relationship to the Lord.

I. THE EXPERIENCES vs 1-4 (Note All)

- A) Spiritual Guidance "under the cloud" The cloud told them where to go and when to go. Ps. 16:11 He will show me the Path of Life. (Do you know God's guidance?). YOU CAN FOLLOW GOD
- B) Safety "Passed thru Sea: It looked as if God's Guidance had led them into a trap but it turned out that God's people were delivered and the enemy destroyed. YOU CAN TRUST GOD!!!
- C) Substance "eat the same spiritual meat" Manna from Heaven-"Angel food". (Christ the Bread of Life). YOU CAN DEPEND ON GOD
- D) Satisfaction "drank of that spiritual Rock" (Christ) In a dry and thirsty land they found the water of life! YOU WILL FIND SATISFACTION IN GOD

With all of these Blessings and Benefits you would think that everything would have been great "But with many of them God was not well pleased: (vs 5). Notice that everything was a Gift given by God for their Pleasure and Profit. The Problem was that they abused what God gave them - Liberty became License and they that thought they stood fell-- thus becoming our:

II. EXAMPLES vs 5-12 So we should not:

- A) Lust after evil things- See Ps 78:32-33. Do you waste your life chasing "bubbles: that burst if touched? They were not satisfied with what God gave! Are YOU???
- B) Be idolaters - See Ps 78:34-37 The Golden Calf was built because Moses was gone 40 days! The Just shall live by Faith- and Faith that is seen is not Faith. Do you have to have "Something: to lean on other than God??
- C) Commit fornication - See Ps 78:38-40 They joined with Evil. Baalem could not curse the People so He compromised them. The Word Fornicate comes from the Base Greek word-"To Sell". Are you selling your soul for the fellowship of the world? "What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"
- D) Tempt Christ- See Ps 78:41 "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." Sin causes the Holy Spirit to cease His work thru us and turn to working with us to get us to repent and renew fellowship. All this time we limit God's Work because He can't use us until fellowship is restored. Satan during this time is crying for God to give us what we deserve and destroy us.
What did Christ do with this temptation? "*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life*" (Jn 3:14-15) Look and Live!!! Do you tempt God to destroy you thru allowing sin to remain in your life?? If we confess it he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- E) Murmur - See Ps 78:42 They talked against God because He in Love had disciplined them. They forgot all His goodness. Do you expect God to always give you Sunshine and become Rebellious in the Rain???

All of this was written for our admonition. It is necessary that we examine our lives in relation to our liberty and constantly be on guard.

III. THE EXAMINING vs 13-22

- A) The Confidence - Not is self but in GOD'S provision. (A way to escape is always provided. Liberty means walking out of a "cell" before the door closes.)

B) The commonness - If bread and wine represent body and blood of Christ then things offered to Idols have a meaning. "*Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth*" (Rom 14:22)

C) The Cup- Cannot drink the Lord's and Devil's. WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON??

IV. THE EDIFYING vs 23-33

A) Seek no trouble

B) Shun known sin

C) Serve to save

Paul shows in this chapter that Christian Liberty must not be abused. Thru the Experiences of the Israelites he shows that all had an equal beginning but by the Examples he shows that many abused their liberty. Instead of examining themselves and seeking to Edify the brethren they sought only what pleased self. Christians should read this chapter OFTEN and BEWARE LEST YE FALL.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING MISCONDUCT IN THE LORD'S HOUSE I Cor 11:-

INTRO- Paul is dealing with the ordinances in Chapter 11 (vs 1-2) but before he tells about the ordinances he deals with several problems that stem from the failure to submit to God's Authority. For this reason the Fellowship Supper had become a "Fraction-ship" Supper and the real meaning of the ordinance was lost.

I. THE CUSTOMS VS 1-16

A) Based on Law

1. God's line of Authority: God-Christ-Man-Woman
2. God and Christ were equal but Christ became submissive to God to satisfy the law.
3. Man and woman are equal but woman becomes submissive to man because of the disorder

of sin.

B) Bears on looks

Custom says woman must wear a covering to show her submission to man. Likewise man must not wear a covering for to do so dishonors his Head (Christ). (One of the silliest rules in the Navy says that you have to wear a hat when you're outdoors. its main purpose is to teach you to submit to authority.) (vs 14,15 in Amplified Bible) "Does not (experience, common sense, reason, and) the native sense of propriety itself teach you that for a man to wear long hair is a dishonor (Humiliating and degrading.)to him, But if a woman has long hair, it is her ornament and glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering."

