

**THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS**

**January 4, 2015**

**19. Abuse of the Lord's Supper**

**1Cori. 11:17-33**

**Happy New Year, 2015! 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 adhering to attributes of the pagan society from which it has been called out of.**

**History is documented, hopefully, for the purpose of generations to come to learn from it. Failure to learn from history often results in history repeating itself. If this be the case the Church ought to learn from history to avoid repeating the same mistakes that created sticky situations in the church in the time past. Ignorance about your history is a terrible thing because you then never learn from your past mistakes or great attributes either. This is because experience is the best teacher. More so, you can also learn from the experiences of others. Unfortunately, while people could go through the same experience some would learn from it; others won't. Sticky situations in the Church arise from failure to learn from the past. In the Spiritual Church in Corinth, Paul had to remind them of the consequences of failure to learn from the past.**

**In the last sermon of last year (2014) coming from 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 we dealt with the sticky situation of "Covering the Head in Worship". The fundamental principle of covering the head in worship or not indicate decency and order in worship or not. The text read "I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you. 3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved. 6 For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head. 7 A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. 13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? 14 Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, 15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. 16 If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God".**

**Today, in the first sermon of this New Year (2015) we shall consider the other sticky situation in worship discussed in 1 Corinthians 11: "The Abuse of the Lord's Supper". Thus our text for today begins, "In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19 No doubt there have to be differences**

among you to show which of you have God's approval. 20 So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, 21 for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. 22 Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter! 23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. 32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world. 33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. 34 Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions" (1 Corinthians 11:17-33).

**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
- 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!

If you are reading this on the Internet why don’t you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.

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

---

|                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS</b>                                              |
| <b><u>January 11, 2015</u></b> <b><u>20. Confusion Concerning Spiritual Gifts</u></b> <b><u>1Corinthians 12:1-11</u></b> |

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.

For the next few weeks we shall be discussing the importance of understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in helping believers avoid sticky situations in their fellowship. Ignorance about the role of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life will almost always lead to sticky situations. Ignorance is not a good thing at all. Further instance ignorance would and does create confusion concerning spiritual gifts. However, the Holy Spirit has come not to confuse believers but to teach and lead them into truth. For when you know the truth, the truth would set you free. Also, the Holy Spirit does not come to indwell believers empty-handed but with a variety of gifts for the purpose of ministry. This is why you often hear me say let us minister with our giftedness.

Thus our text for today begins, “Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the

manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, [Or languages] and to still another the interpretation of tongues [Or languages]. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines” (1 Corinthians 12:1-11).

**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
- 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!

If you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.

**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**  
**January 18, 2015      21. Understanding Unity and Diversity in the Body      1Corinthians 12:12-30**

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.

The body of believers that form the Church is the body of Christ. Just like the physical body consist of organ systems that perform specific functions, so does the body of Christ. The body of believers in a particular community forms the body of Christ and the individual members of these believers are the organ systems that perform different specific functions based on the spiritual gifts bestowed on them by the Holy Spirit. So for the next few weeks we shall be discussing the importance of understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in helping believers avoid sticky situations in their fellowship. Ignorance about the role of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life will almost always lead to sticky situations because it does create confusion concerning the spiritual gifts. However, the Holy Spirit has come not to confuse believers but to teach and lead them into truth. Also, the Holy Spirit does not come to indwell believers empty-handed but with a variety of gifts for the purpose of ministry. This is why you often hear me say let us minister with our giftedness. Without understanding Unity and Diversity in the body of Christ, sticky situations are inevitable in the Spiritual Church. Hence to avoid sticky situations in the body of Church one has to understand the structure and function of the body. Unity deals with the structure of the body and diversity has to do with functions of the members according the gifts that the Holy Spirit distributes to the individual members as He chooses.

Thus our text for today begins, "Just as a body, though one has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by [Or with; or in] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As

it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues [Or other languages]? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:12-30). This excellent way is the way of performing your function in love because Love Is Indispensable.

**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.

- 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!

If you are reading this on the Internet why don’t you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.

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

---

**PREACHED AT THE ANNUAL DEACON AND DEACON WIVES’ PROGRAM, PLEASANT VIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, OPELIKA, ALABAMA, Rev. Phelix Lockhart, Pastor**

*Scripture Ref: But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back (Hebrews 10:38, NIV).*

**JANUARY 18, 2015**

**Following the Path of Faith**

**Hebrews 10:19-39**

**1. Pray / Acknowledge**

- A. God, the Shepherd of this Church, Pastors/Ministers, my Wife/Pastor’s & Ministers’ Wives, Deacons and Deacons’ Wives, this wonderful Choir, all God’s Children, and Family/Friends for being present at this time for this occasion. I salute you all in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the Church.

