

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

February 1, 2015

23. Intelligibility in Worship

1Corinthians 14:1-25

We are still on the sermon series: “THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS”. A Spiritual Church is the body of believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from adherence to attributes of the pagan society from which it has been called out of.

Intelligibility in worship is achieved through absolute obedience to the Holy Spirit. The result is an intelligent worship full of integrity that avoids ambiguity or vagueness which can lead to sticky situations. To avoid sticky situations in the church believers must allow the indwelling Holy Spirit who is in-charge of their affairs to freely employ the spiritual gifts He bestowed on them to lovingly serve God and others without any ambiguity. Love is indispensable when it comes to using your spiritual gifts for the edification of the Church in this way. Thus the excellent way to performing your function through your spiritual gifts is to do it in love. No matter how many spiritual gifts you may have if you do not love people or employ your gifts in love, they amount to nothing. All spiritual gifts will cease someday because you will not need them in the presence of God in eternity. But love will never cease because it is eternal since God is Love and Love is of God (In fact Love is God!). Love is not interested in vagueness and/or confusion. This is why believers in Christ (Christians) will be identified as Christ’s disciple by their love one for another. Therefore follow the excellent way of love as you allow the indwelling Holy Spirit to use “Intelligibly in Worship” the diverse gifts He has given you, particularly the gift of tongues. Otherwise there will always be sticky situations in the Church.

Thus our text for today begins, “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. 3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. 4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified. 6 Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? 7 Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? 8 Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? 9 So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. 10 Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 11 If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. 12 So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my

spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. 16 Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, [The Greek word for inquirer is a technical term for someone not fully initiated into a religion; also in verses 23 and 24.] say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? 17 You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified. 18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

20 Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. 21 In the Law it is written: “With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”[Isaiah 28:11, 12]

22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. 23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24 But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, 25 as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!” (1 Corinthians 14:1-25).

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.
- 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.
- Members of Christ who cannot practice sexual immorality but remain faithful to Christ and their spouses if they have any.
- Where obedience to God’s commands is what counts.
- Where you sacrifice for the sake of the weak
- Where the ministers are respected and provided for

- Where the use of Freedom is exercised with self-discipline
- Decency and order prevail especially in worship
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are utilized in ministry
- Where Unity exists in its structure and diversity in its function.
- Where love is the excellent way of exercising the Spiritual gifts
- Intelligibility is exercised in worship
- 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

February 8, 2015 24. Good Order in Worship 1 Corinthians 14:25-40

1st Corinthians is the Apostle's Paul responding message to the Church to confront some sticky situations in their gathering. (1 Cor.7:11) Some have divided this into the 9th issue addressed, covering Chapter 12:1 – 14:40. Some Key details the Apostle point out about the Spiritual Gifts is that the Holy Spirit gives the gifts to all and gives the diversities of operation.

There is a strong emphasis on having no schism in the congregation because of the gifts. There are none neither lowly nor more honored because of the gifts but all are members to one another. (1 Cor. 12:21-26) Also the gifts were given for the withal or profit to all for the building up, Edifying, and Growing all in their walk with God through exhortation and comfort. This would include Paul saying to covet the Best Gifts, those that edify the Congregation. (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:3, 6-25)

With the operations of the Gifts, the Church in Corinth was quite spiritual. Many would come to Church and exercise their Gifts. But, it is that all the gifts are to be used in a way to edify and build up the gathered and corporate Church. For God is not an Author of confusion. (1 Cor. 14:26-33)

Also within the Worship service Paul lets us know that at home is the place for women to ask questions and find answers at home with their husbands. When the Church gathers it is a place for edification. Paul understand that's with the AP and I am so thankful for me covering ground,

In closing out this discussion Paul encourages everyone to choose love and edify/ building up each other. All things with the right heart and done in Love is profitable. In fact when we go to a dying world and they enter our congregation. They need to see the Headship of God the Father.

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

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS
February 15, 2015 25. The Resurrection of Jesus 1Corinthians 15:1-11

We are still on the sermon series: “THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS”. A Spiritual Church is the body of believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from adherence to attributes of the pagan society from which it has been called out of.