II. THE COMMUNION

A) The Division vs 17-34 Do we tend to "Group"? "I praise you not"

B) The Directions vs 23-34

1. The Symbols given by Christ

Bread-broken body

Cup- Blood of New Testament

Each time we have communion we shew the Lord's death til he come

2. The Searching

- a. A Backward Look vs 24-25 at what Christ has done.
- b. A Forward Look vs 26 to His coming
- c. An Inward Look vs 28 at how we're serving.

Paul in this chapter shows that misconduct breeds misconduct. He begins by showing how a "small" infraction in dress leads to a greater infraction in personal relations and finally in Church conduct. "Little matches start big fires!!"

NOTES: There are 3 Ordinances- Baptism, Communion, & Feet Washing.

Covering- Some consider this to be a hat. This is why a woman wears a hat in Church and a man doesn't. I don't think it's a hat for Paul talks of hair. Consider This. Women began cutting their hair with the advent of Women's lib. And boys began allowing their hair to grow along with the publicity of homosexuals. Do you do things because that's what God wants or what you want??

REMEMBERING UNTIL HE COMES 1Cor 11:17-34

Paul has been answering a number of questions the Corinthian Church had asked him- dealing with sin in the Church, marriage among Saints, the dedication of Ministers, and handling questionable things. Now he exposes some guidelines for authority before dealing with problems in the Church- About the Lord's Supper, about Differences in the Body, about Speaking in Tongues, about the Resurrection, and about Church offerings.

When he begins dealing with Problems it's interesting to notice that he feels the problem at the Lord's Table is the one he should deal with first. Doesn't that show a little about Paul's priorities; most people would have put the money problem first and the Lord's Table last but not Paul, he placed out attitude above our offerings. Do you ever think it's alright to "give the Lord a dollar" and hold on to your wrong feelings??

When Paul talks about this MEMORIAL that we do until the Lord Returns He uses 2 main emphasis: The Errors we expose and the Image we Present. Those are areas Christians must constantly be aware of.

I. TO EXPOSE THE WRONG 17-22

A) Wrong Doctrine 17-19 A NECESSARY part of Christian life; it is the wrong that allows us to confirm the right! When you know the truth you aren't afraid of the wrong.

B) Wrong Attitude 20-22 The Lord's Table is not a place of Pride or Party.

II. TO REMEMBER THE LORD 23-34

A) The Ceremony 22-26

B) The Conditions 27-32

1. Examination- Your MOTIVES not your works

a. Your motives

b. Your Problems

(a) Judgment

(b) Chastisement

2. Consideration 33-34 of others.

GIFTS I Cor. 12:-

INTRO- Christ's Resurrection was the answer to man's hopelessness and in the same way He had an answer to man's helplessness when He went away to be at the Father's right hand to mediate for us. He said He would not leave us comfortless. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and to be in us. Christ has a plan for what and how the Church should operate and the Holy Spirit is working that plan in the lives of believers. He does this thru Gifts that He gives to various members of the Body as He sees need.

I. vs 1-3 EVERY CHRISTIAN IS INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN THEY'RE SAVED. (See Rom 8:9 and I John 4:2-4)

II. vs 4-11 EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS A GIFT GIVEN ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF THE SPIRIT. (Given to profit all ! vs 7)

III. vs 12-27 EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A PART OF THE BODY AND EVERY PART NEEDS THE REST. (Rom 12:4-5)

IV. vs 28-31 EVERY CHRISTIAN DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME GIFT.

NOTE;

1. Do not belittle yourself vs 15-17

2. Do not belittle others. vs 20-24 (No member can say, "I have no need of you.")

3. Acknowledge God's appointment and oversight vs 18, 24

4. Be concerned and cooperative vs 25-26 (That there be no schism in the body.)

HOW TO FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE BODY. Rom 12:1-6

1. EVALUATION (Discover) vs 3 What are you??? Don't think too high or too low of yourself. (Example: I am a "neck". You may be a "hand" - or a "toenail"!!)

2. Coordination (Develop) vs 4,5 What is your place in the body?? Realize others depend on you and you depend on others- what good is an elbow without an arm, or an arm without an elbow?

(Example: As the "neck" my job is to left up the Head and be the bridge between the body and the Head.)

3. Participation (Deploy) vs 6 Are you operating?? Or is your part of the Body "crippled" because you aren't working? (Example: If something "chokes" the neck all of the body suffers.)

