

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

October 5, 2014

5. The Church and Its Leaders

1Corinthians 3:1-23

Every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations because of the problems, pressures, and struggles arising from the fact that the Church has been called out of a pagan society. In the Books of Corinthians Paul addresses a variety of problems in the lifestyle of the Corinthian church that include factions, lawsuits, immorality, questionable practices, abuse of the Lord's Super, spiritual gifts, opposition to spiritual leadership and false teaching. Today's discussion focuses on the "The Church and Its Leaders"

Leadership is of paramount importance in any organization or movement. Christianity is a movement established by Jesus Christ to be an organism. As such, Jesus is the sole spiritual leader of the Church. However, He has appointed leaders or shepherds to the Churches to direct His affairs. To fully understand the proper functions of Leaders, especially in the Church, we must understand the roles of followers, the foundation that has been laid and the fundamentals of faith to avoid foolishness in the Church. Divisions or factions in the church usually develop along leadership lines or the preference of one leader over other regardless of God's order of leadership in the Church. Leaders in the Church are servants of God who understand that the Church is a spiritual organism. However, most leaders in the church act according to worldly standards in the flesh and not according to spiritual standards as lead by the Holy Spirit. As such, most leaders act to please men rather than God thereby deviating from God's spiritual requirements and standards. Consequently, the Church remains spiritually immature.

Thus our text for today begins, "Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. 16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. 18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written:

“He catches the wise in their craftiness” [Job 5:13]; 20 and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” [Psalm 94:11] 21 So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas[That is, Peter] or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God” (1Corinthians 3:1-23).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about the Spiritual church. It is:

- **The church of God**
- **The body of believers in Christ Jesus**
- **Enriched with grace in speech and knowledge**
- **Not lacking any spiritual gift**
- **Waiting eagerly for our Lord Jesus to be revealed**
- **Kept firm to the end so that it will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**
- **Called by a faithful God into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- **Individuals whose conduct, character and calling reflect a relationship with God Almighty!**
- **Where there is agreement in what the brethren say**
- **Where there be no divisions among brethren, but perfect unity in mind and thought**
- **Where there are no quarrels**
- **Where everyone follows Jesus Christ because they were baptized in His Name**
- **Where the gospel is preached—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power**
- **Believers that understand the roles of followers; know the foundations that has already be laid and are building on it; and know that fundamentals of faith to avoid foolishness.**
- **And let the church say, “Amen!”**

To become part of the Spiritual Church as a believer, and be saved, have peace and happiness; and to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth that God may commend you ultimately. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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**Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor**

Every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations because of the problems, pressures, and struggles arising from the fact that the Church has been called out of a pagan society. In the Books of Corinthians Paul addresses a variety of problems in the lifestyle of the Corinthian church that include factions, lawsuits, immorality, questionable practices, abuse of the Lord's Super, spiritual gifts, opposition to spiritual leadership and false teaching, etc. Today's discussion focuses on the "The Nature of True Apostleship" which is an extension of the topic we discussed last Sunday: "The Church and Its Leaders".

Leadership is of paramount importance in any organization or movement. Jesus is the sole spiritual leader of the Church. However, He has appointed leaders or shepherds to the Churches to direct His affairs. The first of such leaders that Jesus appointed were the Apostles. Leaders in the Church are servants of God who understand that the Church is a spiritual organism. As such they work diligently according to spiritual standards as lead by the Holy Spirit. This is why the nature of True Apostleship lies in the fact that Apostles must remain faithful for they are servants of Christ entrusted with the mysteries that God has revealed.

Thus our text for today begins, "This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. 6 Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. 7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? 8 Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign—and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you! 9 For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. 10 We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! 11 To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. 12 We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; 13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment. 14 I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. 15 Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me. 17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. 18 Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. 20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 21 What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?" (1Corinthians 4:1-21).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about the Spiritual church. It is:

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- **Not lacking any spiritual gift**
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- **Believers that understand the roles of followers; know the foundations that has already be laid and are building on it; and know that fundamentals of faith to avoid foolishness.**
- **And let the church say, “Amen!”**

To become part of the Spiritual Church as a believer, and be saved, have peace and happiness; and to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth that God may commend you ultimately. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Evangelist R. D. Jacobs

The Book of Corinthians

The Spiritual Church with Sticky Situations

October 19, 2014 7. A Case of Incest 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

The Spiritual Church has a Spiritual Leader or Shepherd to face, confront and overcome sticky situations and the Apostle Paul is a great example of this kind of leader. Paul was the Spiritual father of the Christians at Corinth since their birth in Christianity. (1 Cor 4:14-15) As their

Spiritual father, he wanted to direct and lead and protect them through sticky situations and this was the reason Paul wrote to them. We get the feeling from the introduction of Paul's first letter to them that there were some there in Corinth, because of his absence and possibly his weakness (loving kindness, patience and humility), that were acting arrogant and boastful in open sin. Some assumed that Paul wouldn't come again but he assured them that he would come shortly. Paul asked whether they wanted him to come with love or a rod-strong correction? (1 Cor. 4:18-21)

One thing about Paul is that he deals directly with the issue, that there was sexual immorality reported among the Corinthians as a man was sleeping with his Stepmother. This was sexual immorality and fornication. (1 Corinthians 5:1) One question that we must ask is, what is holy to God in regards to sexual issues? God's design for sexual purity is that it be found in a marriage between 1 man and 1 woman. Sex with anyone other than your spouse is immoral. Sex before marriage and with someone that is not your spouse is fornication. As sex with another person's spouse is Adultery. The enjoyment of sex is to be found only in a marriage and with your spouse. But, there is a twist here which is on a grotesque level. A man is sleeping with his step mother. This is adultery (not his wife but father's wife) and it is incest (she is his stepmother). Paul says not even the gentile or pagans-non believers would do this. But here it is among professed believers going on openly in the church!

