

Problem #7

Not taking LS properly

I Cor. 11:18-22

For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

Paul is saying here "You didn't come here to partake of the Lord's Supper"!

Kind of like the teacher that has a group of students that is giving her a hard time. They are talking and laughing and being disrespectful...and she looks at them and says "you didn't come here to learn"

Paul says, by the way you all are acting you didn't come here to take the LS in a respectful manner!

v.21,22

For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of *others*; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise *you*.

These Corinthian brethren were coming together and having what they called "Love Feasts"...

It seems that they were even divided in this...and were not waiting on everyone.

- Some would eat until they were full
- Others were hungry

And they were doing all this eating and drinking and disorder and MIXING IT WITH THE LORD'S SUPPER!

Paul then adds...

I Cor. 11:33,34

Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment

They were making a mockery of the LS...treating it like a common meal...and they weren't even getting that right! This has nothing to do with eating a fellowship meal after worship!!

Paul then reminds them of the importance of the LS.

I Cor. 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Problem#8

Spirituals gifts

Chapter 12—Existence of spiritual gifts—of course the church at Corinth was not using them properly. Paul will address this problem in chapter 12.

Chapter 13—Expiration of spiritual gifts—this gives the duration of the gifts...the gifts are going to come to an end

Chapter 14—Exercise of spiritual gifts

So here are the 9 spiritual gifts given to the church of Christ at Corinth.

1. Word of wisdom—divine instruction
2. Word of knowledge—ability to retain what was revealed to instruct others
3. Faith—a supernatural faith
4. Gifts of healing—heal diseases and afflictions through miracles
5. Works of miracles—some miracle other than healing
6. Prophecy—ability to receive divine revelation of future events
7. Discerning of spirits—ability to recognize false teachers
8. Different kinds of tongues—speaking a foreign language
9. Interpretation of tongues—ability to understand and translate the foreign language spoken.

The question that we need to answer is WHY DID THE EARLY CHURCH NEED THESE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

They did not have the COMPLETE revelation of the word of God.

- They couldn't sit down with someone and say, "Let's go through a Bible study and I will prove to you that Jesus died for your sins"
- God's word wasn't COMPLETED until at least 90 AD (that is about the time John wrote the Revelation).

And so, God, in His wisdom, gave the members of the church these SPIRITUAL GIFTS to help confirm the gospel they were preaching.

Anyone could claim to have the word of eternal life...but through these signs and wonders(spiritual gifts)...they could prove that their words were from God.

Jesus had given His disciples the Great Commission...then He ascended into heaven.

Mark 16:20

And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

And so, Paul imparted some spiritual gifts to the brethren...to confirm the word. Of course, they were not using them properly!!

Here's what was going wrong:

One man would get up and start speaking in a tongue (foreign language)...they were doing this for show!—they didn't have anyone to interpret.

Another man would then get up and start speaking in another language(again for show).

Then, someone would be given a revelation, and they would stand up to speak what the Lord had told them...and then another man would speak at the same time.

It was totally a "free for all" in the worship assembly.

No one was being edified

No one was being encouraged

They were all just competing with these spiritual gifts

The ones that had the more “showy” gifts (tongue speaking) thought they were superior to the ones that had a spiritual gift that wasn’t on display.(discerning false prophets or prophecy)

Paul says, you all are the body of Christ...work together...every part of the body is important...every spiritual gift is important...however...if you don’t have LOVE for each other...then these gifts mean nothing!!

I Cor. 13:1,2

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Paul says...there is a gift that is more excellent than any of these gifts...and any Christian, at any time and any place can possess this gift.

Of course, that gift was LOVE!

I Cor. 13:8-12

Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

This word “perfect” literally means that which is COMPLETE.

When the Perfect, completed word of God CAME...then there would be no need for these gifts.

And so, God let them have this miraculous measure of the HS...but He put an expiration date on those things.

James 1:25

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

I Cor. 13:13

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Gifts have an expiration date:

When the completed word of God is given...gifts will be done away with.

Faith has an expiration date:

Heb. 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

We will not need faith in heaven...we will SEE Him as He is—I John 3:2

Hope has an expiration date:

Rom. 8:24

but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

LOVE WILL ENDURE FOREVER!

