

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: When Christians Behave Badly (1 Corinthians 3:1-4)

Date: April 17, 2016

Let's begin with a recap of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians thus far. After his greeting and prayer of thanksgiving, Paul talked about the divisions in the church in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. From there, he compared lost people with saved people and wisdom with folly in 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16. Now, at the beginning of chapter 3, the apostle Paul tells the saved people in Corinth that they need to start living like saved people. Even though their flesh has been crucified with Christ and they have been given the hidden wisdom of God through the Holy Spirit, they are still living and acting like the unbelieving world around them. Their behaviour is fleshly. This needs to stop immediately. Born-again Christians cannot perpetually live in unrepentant sin. They need to repent and change. In this week's study we learn that Christians cannot act and think like the world in which they find themselves. We must act and think according to who we are in Christ.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. In verse 1-2b, Paul writes using the past tense. To what event is he referring to in these verses in which he was not able to speak of the Corinthians as spiritual people?
 - b. What does Paul mean by "spiritual people" in verse 1? How does this connect with what we learned in the previous chapter?
 - c. What does Paul mean by "people of the flesh" in verse 1? How does this connect with what we learned in the previous chapter?
 - d. Paul also refers to the Corinthians in verse 1 as "infants in Christ"? What does he mean by this?
 - e. What is the difference between milk and solid food in verse 2? Why can some Christians not receive solid food but can only receive milk?
 - f. How many years have transpired between the address he refers to in verse 1 and the time at which Paul wrote this letter? Has anything changed in their behaviour since the Corinthians were first converted?

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- g. What is the fleshly disposition within their hearts and the fleshly behaviour going on in the church that Paul is specifically referring to in verse 3?
 - h. After studying 1 Corinthians 3:1-4, what is the one main thing you can take away from this passage?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-3. What fleshly sins does Paul refer to in these passages? Do you need to repent of any of these sins?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What does fleshly behaviour look like? What does it say about our hearts if we regularly confess fleshly behaviour without actually changing?
3. Paul was very concerned for these fleshy Corinthians. Why is unrepentant sin in our lives such a serious problem?
4. When does regular confession of a sin in small group become an issue? At what point do we need to ask ourselves why has this not changed?
5. What does it look like for us to truly repent of sin and be transformed by the power of the gospel?
6. As a gospel community, how can we care for people in small group and in the church that profess to be Christian and live in unrepentant sin? How can we help them repent and change? Use Scripture to support your answer.

Accountability Question

What ongoing fleshly behaviours in your life need to change? What must you do to change and how can we help?