4. Dedication vs 1, 2 Are you submitted to your place??? (Necks are NOT very glamorous- we try to hide them with neckties and necklaces- and a "neck" would look pretty silly trying to lift a fork or wear shoes!!)

Where do you Fit?

EAR- Listen to others, ear for music,

FOOT- transport

HAND-work

EYE- Guide, Vision

NOSE- Discern

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Christianity is a wonderful life when you find your place and do your job. It is a misery when you have an empty place in your heart where you have either left God out or tried to put a "square peg into a round hole".

A Gift is a Spirit given ability for Christian Services [*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; [if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 4:11)].*

The Holy Spirit gives gifts to men for service. Christ gives gifted men to the church in order to build His Body. God the Father controls the working of the Gifts and the gifted.

Talents have to do with techniques and methods; gifts have to do with spiritual abilities. Talents instruct, inspire, or entertain on a natural level. Gifts relate to birthing or building up believers [Example of Performer versus Pastor reading the 23rd Psalm. One knew the Psalm, the other knew the Shepherd!].

God may use or magnify talents in the use of gifts but there will be a supernatural power available on the gift that is not present in the talent.

Spiritual Gifts are a "God Thing" administered in different ways by a Triune God in order to accomplish HIS Plan for HIS Work: I Pet 4:10 *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* A ministry is not a gift, but an outlet for employment of a gift: teaching a class, Bible Study, Children's Ministry.

Spiritual Gifts are Supernatural abilities given by the Holy Spirit for specific Christian Service (Not natural talents or attitudes, nor a place of service, and not a method of service- Cutting the Church grass in your own unique way is a service; the gift is the gift of helps).

Gifts have to do with service (Given from without); Fruit with character or converts (Developed from within).

Do not confuse:

1. THE Spiritual Gift- The Holy Spirit which ALL receive at Salvation. [*Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his (Romans 8:9)].*

2. Spiritual Gifts- Ministries to the Church through the Spirit (Not just natural abilities or talents)
There are 4 "lists" of Spiritual Gifts: Rom 12:3-8; I Cor 12:8-10, 28-31; Ep 4:7-16

3. Spiritual Offices- Positions of trust in the Local Church as in I Pet 4:10; I Cor 12:28; Rom 12:4.

4. Spiritual Graces- Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23; I Cor 13:4-7). Every Christian has the Spirit and as least one Spiritual Gift (12:7). Not all Christians have Spiritual Offices but all Christians should manifest the graces of the Spirit (Christian Conduct).

!. Spiritual Gifts are Supernatural Abilities given by God for His work (Not our glorification):

1. Apostleship- to show God's plan while the Bible was being completed (Must have seen the resurrected Christ Acts 1:- 1Cor 9:1)
2. Prophecy- to receive and transmit a revelation from God, especially concerning the future.
3. Miracles- to perform events outside and beyond the realm of nature. 3 periods of outstanding miracles:
 - a. time of Moses and Joshua
 - b. Time of Elijah and Elisha
 - c. Time of Christ and Apostles
4. Healing- to cure human ills, whether physical, mental, or demonic (God's present plan of healing is found in Ja 5:14-16)
5. Knowledge- to discern the Word of God (See I Cor 2:12-16)
6. Tongues- to speak other languages

7. Interpretation of tongues- to translate and clarify message spoken in other languages
8. Wisdom- to APPLY rightful Human and Divine Knowledge
9. Spiritual Discernment: To distinguish between demonic, human and Divine works.
10. Giving- to accumulate and give large sums of money to God's Glory
11. Exhortation- to deliver challenging words
12. Helps- to render practical help in both physical and spiritual matter·
13. Mercy Showing- to minister to the sick and afflicted
14. Ruling (Administration)- to organize, administer, and promote either people or projects.
15. Faith- 3 kinds of faith
 - a. Saving Faith- given to all repenting sinners
 - b. Sanctifying Faith- available to all believers
 - c. Stewardship Faith- This is the Gift of Supernatural Ability to believe and expect great things from God
16. Teaching- to communicate and clarify the details of Word of God
17. Evangelism- to point sinners to Christ and to burden Christians about soul winning (ALL Christians are witnesses)
18. Pastor/Teacher- to preach and teach, the Word of God and to feed and lead the flock of God. (All Pastors are called to Teach, but all Teachers are not called to Pastor!)