**2. Introduction:**

- o My sincere gratitude to this Shepherd and the leadership at Pleasant View for inviting Mt Traveler to fellowship with you today and for me to share the word of on this great occasion of your Annual Deacon and Deaconess Day. I commend you for selecting an appropriate theme: “Following the Path of Faith” from Hebrews 10:38 which reads – “Now the just shall live by faith: But if any man draws back my soul shall have pleasure in him”. We shall attempt to address your theme: Following the Path of Faith.
- o However, let me clarify a few things since this occasion is the Annual Deacon and Deaconess Day. Who is a deacon or a deaconess? How does one become a deacon or a deaconess? Is a deaconess and a deacon’s wife the same thing? What is the path of Faith? The first reference to an official position of deacon in the local congregation is found in Philippians 1:1; where Paul says, “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God’s holy people

in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons”. Paul also stated the qualities of the deacon as follows: “deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. 11 In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. 12 A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 3:8-13). These biblical requirements are similar to those of the elders (Shepherds, Bishops, Overseers or Pastors), but there is a clear distinction in office. Elders are spiritual leaders or shepherds of the Church. Elders serve as Pastors and teachers and also provide general oversight on financial, organizational, and spiritual matters. The practical ministry of deacons in the church is vital and frees elders to focus on prayer, studying God’s word, and pastoral care. The New Testament early church indicates that both men and women were appointed as deacons and deaconesses. For instance, Paul wrote in Romans 16:1-2, “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. 2 I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me”. Today, as in the early Church of the first Century, the role of a deacon encompasses a variety of services that differ from one denomination to another. However, in general deacons function as servants ministering in various capacities to the body of Christ in practical ways. They may usher; tend to benevolence; count tithes and offerings; teach Sunday school; visit the widows, orphans, those in prisons, the destitute to cater to their needs, and the sick; or any other service in practical ways to the members of the body of Christ and the community. And it is very clearly stated in the Scripture by Paul in 1Timothy 3:13 that ministering as deacon is a rewarding and honorable calling in the church: “Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus”.

- Therefore, a deacon is one chosen, not into a position of authority in the church as indicated by the use of the terms “Deacon Board”, but into an office of ministering (serving) function and responsibility in practical ways to meet the needs of the congregation and to free the shepherd to focus on prayer, studying the word of God and pastoral care (feeding, leading, guiding, protecting, and caring for the flock of God under him). A deacon is chosen by members of the congregation with the approval of their pastor according to the need(s) noted by that congregation. The early church in Acts 6, in the strictest sense, chose men who were members of their congregation to serve to needs of their widows. These men were not chosen according to their affluence or influence but because they were known to be full of the Spirit, faith and wisdom. In scriptural context of Acts 6:1-4, the Greek words: diakoneo, diakonia and diakonos for deacon are derived from the Greek word diako, which means to run errands. These Greek words are used to denote someone who serves; and these same words are used in the New Testament texts to refer to men and women who served their brothers and sisters in the congregation of the elect of God to meet definite needs. A deaconess is chosen by the congregation just as a deacon. A deacon’s wife is a wife of a deacon and not a deaconess.
- What is the path of Faith? It is the path of following the truth of God by being obedient and faithful to the commands of God and being fruitful in serving Him. Faith is having trust and belief in God that He will do what He said He would. This is the only way to please God. Hebrews 11:1-6 states, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance

about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. 4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. 5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him". Therefore let us follow the path of faith with perseverance and confidence as we serve him faithful. Thus our text for today from Hebrews 10 continue to admonish us:

### **3. Hebrews 10:19-39**

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. 26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," [Deut. 32:35] and again, "The Lord will judge his people." [Deut. 32:36; Psalm 135:14] 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. 32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." [Isaiah 26:20; Hab. 2:3]. 38 And, "But my righteous [Some early manuscripts But the righteous] one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." [Habakkuk 2:4 (see Septuagint)] 39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."

Paul continued to admonish us in Ephesians 2:1-10 as follows, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions —it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (NIV).

Finally, I want to conclude by saying: the church suffers when it becomes religious without being spiritual; political without being powerful; formal without being passionate; and self-centered rather than Christ-centered. My prayer is that God will help Pastor Lockhart to lead Pleasant View to become the Church that Christ will commend some day for Following the Path of Faith and representing His one true body with many parts performing their God ordained functions.

And let the church say, “Amen”

And if you are reading this on the Internet and desire to understand the Modus Operandi of the Church and its leadership, the starting point is to pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior. If you just did that, write and tell us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)?

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

---

**The Book of Corinthians**

**The Spiritual Church with Sticky Situations**

**January 25, 2015    22. The Worthlessness of Spiritual Gifts without Love                      1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

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. In studying the Epistle we can ask, “What was the Issue with the Spiritual Gifts that the Corinthian church would write to Paul concerning them?” And, we can

**understand that for a Church dealing with Divisions, how some with Spiritual Gifts would be to Proud or give higher Honor to others. But concerning the Gifts, Paul exclaims that the same Holy Spirit gives all believers the different gifts and there operations. For not all have the same gifts, but even greater than the Gifts, They are encouraged to follow after Love. (1 Cor. 12:29-31)**

**Although you can have many Spiritual Gifts without Love you are nothing and as the Wisdom Writings say, all is meaningless. (1 Cor. 13:1-3) As Christ's Church, we need to desire to Love as He Loves. God is the perfect expression of Love and we too should be patient, not envying nor behaving unruly, seeking not its own, nor easily provoked or thinks evil. (1 Cor. 13:4-7)**

**The fact is that Love never fails, but these Gifts that were given to the Church to edify it and bring it to Perfection, there will come a day when Christ returns and the Church will be perfected and the Gifts done away with. But, Love will never fail. (1 Cor. 13:8-12) For what we know in part we will know in Completion. When we were children we had partial knowledge but when we are older we no longer are immature but we are mature!**

**The things that will abide forever and not fail are Faith Hope and Love. But, the greatest of these is Love. (1 Cor. 13:13) Faith is vital to coming to Salvation and your Hope is based in your faith in Jesus Christ. The Greatest is Love because it is Love that caused God to allow Jesus to bear our sins unto death that through Faith in Him and His resurrection we might come to Salvation. It is this eternalness of Love that Paul would like the Church to follow after in their use and desire of the Spiritual Gifts.**