

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-21

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“WHY CHRISTIANITY IS SUCH A PROBLEM”**

*How To Be A Church That's Out Of This World*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Maturity, Servanthood, Leadership, Discipleship**

## Lets Turn To The FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE CALIFORNIANS

### 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. **:15**  
For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have  
many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. **:16**  
Therefore I urge you, **imitate** me. **:17** For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who  
is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will **remind** you of my ways in Christ,  
as I teach everywhere in every church. **:18** Now some are **puffed up**, as though I  
were not coming to you. **:19** But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will  
know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but **the power**. **:20 For the kingdom  
of God is not in word but in power**. **:21** What do you want? Shall I come to you with  
a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

**In the Opening days of Jesus Christ's Earthly Ministry,  
He Unveiled a Radical Truth**

### Luke 17:21

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, **behold**,  
the **kingdom of God is within** you.

# WHY CHRISTIANITY IS SUCH A PROBLEM

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

## 1.) Because of what Christianity does

v.14-15

### 1a.) Christianity confronts man's weaknesses

14 I do not write these things to **shame** you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

#### John 3:16-19

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. :17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. :19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

### 1b.) Christianity challenges man's realities

15a For though you might have ten thousand **instructors** in Christ, yet you do not have **many fathers**;

**instructors**      paidagwgo/β paidagogos, pahee-dag-o-gos';  
the servant whose office it was to take the children to school. a tutor ("paedagogue"): — instructor, schoolmaster.

### The church at Corinth was a wild place to visit.

They had "instructors and leaders" that Paul will later address. In a word, they had all become their own leader, by group or by clique.

#### Galatians 3:24

Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster/ instructor** to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. :25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a **schoolmaster/ instructor**. :26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

### 1c.) Christianity clarifies man's birthright

15b for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

## Paul Introduces a Sweet “Combo” = Birthright / Adoption

“Through the gospel you have been brought forth Into this new life, this new world, this Kingdom life.”

(1)

you, being “in” Christ Jesus (it appears 77 times in the new testament)

I Wanna Introduce a New/Old word that should define the True Christian Today – (In) Christ = are you IN Christ ?

### Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. :2 For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the law of sin and death.

(2)

I have “begotten” you

**begotten**

*gennaizw gennaio, ghen-nah'-o;*

to procreate, to father forth, bear along, to gender forth, make, spring.

### Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of **adoption** by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” :16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

### Romans 8:23b

“...even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting** for the **adoption**, the redemption of our body.”

### Colossians 1:18

And He (Jesus Christ) is **the head** of the body, the church, Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

**“that in all things He may have the preeminence.”**

“What Kind of a Church Would it Be if - Everyone Lived Just like You Do?”

### Is Your Life Just One Big “Screw Up”

(You call your own shots, you do your own thing, you have no relationship with Jesus Christ)

## 15b for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you

### John 3:5-7

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. :6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. :7 Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be **born again**.' (*heaven born*)

But Here's The Test - Can you honestly call God your Father?  
Does your profession match your life's actions?

### 15c I have begotten you **through the gospel**

**through** *di aʔ dia, dee-ah´;*

to guide, to channel, to apply, to place, to layer the gospel one line upon the next. – a consistent witness of the truth.

### 1 Peter 1:22-23

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth **through the Spirit of God** in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, :23 having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, **through the word of God** which lives and abides forever,

**gospel** *eu jagge ÷ lion euaggelion, yoo-ang-ghel´-ee-on;*  
the good news or good message or word.

### What Does This Mean to Me?

You have been born a second time, from above, by the Spirit of God - into the kingdom of God through the Gospel of God.

## WHY CHRISTIANITY IS SUCH A PROBLEM

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER*

**2.) Because of what Christianity creates**

**v.16-19**

**2a.) Christianity creates a new life**

:16 **Therefore** I urge you, **imitate** me. :17 For this **reason** I have sent Timothy to you, who is my **beloved** and **faithful** son (**in**) the Lord, who will **remind** you of **my ways** (**in**) **Christ**, as I teach everywhere in every church.

# Knock-offs Are Very Disappointing Things.

“You should get those – 24 Sharpies for only \$5 dollars”

*(The problem was that they were Shopies not Sharpies. Christian like Chrapstain)*

**imitate** mimhth/β **mimetes**, *mim-ay-tace*’;

To mime or mimic. To shadow or to walk the same way. To be a follower.

Children will by nature, Imitate their parents (+/-)

Boys will act like Dad and Girls will dress up like Mom

## 1 Corinthians 11:1

**Imitate** me, just as I also **imitate** Christ.

## Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be **imitators** of God **as dear children**. :2 And **walk in** love,  
as Christ also has loved us

**17 (Timothy)** who will **remind** you of **my ways (in) Christ**,

**If a pastor/Christian cannot say this –**

Its time for him to either seek help or step aside.