II. **SERVICE** Gifts of God for the WORK OF GOD: All Service Gifts are chosen by God and not earned by Man's Ability or Efforts- Acts 8:20 *But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.* 1 Cor 12:11 *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

A) Various Gifts-1 Cor 7:7 *For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.*

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:6-21).

B) Special Gifts- 2 Tim 1:6 *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.* Called to the Ministry, to Missions, to Serve. A place for everyone and everyone in his place.

1) Find what God has put in your heart and let it out. There is no greater joy than finding God's path for your life and then walking that path. Funny example: The reason I know the Mormons are a cult

is because they put me in their choir and told me I was a good singer. Anyone who will lie about that cannot be trusted in other areas!

2) Do not try to be what God has not gifted you to be - When a soldier goes to war he must be:

- 1) Fed- Cooks, Pie ministry, Home bound, etc.
- 2) Supplied- SS Superintendent gets literature, Deacons prepare Communion, etc.
- 3) Paid- Ushers, Treasurers
- 4) Doctored- Counselors, listeners, etc.
- 5) Assigned- Organizers, Office workers
- 6) Instructed- Teachers, Speakers
- 7) Communicated with- Secretaries, Phone workers, Letter writers, etc.

THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD 1Cor 13:-

What is the greatest thing in the World?? Paul (I Cor 13:13); Peter (I Pet 4:8); and John (I John 2:8) all say LOVE. James calls Love the ROYAL LAW (James 2:8) and Paul says Love fulfills the Law (Rom 13:10). It was Love that brought Christ to the Cross and allows us to come to God (John 3:16). We should learn about and practice, Love; for Love is of God and God is Love.

I. LOVE CONTRASTED vs 1-3 (Love is the "cement" that binds all other Spiritual gifts together. Love is needed to make them operative).

Paul Contrasts Love against:

A) Special Speech- Eloquence. Though I have the tongues of men or angels, they are a sounding brass or tinkling cymbal without love.

B) Special Gifts- Prophecy (Preaching), Wisdom (understand all mysteries), Knowledge (have all knowledge), and Faith (to move mountains) are all NOTHING without Love.

C) Special Deeds-

of Charity: give all my goods to feed the poor.

of Sacrifice: Give my body to be burned.

Without Love it does not Profit anything- Actions cannot overcome Attitudes [Notice that all Bible Epistles begin with Doctrine (Attitude) and then go to Deeds (Actions)].

II. LOVE DEFINED vs 4-7 Love is:

A) Patient- Suffers Long

B) Kind- Considerate

C) Not Envious- Not Covetous

D) Humble- Does not Push its self-up or Puff it's self-up.

E) Courteous- Does not behave in an unseemly manner.

F) Unselfish- Seeketh not its own only

G) Good Temper- is not easily provoked

H) Pure- Thinketh no evil

I) Sincere- Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth

J) Stable- Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

III. LOVE DEFENDED It never Fails (ceases) vs 8-13

A) Prophecies, tongues, and knowledge all pass away

B) Love is a sign of maturity

C) Love will stand the test of time

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE LOVE?

1. Allow the Holy Spirit to Guide and Control your life- Rom 5:5 *Love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

2. Realizing Whose you are and What He has done for you- I John 4:19 *We love him because He first loved us.* "Romantic" Love comes from shadows in the moonlight; REAL LOVE come in the brightness of light that allows you to see faults as well as "fancies" and still loves for WHO the Person is and WHAT the Person does.

The Greatness of Love is that the more you give the more you receive!

SPEAKING IN TONGUES I Cor 14:

I. What is "Speaking in Tongues"?

- A) One view- Unlearned foreign languages (Acts 2)
- B) Another View- Nonhuman (Angelic?) ecstatic utterances I Cor 13:1

II. WHAT WAS THEIR PURPOSE?

A) Negative

- 1. Not for Church edification 14:4, 19
- 2. Not to demonstrate Spirit Baptism I Cor 12

B) Positive

- 1. To Validate the Authority of the Apostles and early Christians to the Jews.
- 2. To demonstrate God's Judgment upon unbelieving Israel Is 28:11
- 3. To serve as a sign to seeking individual Jews
- 4. To impart new truths prior to the completion of the New Testament. (Before the Bible was completed some sign was necessary to know that the message really came from God.).