Note that this letter is to the whole church but it is worth indicating the singular language of "YOU". (1 Corinthians 5:2-5) This is Paul addressing the one, corporate and unified Church because this is a public offense that needed to be dealt with in the public gathering. It was not a private offense that could be dealt with between the offender and the offended. This was a public offense against the church. Types of Public offense include the rejection of the Church's accepted Doctrines, behavior that causes discord or disunity and then this case - of Sexual immorality.

Paul says, I have passed judgment in this matter as if I was present with you, and when you are present, and I am in agreement in spirit, to hand this one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh for the soul to be saved. To the Church this is called excommunication and not execution nor extermination. Excommunication is not to forget a person or kill them in your head or consider them dead to you but it is a period of removing yourself from fellowship in hopes of them becoming humbled and repentant. Those who know Christ and willfully choose to sin-Paul says to hand them over to the devil in their evil behaviors and pray one day when they are in the pig slop eating what the pigs eat- like the lost son- they may repent and come home to fellowship. Paul uses such grammar in other letters: 1 Tim. 1:18-20 with two false teachers, 2 Tim 4:9 with allowing Demas to leave him to enjoy the world, and Luke 11:15-32 The Lost son and a sinner who repents.

Paul addresses the sticky situation of sexual immorality and incest by putting the person out of the fellowship. Why? Because a little sin here or there will affect the whole congregation. Sin here allowed will be sin allowed over there and will soon affect all the Church. A little yeast will affect the whole lump. (1 Corinthians 5:6) The celebration of the feast of Passover was celebrated with a sacrificial lamb and unleavened bread. But Christ is the reality that the Old Testament foreshadowed. Now Christ is the sacrificial lamb and spiritually we want the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth! Not malice and evilness. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

Paul is dealing with a Christian brother and not a non-believer in this situation. (1 Corinthians 5:9-11) The issue lies with the fact that you cannot excommunicate yourself from worldly people. If so you would have to leave the world. And we don't need to judge them but rather save them. God will judge them. But, when we say we are a Christian Brother or sister of the same faith and hope with the same father then judgment starts in the House of God. There must be some leaders in the church that can maintain Accountability for decisions and actions. There must be Leaders who cling to Christ more than to family ties and friendships. When Paul left Corinth, it would seem that no one upheld the Christian standards.

In conclusion we have Paul's final judgment or his ruling TO PUT AWAY /EXPEL the wicked one. (1 Corinthians 5:12-13) Sin will disrupt your fellowship with God and such a one who insists to remain in Sin is to be excommunicated but the Good News is that you do not have to continue in sin. Christ died so that your sins could be forgiven and you only need to repent and believe in him. By doing this you will restore fellowship with God and with all other Christians.

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Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

October 26, 2014

8. Lawsuits Among Believers

1Corinthians 6:1-11

A Spiritual Church is the body of believers; those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the indwelling Holy Spirit is in-charge of the affairs of these believers through the spiritual leadership God has appointed. These believers were washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Otherwise the Church becomes like any other social club. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations because of the problems, pressures, and struggles arising from the fact that the Church has been called out of a pagan society and from darkness into God's marvelous light. In the Books of Corinthians Paul addresses a variety of problems that are sticky situations in the lifestyle of the Corinthian Spiritual Church to include factions, lawsuits, immorality, questionable practices, abuse of the Lord's Super and spiritual gifts, opposition to spiritual leadership and false teaching, etc. Today we shall focus our discussion on the sticky situation of "Lawsuits among Believers"

Have you ever had a disagreement or dispute with another Christian? Have someone among members of the Spiritual Church ever offended you? How did you handle or settle such a sticky situation? Did you take it to the court of Law for judgment? Did you just hold grudges or are still holding grudges for the rest of your life against such a brother or sister? Or did you properly go through the process of forgiveness and reconciliation as instructed by Jesus Christ our Ultimate Spiritual Leader? The injunction is "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses' [Deut. 19:15]. 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector" (Matthew 18:15-17). Leadership is of paramount importance in any organization or movement this why Jesus our ultimate sole spiritual leader of the Church has appointed leaders or shepherds to the Churches to direct His affairs. These leaders in the Church must realize they are servants of God required to work diligently and faithfully according to spiritual standards as

lead by the indwelling Holy Spirit because they are servants of Christ entrusted with the mysteries that God has revealed. Church leaders must therefore facilitate great relationships among church members through good godly judgments and instructions as lead by the Holy Spirit.

Thus our text for today begins, “If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord’s people? 2 Or do you not know that the Lord’s people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers! 7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. 9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men [The words men who have sex with men translate two Greek words that refer to the passive and active participants in homosexual acts] 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1Corinthians 6:1-11).

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- Believers that understand the roles of followers; know the foundations that has already be laid and are building on it; and know that fundamentals of faith to avoid foolishness.
- Where there are no lawsuits among believers; but Shepherds direct the affairs of the church towards great relationships through forgiveness and reconciliation as led by the Holy Spirit.
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

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and to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth that God may commend you ultimately. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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