- God is love
- God is eternal
- Therefore, love is eternal

Then in chapter 14, Paul says, “here is how you should act in the assembly with these spiritual gifts”

Instructions for speaking in tongues:

v.27

If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

If there was no one to interpret the foreign language then it was useless! It was pure babble!

And so, Paul gives the instructions...only 2-3 men should speak in a foreign language during the assembly and ONLY if there is someone to interpret what they are saying.

Instructions for prophesying:

v.29,30

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. ³⁰ But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.

Again, Paul gives specific instructions...only 2-3 men should stand to speak but they need to take turns. If someone receives a word from God...he has to wait on the other brother to finish.

I Cor. 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order

God expects the assembly of the brethren to be orderly.

Problem #9

Trouble with the resurrection

I Cor. 15 is one of the greatest chapters in the entire NT!

- It can give us hope
- It can give us a reason to keep pressing on in our faith

The reason it's such a wonderful chapter is because it gives us a glimpse into what the future holds for us as Christians

Paul has been addressing numerous problems that the church of Christ at Corinth has been dealing with.

And now he's going to address the doubts they are experiencing on the subject of the RESURRECTION.

- These brethren were heavily influenced by Grecian philosophy and the Greeks taught that their body was evil.
- They believed that death "freed the soul" from the evil body and the body would return to dust never to be thought of again.

Of course, this is not what the NT teaches about our bodies. The resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of our bodies is what our faith hinges on.

I Cor. 15:3,4

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

I Cor. 15:12,13

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

Some in Corinth were being influenced by other teachings and they were saying, “there is not going to be a resurrection of the dead”.

Paul makes the argument that if there can be no resurrection then Christ is not risen!

This was the foundation of the gospel...the fact that we serve a RISEN SAVIOR.

If Christ did not come forth out of that tomb, then He was a liar!

But notice what Paul says...

I Cor. 15:14

And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.

There were so many questions that these brethren had about the resurrection...and we still ask some of these same questions:

- How is God going to piece my body back together and make it brand new?
- How is God going to transform my earthly body into a heavenly, spiritual body?
- How is God going to make me come forth out of the grave and still be me?

I'm not sure...but...I have faith that God can do!

If we believe that God formed the first man, Adam out of the dust of the ground...then we can believe that He has the power to do that again...at the resurrection.

Paul helps us understand it by an illustration of a seed.

I Cor.15:35-38

But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” ³⁶ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body

A seed doesn't start really living until you put it in the ground...It can only start its life by being buried in the ground!

When it's buried...after some time has passed...it will spring forth with new life!

It will still keep its identity from when it was buried but it will look different and have a different purpose.

This is exactly what will happen with our bodies...we only start to LIVE when we are buried in the ground.

Just like the seed, after some time has passed...we will come forth with a new body, a new life and a new purpose!

I Cor. 15:42-44

So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

Instruction #10

Giving on the first day of the week

1. Paul discusses the "WHY" of our giving

I Cor. 16:1

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also.

This is not merely a suggestion...it is a command.

Paul gave orders to the churches of Galatia to give on the first day of the week...and now he is giving the same "orders" for the church at Corinth.

This was to help the needy churches that were facing persecution in Judea and Jerusalem.

And so, WHY do we give on the first day of the week? Because it is an example given to us by the 1st century church. They gave of their means when they came together on the 1st day of the week.

Paul also said

v. 2 that there be no collections when I come.

Paul wanted the funds to be ready and available when he came to get them.

2. Paul discusses the “WHEN” of our giving

I Cor. 16:2

On the first *day* of the week

Many translations say, “On the first day of every week”.

3. Paul discusses the “WHO” of our giving

I Cor. 16:2

On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside,

This means every person that is a member of the Lord’s church should be participating in the act of giving in our worship.

4. Paul discusses the “WHAT” of our giving

I Cor. 16:2

On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper,

So many problems in the church at Corinth...but they were saints and they were sanctified in Christ.

They also repented and changed their ways:

2 Cor. 7:8-10

For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. ⁹ Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.