One of the issues that Paul had to address in the Church at Corinth was the resurrection. The Pharisees believed in spirits, angels and the resurrection whereas the Sadducees did not. The subject of the resurrection became an issue of contention, confusion and dissension resulting in sticky situations in the Church. At this time in history, the resurrection of Jesus was a subject of great contention. Also, remember false teachers had at this time infiltrated the Church in Corinth with the intention to diminish the significant of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Paul's response to this sticky situation in the Church in Corinth, he attempts in the beginning of 1Corinthians 15 to present the significance of the resurrection of Jesus for the believers to understand that the resurrection of Jesus represents eternal hope; and this is the core of the gospel.

Thus our text for today begins, “Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance [Or you at the first]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, [That is, Peter] and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed” (1 Corinthians 15:1-15).

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Spiritual church. It is:

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- **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.**
- **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.**
- **Members of Christ who cannot practice sexual immorality but remain faithful to Christ and their spouses if they have any.**
- **Where obedience to God's commands is what counts.**
- **Where you sacrifice for the sake of the weak**
- **Where the ministers are respected and provided for**
- **Where the use of Freedom is exercised with self-discipline**
- **Where decency and order prevail especially in worship**
- **The gifts of the Holy Spirit are utilized in ministry**
- **Where Unity exists in its structure and diversity in its function.**
- **Where love is the excellent way of exercising the Spiritual gifts**
- **Where intelligibility is exercised in worship**
- **Where everything is done decently and in order**
- **Where the resurrection of Jesus Christ becomes the core of the gospel.**
- **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

February 22, 2015 26. The Resurrection of the Dead 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

1st Corinthians is the Apostle Paul's responding letter to confront some sticky situations (1 Cor.7:1) in the Church of Corinth that we see established in the 18th Chapter of the Book the Acts of the Apostles. He writes in response to provide Godly Solutions to their sticky situations.

The issues dealt with so far seem to be relational and involve the abusing of the ordinance and spiritual gifts given to the church. But this issue, which can be identified as the 10th issue that the Apostle deals with, is of a peculiar nature. It can find its core in two verses of the 15th chapter, Verses 15 & 35.

15.) Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

35.) But some man will say, how are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?

So in dealing with this issue the Apostle solidifies his position as a witness to the Resurrected Christ. Thus affirming the Gospel that he preached how Christ died for our sins was buried, and that he rose again on the third day. (1 Cor. 15:1-11) However it seemed that there were some heretics teaching falsehoods that there was no resurrection of the dead, which was in line with the teaching of the Sadducees. (Matt. 22:23; Acts 23:3)

Paul address this is by showing the implications of what you believe. For if you believe there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen, Our preaching of the Gospel, the Good News that there is forgiveness of sin through Christ, is in vain and our Faith in Christ for eternal life is in vain for we are still in our sins - if Christ be not risen. (1 Cor. 15: 12 – 19) A lot depends on this question, is there a resurrection for the dead?

But All Heresy must be confronted with the TRUTH, and the Apostle Proclaims, “But Now Is Christ risen from the dead”. (1 Cor. 15:20) That yes death came by one man, Adam, but that Life has come through the second man – the Son of Man who is Jesus the Christ. He being resurrected is a type of first fruits of an even great harvest of all believers when he comes. He will Reign above all powers, rule, and authorities and will defeat all enemies including Death! (1 Cor. 15: 21-28) This joy that the Gospel gave to the Corinthians was the reason that the Apostle could risk his life and put it in jeopardy all the day long because he knew that Christ was raised from the dead. For this reason, Paul would be willing to die daily. (1 Cor. 15:29-32)

With this knowledge that there is a Resurrection of the dead, that Christ was risen from the dead that we should not die in sin, and that the Gospel that we believed and that our faith is not in vain Paul says, “Awake”, “Be not deceived”, “Do not go on sinning”. Now is not the time to behave as if there is no tomorrow and to go on sinning as if live ends when the earthly years are over. No!

As It is appointed once unto men to die but after this the Judgment. (Hebrews 9:27) The only way that we can stand before the Just Judge is by accepting the atoning and redemptive work of Christ on our Behalf - how He died for our sins, and was raised from the dead for our justification! This is done only by your belief that Jesus lived, died and was resurrected from the dead on the third day!