III. WHAT WERE THE RULES FOR THEIR USE??

- 1. Speaking in tongues helps no Christian in the Church 14:3, 4 (Must be heard and distinctly understood 14:7)
- 2. Speaking in known tongues helps all 14:3,4
- 3. Paul says that preaching was 2000 times to be preferred over tongues 14:19
- 4. Unanimous tongues speaking was forbidden 14:23
- 5. Preaching, not tongues, is God's method of saving the lost 14:24
- 6 Tongues speaking was to be limited in number, with each to speak in turn 14:27
- 7. Women were absolutely forbidden to speak in tongues 14:34 8. All things in God's house are to be done decently and in order 14:40

1. Tongues are not a gift to everyone I Cor 12:29-30

2. Tongues speaking must be limited to 2 or 3 and that only if an interpreter is present to explain to everyone else what is being said. The Spirit of the Prophets are subject to the Prophet- therefore if a person is "carried away" so that they must speak contrary to God's rules then they don't have GOD'S GIFT.

3. Tongues speaking is not to be sought (I Cor 14:2-5; 39). Paul says Preaching is what you should seek and tongues speaking is merely tolerated if all the rules are obeyed.

The modern Charismatic movement stresses tongues as a sign of "Super Saints". Their language is gibberish, their lives are unholy (A man can act in an "R" rated movie one day and speak in tongues the next!! Many tongue speakers remain part of denominations that deny the Bible! etc...), and their main theme is EMOTIONAL HIGHS that uplift Self over the Savior.

The Greatest Event in World History- THE RESURRECTION I Cor 15:-

The Birth, Life, Teachings, and even the Cross of Christ mean nothing without the Resurrection (vs 14). The Resurrection is God's way of saying our sin debt is "Paid in Full" and now we have the victory over death, hell, and the grave.

Jesus was the first to be Resurrected from the dead- others have been brought back to life: Lazarus, widow of Nain's son, Jarius' daughter, etc; but all of these had to die again. Jesus died, received a resurrection body and can not die again (Christians will receive their resurrection body at His return- I Thess 4:13-18). Baptism is a symbol to the world of our belief in the Resurrection of Christ- Rom 6:3-6.

I. THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL 1-19 Without the Resurrection we Have: (Note. Vain means "Void of Value" Worthless)

A) Vain Belief (Vs 2). Unless Christ died for our sins and was resurrected; thus proving He was accepted of God (Rom 4:25).

B) Vain Grace (vs 10). Unless it leads to action. (see vs 58 where your Labor is not in Vain)

C) Vain Preaching (vs 14). If the most important part of the message is false.

D) Vain Faith (vs 14, 17). We are still in sin and without hope if Christ is not risen.

II. THE HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE 20-34

A) All Die (vs 20-22). But death is not the end!!

B) God's Plans are at work (vs 23-28). We don't see the Resurrection Results now BUT WE WILL!

C) All our work is based on life beyond this one (vs 29-34). If there is no Resurrection then there is no Judgment- Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die.

III. THE HEAVENLY BODY DIFFERENT FROM THE EARTHLY 35-50

A) Must die to live 35-36 Remember that!

B) Resurrection Body is different from earthly body 37-45 (How different the stalk is from the grain of corn. How marvelous will be the Resurrection Body--sown in dishonor, raised in Glory!).

C) The Natural body is first, then the Spiritual 46-47

D) We'll bear the image of the Heavenly as we do the earthly 48-50

IV. THE HOPE OF THE CHRISTIAN 51-58

A) The Rapture 51-54 In the twinkling of an eye

B) The Rejoicing 55-57 O Death, where is thy sting

C) The Reason for steadfast work 58 Labor is not in vain in the Lord.

I Cor 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY I Cor 16:13-14

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Whatever you think, both in joy and in woe,
Think nothing you would not want Jesus to Know.

Whatever you say in a whisper or clear,
Say nothing you would not want Jesus to hear.

Whatever you sing in the midst of your glee,
Sing nothing God's listening ear would displease.

Whatever you write with haste or with heed,
Write nothing you would not want Jesus to read.

Whatever you read, though the page may allure,
Read nothing, unless you are perfectly sure

Consternation would not be seen in your look,
If Christ should say, solemnly, "Show me the book."

Wherever you go, never go where you would fear
God's question being asked you,
"What doest thou here?"

Paul gives the Corinthians 5 basis Principles to Live by which will be a big help to us also.

