

Sermon Notes – April 22, 2018

Review

- ⇒ In chapter 10 we heard a warning to be careful about what we worship. One reason is that “we become like what we worship.” False gods *can’t* deliver on what they promise, including modern-day idols like money and possessions...they *can’t* deliver the happiness they promise.
- ⇒ In last week’s text we saw Paul present the Lord’s Supper (aka – “communion”) as an illustration that the gospel is God’s answer both to our sin problem, AND to cultural divisions.

Today’s Text: I Corinthians 12:1-11

Chapters 12-14 form a unit that continues the theme of a proper understanding of worship in the church community. Of specific emphasis is the use and abuse of what we often call “Spiritual Gifts.” Interestingly, most of the questions that we bring to the text are not Paul’s primary emphasis. To a church family full of divisions and rivalry, Paul’s big concern is the unity of the body of Christ, all under the Lordship of Christ.

The Starting Place: “Jesus is Lord!” (1-3)

- ⇒ “I do not want you to be ignorant” is a phrase Paul uses often, kind of like saying, “Hey, listen up. I’ve got something important to say on this topic.”
- ⇒ The phrase “Jesus is Lord” is “*a politically loaded affirmation in the context of the Roman Empire, where the title is expected to be attributed to Caesar...*” (Ciampa).
- ⇒ When the Holy Spirit is truly at work, Christ is _____. See John 15:26 & 16:14 – “He will glorify Me.” This is a big deal!

Let’s Talk About “Spiritual Gifts” (4-11)

- ⇒ A Definition: *Spiritual Gifts are abilities given by the Holy Spirit to each child of God to _____ the body of Christ and to point people to Him.*
- ⇒ Spiritual Gifts as defined in Scripture are not “_____” – though God may use a natural talent for a spiritual purpose.

- ⇒ Despite what you read, there is no _____ of all the Spiritual Gifts. Paul never seems to focus on a specific number or definition in the way we’d like him to.
- ⇒ A specific Spiritual Gift may be used in a variety of different ways. The gift of wisdom, for example, could be reflected in teaching, or in counseling, or over coffee. (4-5)
- ⇒ God works in different ways in different people, all “for the common good,” and HE makes the _____ about how each child of God is gifted for ministry (11). In Corinth, as a divided church, that means that rich and poor, social elites and slaves, are ALL an essential part of the body.

Some Important Reminders:

- ⇒ Giftedness does not equal _____.
- ⇒ Giftedness does not equal _____.
- ⇒ Giftedness does not equal _____.
- ⇒ Giftedness does not equal an _____ NOT to serve where needed. Don’t ever say, “That’s not my gift” when someone just needs to grab a towel.

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ The focus of a church must always be, “Jesus is Lord!” By the way we function, by the focus of our ministries, by the things we say and sing and preach and value...we must never cease to say, “Jesus is Lord!”
- ⇒ As we will see in more detail next week, every person in the body of Christ is needed in order for God’s purposes to be fully carried out, and if you’re not doing what God has wired you to do, we’re all missing out – and so is the broader community, and by extension, the world around us. If you’re a child of God, then God has given you *some* ability to be used for Him.
- ⇒ What’s the best way to “Discover Your Spiritual Gift”? Get busy serving! Watch to see what _____, what _____, and what makes _____ when you’re doing it.