

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 10:16-11:1

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-745 JULY 24, 2011

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHO WE ARE

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Fellowship, Obedience, Temptation

I am, we are - daily impressed with what the Bible has to say to our lives – it's truly amazing. In this book, the Bible, the reader comes to know that their existence is calibrated/programmed to receive from the LORD all that is needed to live a godly and happy life in this messed up world of ours. – God loves us!

1 John 4:17

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; (why?) **because as He is, so are we in this world.**

:16-22 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not **the communion of the blood of Christ?** The bread which we break, is it not **the communion of the body of Christ?** **:17** For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread. **:18** Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? **:19** What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? **:20** Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. **:21** You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons...**:22** Or do we **provoke** the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? **:23** All things are **lawful** for me, but not all things are **helpful**; all things are **lawful** for me, but not all things **edify**. **:24** Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well-being*. **:25** Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for **conscience'** sake; **:26** for "*the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness.*" **:27** If any of those who do not believe invites you *to dinner*, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for **conscience'** sake. **:28** But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for **conscience'** sake; for "*the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness.*" **:29** "**Conscience,**" I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's conscience?* **:30** But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for *the food* over which I give thanks? **:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all **to the glory of God.** **:32-11:1** Give no **offense**, either to **the Jews** or to **the Greeks** or to **the church** of God, **:33** just as I also please all *men* in all

things, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved. **11:1 Imitate** me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

Biblical Christianity by nature is Aggressive. It is by nature Confrontational. It naturally, supernaturally advances onward but not in a violent way or in an unloving way. Biblical Christianity cannot be contained. It cannot be hidden. It refuses to sit in the corner and behave.

2 Corinthians 5:15-17

Jesus died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. **:16** Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. (*we know Him spiritually now*) **:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

The Most Obvious Result of this “New Creation” is a Transformation

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

WHO WE ARE

1.) We are His worshippers

v.16-21

1a.) We become like the object we worship

v.16

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not **the communion of the blood of Christ?**
The bread which we break, is it not **the communion of the body of Christ?**

☞ Communion grk: koinwni÷a **koinonia**, *koy-nohn-ee'-ah*; to be in league or fellowship, unity, partnership, social-intercourse.

Psalm 116:12-14

What shall I render to the LORD *For* all His benefits toward me? **:13** I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD. **:14** I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in the presence of all His people.

Psalm 95:6

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. **:7** For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.

WE BECOME LIKE OUR WORSHIP

1b.) We become united in our act of worship

v.17-18

For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for *we all partake of that one bread.* :18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

We talk a lot these days about “bonding” and “accountability” and “unity” and all these relational things – but if there is not a devotion to following hard after Jesus – it’s just noise!

1c.) We become separated through our worship

v.19-21

What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? *(no)* :20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles (unbelievers) sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. :21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.

Worship is both a Noun and a Verb.

It is a title and an action. In fact it is an Act. It is a Willful, Determinate Offering (and to the what and the where you present it – it matters to God)

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: *“I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”* :17 Therefore *“Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. :18 “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”*

WHO WE ARE

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

2.) We are His instruments

v.22-31

2a.) Each of us are to be wise about who God is

v.22-24

Or do we **provoke** the Lord to **jealousy**? Are we stronger than He? **:23** All things are **lawful** for me, but not all things are **helpful**; all things are **lawful** for me, but not all things **edify**. **:24** Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well-being*.

👉 Provoke

grk: **parazhlo/w parazeloo**, *par-ad-zay-lo'-o*;

to challenge or to rival the love of God. To not respond to or to act upon what was done. To neglect what was given.

This is an Amazing Doctrine Regarding God's Person.

That God's love for you is so "Total" that He cannot share you with another.

It is a declaration of His absolute, unconditional love for His own.

A Grave Warning & Exhortation from Paul

You cannot be like the world and act like the world and speak like the world and be no different from the world and then show up among God's people and mingle among His worshippers without arousing God's wrath and punishment.

Jesus Christ Himself Warned of This:

Our Old Testament Example:

Deuteronomy 32:16-17

The children of Israel provoked Him to jealousy with foreign *gods*; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. **:17** They sacrificed to demons, not to God, *To gods* they did not know, *To new gods*, new arrivals that your fathers did not fear.

Romans 5:6-8

For when we were still **without strength**, (*when we were utterly helpless*) in due time Christ died for the ungodly. **:7** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. **:8** But God **demonstrates** (*to put on display, to exhibit*) His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Dr. Charles Ryrie

"The meaning is profound and wholly unique to Christianity for it is this - To look upon God's love as it is shown in the fact that Jesus Christ died for mankind in whom there was nothing that evoked love."

But here's the Point – He is Expecting love to be returned.

Romans 12:1

I beg you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable** service.