**(if you wanna know someone, ask their kids or wife – they know)**

## Learned Response Behavior

Children learn in this order – (1) by example, then (2) explanation, then (3) by education, then (4) by experience, which takes us back to step (1) by example....

## Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;  
:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

**A child watches how things are done**, spoken of, reacted to, and then mocks their parents or leaders – creating a human, creates a family, creates a culture, creates a nation...

## Christianity Creates a New Life

### 1 Timothy 1:13-14

although I was **formerly** a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. :14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

## BECAUSE OF WHAT CHRISTIANITY CREATES

### 2b.) Christianity creates a changing life

:18 Now some are **puffed up**, (*filled with arrogant gas*) as though I were not coming to you. :19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills...

What's Implied is that, "You Corinthians Forget Easily and so You Think I will Forget"

We never deliberately think that we'll go out and sin.  
We never deliberately intend to offend God, (we forget that He is constantly present)

#### Luke 22:19

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" – **DO EVERYTHING IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM.**

**True Christianity is Alive, Expansive, Growing & Changing  
(NOT THE DOCTRINE OR THE MESSAGE – BUT THE WORSHIPPER)**

#### Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God **is not meat and drink**; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

## BECAUSE OF WHAT CHRISTIANITY CREATES

### 2c.) Christianity creates a power-filled life

**19b** and I will know, **not the word** of those who are puffed up, (*the arrogant ones*) **but the power.**

**Jesus Never Said "By their words you shall know them"**

#### Matthew 7:20

Therefore by their **fruits** (what a man's life produces) you will **know them.**

**Talk is Cheap – And Satan Talks A lot**

And Some @ Corinth = “All they did was talk about church or spiritual things but with no lasting, fruitful results. I will come and see their power compared to His power.”  
*Love - Paul*

**This power - the Christian is to not only be indwelt by the Holy Spirit,**  
but the Christian is to be filled over and over and over again with the “coming upon, or the baptism with the Holy Spirit for Christian living, service and victory.

**Greek Amplified Version - Ephesians 5:18**

Do not get drunk (effected) with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be (over and over again) filled *and* stimulated (effected) with the Holy Spirit.

**John 7:37b-39a**

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. :38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” :39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;

**Acts 1:6-8**

When the disciples had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” :7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. :8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

If you are struggling with temptation and you find yourself stumbling and falling and failing to resist sin – it’s because you’re fighting sin in your own strength.

## **WHY CHRISTIANITY IS SUCH A PROBLEM**

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER*

**3.) Because of what Christianity presents v.20-21**

**3a.) Christianity represents The Kingdom of God**

**:20 For The kingdom of God...**

**Mark 1:14-15**

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of **the kingdom of God**, :15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God** is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

## It's Not About Being Wealthy

**Matthew 19:24**

And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter **the kingdom of God.**"

## It's Not About Being Religious

**Matthew 21:31**

Which of the two did the will of *his* father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter **the kingdom of God** before you.

## It's Not About Being Privileged

**Matthew 21:43**

"Therefore I say to you, **the kingdom of God** will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.

## It's About Being Hungry

**Matthew 6:33**

But **seek first the kingdom of God** and **His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you.

## What does the kingdom life look like?

(it's not what human's naturally think it is)

**Luke 17:20-21**

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when **the kingdom of God** would come, He answered them and said, "**The kingdom of God** does not come with observation; **:21** nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, **the kingdom of God** is within you."

Jesus Christ Says That The Kingdom Life Begins  
From within a man or woman, a boy or girl and works its way out

## PROBLEM / JESUS CHRIST PRESENTS HIS KINGDOM

### 3b.) Christianity represents The Authority of God

**:20** For the kingdom of God is **not in word** (*only*) - **but in power.**

This is a great verse. Paul is not saying that the kingdom doesn't have any words, he's actually saying the Kingdom is more than words.

## The Kingdom is - - "Words BUT More"

There *is* a Power in the Words we Speak.  
But there *is* Absolute Power in the Spoken Word of God.

### Hebrews 4:12

For **the word of God** is living and powerful, and **sharper** than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Acoustical Engineers** will tell you:

In theory, every sound or word spoken is still emanating outward from its source.

## The Power of God's Word

### Matthew 10:7-8

And **as you go**, preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." :8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

### Matthew 9:4-7

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? :5 For which is **easier, to say**, "Your sins are forgiven you," or to say, 'Arise and walk'? :6 **But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins**" — then He said to the paralytic, "**Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.**" :7 And he arose and departed to his house.

## PROBLEM / JESUS CHRIST PRESENTS HIS KINGDOM

### 3c.) Christianity represents The Love of God

21 What do you want (desire) ? Shall I come to you with a rod,  
or in **love** and a **spirit of gentleness**?

I'm totally justified and authorized to come to you as an apostle –  
I'd rather come and be like a father to you.

*End of Study*