I. KEEP ALERT Watch ye

- A) Watch out for "dirt that defiles" you as a Christian
- B) Watch out for the Lord's return- could be today

II. BE ESTABLISHED IN YOUR FAITH Stand fast in the Faith

A) Know it your SELF- I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day II Tim 1:12

B) SHARE it with Others- Be ready always to give an answer to every man a reason of the hope that is in you.

III. HAVE PERSERVERANCE Quit ye like men Stick to it!!

- A) Patience Plant and wait on God's time
- B) Keep on keeping on

IV. CONTINUE TO GROW STRONGER Be Strong Be being strong

A) Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Christ- He saved you, now learn of Him

B) Press toward the mark for the high calling of God in Christ- Have a goal and push toward it.

V. LET LOVE REGULATE- Let all things be done with charity

A) Can't love God and not love your brother [concern]

B) Love as God loved you. [forgiving]

OPEN DOORS I Cor 16:9

I Cor 16:9 *For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.*

II Cor 2:12-13 *Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened; unto me of the Lord, I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia. Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and has not denied my name.*

Rev 3:20 *Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

John 10:9 *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

I. THE DOOR OF SERVICE- Do you want to serve God but don't know where or how? How do you recognize an open door??

1. You will get a new view of an old situation- Isaiah saw God
2. You will now view things in this different Perspective
 - a. You will understand what needs to be done (light bulb over head)
 - b. You will have singleness of purpose- see things this way
3. You will feel compelled to do something about the situation- from Criticism to Correction
4. Once you begin the task will be easier- (Take first step of Faith) It is easier to direct a moving object
5. You will begin to defend your point of view and seek to show it to others- Become a Witness
6. You will produce spiritual fruit (Not for Display but to eat!)
 - a. Get your facts Straight
 - b. Give them away
 - c. Give them a chance to grow.
7. You will feel God's help- Partnership
8. The Door may not stay open forever- Rev 3:7 Open and no man closes; close and no man opens.
9. One door often leads to another door
10. Prayer opens doors- Peter delivered from Prison.

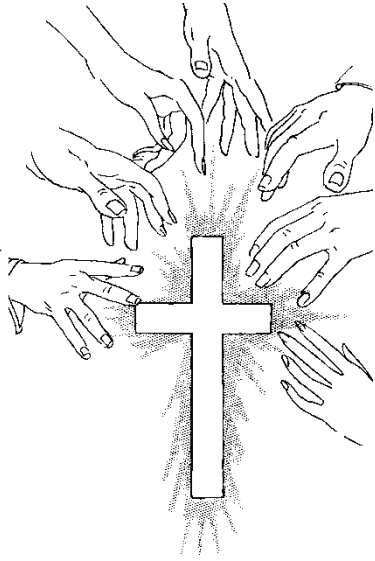
ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

1. The most pressing Spiritual Need in our world is-
2. The most exciting thing God could do for my community is-
3. My Church would be much more effective if-
4. I long to see God work this miracle in my family-
5. I feel a burden that won't go away for-

II. DOOR OF SALVATION

1. Jesus is "Knocking" at your door today, asking to be invited in. He will not force his way in but He knows the hunger of your heart and he "lets the smell of His `supper' come under the door"
2. Open to whosoever will escape God's wrath-- but one day will be closed by God and the storms will come; destroying everyone who's not in the "ark".
3. Jesus is the only door into safety; accept Him today.

IS THERE A DOOR OF SERVICE YOU SHOULD WALK THRU?? HAVE YOU ENTERED THE DOOR OF SALVATION???



The most important decision you will ever make is your decision about receiving Christ as your Savior. It's the most important decision you'll ever make because:

1> It's an **ETERNAL DECISION**- Heb 9:15 *for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

1 John 5:13 *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

The decision you make about Christ will effect you NOW and for ETERNITY. This is not something to be treated lightly or put off until a later time.

2> It's a **NECESSARY DECISION**- Heb 9:27 *it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:.* Every person MAKES A DECISION about Christ- Either to Accept Him as Savior or reject Him and be lost. EVERY man must Die, EVERY man must face the Judgment. Only the Blood of Christ can deliver us from Condemnation.

WHO SHOULD BE SAVED: ROM 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
ROM 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

WHY YOU SHOULD BE SAVED: ROM 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* ROM 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

WHEN TO BE SAVED: ROM 5:8 *God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

THE WAY TO BE SAVED: ROM 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

HOW TO LIVE AFTER YOU ARE SAVED:

ROM 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Have you Accepted Christ as Savior?

If you need help or follow up booklets then contact--

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