



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

THANKFUL AND HARMONIOUS

1 Corinthians 1:4-17

- The church in Corinth was a ***TROUBLED CHURCH***, but not so troubled that God could not fix it!
- Just like the church today, **IF** we will do what His Word says.
- The problems of the Corinthian church shape almost every word Paul wrote in this letter.
- They were struggling with ***INTERNAL***, as well as ***EXTERNAL***, problems.

WHERE DO WE START?

Word to the spiritual: Don't just point out faults, point to the solution!

1. START BY BEING THANKFUL

- ***Gratitude is an attitude*** that we are supposed to live in every day. Paul thanked God for the Corinthian believers—as messed up as they were.
- By expressing a constant heart of thanksgiving, you will become more positive, gracious, loving, forgiving, and humble.

CHECK OUT OUR SPIRITUAL BLING v. 5-8

- They had been enriched in their *speaking* about God and in their *knowledge* of Him.
- They had been changed from garbage to gold.
- The Corinthian church had all the spiritual gifts they needed to live the Christian life, to witness for Christ, and to stand against paganism and immorality.
- These gifts were not about performance, but about the gift of grace we have received through the cross.

2. PAUL APPEALS FOR HARMONY v. 9-17

- All ministry should be about the message over methods; substance over the superfluous.
- We must not lose sight of the fact that we are family.
- Paul simply tells the Corinthian believers to stop arguing—especially about things that did not matter.
- The internal divisions only cause strife and hinder the Gospel, as well as make the church look ridiculous and petty to those outside. **TIME OUT!**

DIVISIONS DESTROY

Divisions between Christians work like brick walls and barbed wire fences to undermine the effectiveness of the message that believers are to proclaim.

- Keep arguments about allegiances out of the family.

***ONE GOOD TEAM TURNS INTO
FOUR MEDIOCRE ONES!***

- To combat this absurdity, Paul asks three rhetorical questions, each receiving the same answer: **NO**.

BEWARE OF FAULTY FAN CLUBS

- Don't tear Jesus apart. There is only ***ONE SAVIOR*** and only ***ONE TRUE CHURCH***. **Ephesians 4:4-6**
- There is ***ONE TRUE BAPTISM***.
- There is just ***ONE GOSPEL***.
- ***Christ is not divided*** and His true followers should not allow anything to divide the ***ONE TRUE CHURCH***.

***THANKFUL HEARTS and HARMONIOUS LIVING
are the best advertising for GOD'S ONE TRUE CHURCH.***