

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 4

14 July 2017

REVIEW

WHAT THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS HAD

1. **Sanctification** (vs. 2).
 - separated FROM SIN. "IN CHRIST JESUS."
2. **God's grace** (Vss. 3-4).
 - They were ongoing recipients of grace.
3. **Rich in all utterance and all knowledge** (vs. 5).
 - Able to speak as God's representative.
 - Having knowledge of things that most men don't know
4. **They are gifted by God** (vs. 7).
 - Supernaturally enabled to serve God.
5. **Confirmed blameless unto the end** (vs. 8).
 - Preservation: God saved them. God will keep them.

Right fellowship with Jesus Christ will result in right fellowship with our brothers and sisters (vs. 9). If you refuse to walk under the control of the Lord Jesus Christ, your Christian life will be full of problems.

CHRIST-CENTERED LIVES

In verses 1-10 Jesus Christ is named ten times. Where Jesus Christ is central all is glorious and right.

- Results in strong marriages, strong churches, godly children, good testimonies.
- Keep your eyes on Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:2-3, 9:28, Philippians 3:20, Titus 2:13) and you won't mess up your life.

SELF-CENTERED LIVES

Things go wrong when "I" becomes our focus instead of "Christ" (verses 12-19 mention "I" 12 times).

- Results in ruined marriages, ruined churches, ruined children, and ruined testimonies.

DOCTRINAL CONTENT IN CHAPTER ONE

The Pentecostal "Oneness Doctrine:" The false doctrine that God the Father is Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ; there is only Jesus Christ.

The Bible describes a triune Godhead: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (1 John 5:7). Δ

- Note: you won't find this verse in new bibles because modern bibles have been corrupted by man in an attempt to remove the evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians chapter 1 shows that Jesus and God the Father are two separate members of the Godhead.

Verse 1: "Paul...and Sosthenes, our brother" (two different men).

Verse 2: "Both theirs and ours" (two different groups of people).

Verse 14: "Crispus and Gaius" (2 people).

Verse 24: "both Jews and Greeks" (2 different races).

Verse 3: "God our Father and...the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 members of one Godhead). Oneness doctrine refuted.

THE TESTIMONY “OF” CHRIST (Vs. 6)

- Christians testify “for” Christ: we stand up for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Christians testify “about” Christ: we tell people all about Him.
- These two testimonies will be powerless if we are not living the testimony “OF” Christ.
 - Am I standing as Jesus Christ would stand?
 - Am I speaking as Jesus Christ would speak?
 - Does my life bear the testimony “of” Jesus Christ or have I lived a shameful life?
 - Would anybody trust my words, based upon my way of living?
 - Your vast Bible knowledge will be silenced by a wicked lifestyle.
 - A backslidden Christian has no credibility as a voice for biblical truth.
 - A godly Christian will be sought after by those who hit bottom.

The testimony “of” Jesus Christ enabled Paul to say kind words to the Corinthians and pray that God would bless them—even though his letter was going to rebuke them.

- That kind of heart enables a Christian to reach the lost.
- That kind of heart enables a Christian to help straighten out an erring brother or sister in the Lord.
- That kind of heart enables a Christian to love his enemies (Matthew 26:50).

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRAYER REQUEST AND GOSSIP (Vs. 11).

In verse eleven, the house of Chloe reported to Paul that there were problems in the Church at Corinth.

When is it right to expose the sins of your brethren to a church leader?

- When you’re willing to be publicly exposed as the informant.
- When you know the revealing of a thing to the entire local body of believers will promote unity and fellowship in the church and not division.

CHOOSING SIDES (Vs. 12) / NOT PERFECTLY JOINED AND OF THE SAME MIND (Vs. 10)

“I am of Christ.” This speaks of someone who thinks too highly of themselves so they refuse to associate with the sinners in the church. This person stays home and claims to “fellowship” with Jesus alone. This is an unbiblical division.

- Jesus Christ made all believers one in Him. A severed member of the body is useless.

“I am of Paul.” This person claims to only follow the teachings of Paul, but Paul is the one who commanded that there be no divisions in the body. This division will cause you to hate the brethren who aren’t like you.

“I am of Apollos.” This is the intellectual who doesn’t want to fellowship with the common people. They separate themselves from the brethren and occupy all their time with Bible study, but fail to learn anything.

“I am of Cephas.” This person dislikes anyone who doesn’t go to the same church as they do. They are faithful to their denomination, but not to Christ and His word. It is unbiblical to dislike or to mistreat believers who don’t have the same label as you.
