

Messy

Part One: *divided loyalty*

May 8, 2022

The Apostle Paul wrote three corrective letters to the church at Corinth. In these letters, Paul used truth to straighten out a messed-up church. Over the next four months, I'm going to teach you some lessons from 1st Corinthians that will help you help your church accomplish its mission.

How was the Corinthian Church messed up?

- The Corinthian Church was full of divisions and sin, but not full of love.

The Christians in the church at Corinth were fighting and involved in all kinds of gross sin. There was fornication, incest, adultery, materialism, and even demon worship going on in the church. Church members were suing each other in court, rebelling against the Apostles' authority, and abusing Christian liberty, spiritual gifts, and the Lord's Supper. The Christians in Corinth were not loving God and others!

- Paul begins his letter to the Corinthians by reminding them of who they are in Christ.

The Christians in Corinth were not living for Christ because they had forgotten what Jesus had done for them. They were not practically living for Christ because they had lost sight of their position in Christ!

1st - Paul reminded the Corinthian Church they are God's church, and they should live holy. 1 Cor. 1:1-3

The Corinthians believed they could do anything they wanted to do in "their" church, but they were wrong because the church at Corinth belonged to God! Furthermore, the Corinthians believed they could live however they wanted to live, but God saved them so they could live holy (Romans 3:22-24; 5:1-2, NLT).

2nd - Paul reminded the Corinthian Church of the spiritual gifts God have given them. 1 Cor. 1:4-9

God had graciously gifted the Corinthian believers. He had enriched their church in every way! He had given them the ability to know and speak the truth, and He had blessed them with all the spiritual gifts. The Corinthians had everything they needed to succeed as a church!

3rd - Paul reminded the Corinthian Church that Jesus wants them to live in harmony. 1 Cor.1:10-12

Paul wanted all the different members of the Corinthian Church to be perfectly joined together so they could do what God wanted them to do.

What did Paul tell the Corinthian church to do to live in harmony? Vs. 10

- First, Paul told the Corinthians to *"Let there be no divisions in the church."*

Church members need to be on guard for anything or anyone that is dividing the church and holding it back from accomplishing its mission.

- Then, Paul told the Corinthians to *"Be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."*

What does it mean for a church to have one mind, united in thought and purpose? It means everyone in the church thinks and acts like Jesus!

Today's Lesson: A church must think and act like Jesus to live in harmony and accomplish its mission.