Romans 12:1 NLT

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. **When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask?**

WE ARE HIS INSTRUMENTS

2b.) Each of us are to be advancing the cause of Christ v. 25-28

Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for **conscience'** sake; **:26** for *“the earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness.”* **:27** If any of those who do not believe invites you *to dinner*, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for **conscience'** sake. **:28** But if anyone says to you, “This was offered to idols,” do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for **conscience'** sake; for *“the earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness.”*

Christians Are to Be Suited Up to Meet The World.

When I worked for B Healthcare:

I remember being invited to the company’s “Happy Hour”.
(that happy hour was a very important element for people to advance themselves in the company)

But I heard about what happened at those happy hours and I remember my manager saying – “I don’t think it’s for you Jack”

I didn’t go – wouldn’t go – and some of you shouldn’t be going either

As our world darkens and grows more evil by the day,
There will be some people who will want to get out of this world’s death grip – let them come to you. Be there for them – humbly & without compromise.

Matthew 10:16

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.
Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

We are to be going toward the Lost

Far too many Christians don’t think enough of heaven and hell to even invite their friends and family. We need to get a picture of heaven and hell in our minds.

If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to **Hell** over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no **one** GO there UNWARNED and UNPRAYED for." - **Charles Spurgeon**

"Some want to live within the sound of church bells; I want to run a rescue mission within one yard of **hell**."- **C. T. Studd**

"It is **not** our business to make the message acceptable, but to make it **available**. We are **not** to see that they like it, but that they **get it**." - **Dr. Vance Havner**

2 Timothy 4:5

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. – **Apostle Paul**

John 4:34-35

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. **:35** Do you not say, "There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest"? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **:16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe **will be** (*are, in the state of, presently*) condemned.

WE ARE HIS INSTRUMENTS

2c.) Each of us are to be reflecting His nature

v.29-31

"**Conscience**," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's* **conscience**? **:30** But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for *the food* over which I give thanks? **:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all **to the glory of God**.

Are You Watching What's Happening in Somalia?

Let's Strip Away all the Fake Stuff of Our Lives. What do you have?

: 31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all **to the glory of God**.

Paul here leans hard on what he has been saying;
: 16 **The cup** of blessing which we bless, is it not **the communion of the blood of Christ?** The bread which we break, is it not **the communion of the body of Christ?**

The Thrust Here is Two-Fold.

- (1) Show to all those around you that the LORD Jesus Christ is your Ethos and Pathos. = Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
- (2) That by living for Him, others will find Him attractive and desirable.
= Do all to the glory of God.

WHO WE ARE

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

3.) We are His examples

v.32-11:1

Give no **offense**, either to **the Jews** or to **the Greeks** or to **the church** of God, :33 just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved. **11:1 Imitate** me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

3a.) So we must be faithful for God

v.32

Give no **offense**, either to **the Jews** or to **the Greeks** or to **the church** of God,

 **offense** grk: ajpro/skopoß aproskopos, ap-ros'-kop-os;

to lead away, to send away or to hinder a man from believing. (to cause someone to come to the wrong conclusion)

There is no such thing as a Christian who can live independent of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells inside every true follower of Christ. A true believer will not “send away, hinder” someone from coming to Jesus.

His or her conduct will be careful, thoughtful and inviting.

The Christian can never say things like – “I’m a Christian, God forgives me, I have the liberty to do what I’m doing if anyone likes it or not”

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. :20 Now then,

we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE UNDER ORDERS BY OUR GOD TO BE:
Godly examples to every unbeliever.

1 Peter 3:15-17

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; **:16** having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. **:17** For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE UNDER ORDERS BY OUR GOD TO BE:
Godly examples to every Jew.

Romans 11:14

if by any means I may provoke to jealousy *those who are* my flesh and save some of them.

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE UNDER ORDERS BY OUR GOD TO BE:
Godly examples to every Christian.

Galatians 5:13-15

For you have been called to live in freedom—not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love. **:14** For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **:15** But if instead of showing love among yourselves you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

WE ARE HIS EXAMPLES

3b.) So we must be faithful for others

v.33

just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **:35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Real Love – Not Oprah love or Not Puppy love.
But a real everyday, practical, working, usable, dependable love.

WE ARE HIS EXAMPLES

3c.) So we must be faithful for Jesus

v. 11:1

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

👉 Imitate *mimhth/β mimetes*, *mim-ay-tace* ; (mimic) to follow another. To act out the attributes of another. To move, look and speak like someone else. To pantomime a person of fame or notoriety. In the roman theater the pantomime would fill in the time-gap between performances.

What did Jesus do while on earth?

He healed the sick. He showed compassion. He revealed who God is. He served others. He loved people. He....

John 13:1-15

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. :2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, :3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, :4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. :5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded. :6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And *Peter* said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" :7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." :8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." :9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!" :10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash *his* feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." :11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." :12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? :13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. :14 If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. :15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

End of Study

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