

- WELCOME TO -
MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH

...FOLLOWING GOD, LOVING OTHERS...



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The background of the central section is a photograph of weathered, grey concrete. Several jagged, irregular cracks run across the surface, and a warm, golden light shines through these openings, creating a dramatic, textured effect. The overall tone is somber yet hopeful, reflecting the theme of the sermon series.

A STUDY OF
1 CORINTHIANS
CRACKS IN THE WALLS

June Sermon Series
with Pastor Jeremy

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Week of June 28 - July 4

Sunday, June 28

1 Corinthians Series | Cracks in the Walls
"Firm Foundation"

1 Corinthians 13 and 15

Firm Foundation #1: L_____

1 Corinthians 13

Firm Foundation #2: G_____

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Firm Foundation #3: E_____ L_____

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

SERMON DOODLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Monday, June 29

1 Corinthians 13 | Love

Can you remember the Bible passage that was preached at your wedding? For my wife and I we chose a passage from Revelation about the bride of Christ because we desired the gospel to be presented as a part of our wedding. There are many passages that I have preached at a wedding over the years, but 1 Corinthians 13 is still one that is either preached on or brought up many times.

In the context of the Corinth church, Paul is just simply teaching the people how to love one another. These verses are not specified for just a romantic relationship, but how each of us ought to care for one another. We need to be patient, kind, truthful, bear all things, and endure. We have to make sure that we do not boast, become arrogant or rude, insist on our own way, become resentful, or rejoice in what is wrong. Paul is once again addressing an issue that is in the church and encouraging them that love has to be core to how they live as Christians. This is a great representation of Christ.

I love that Paul is giving clear and specific directions to the church. He is helping them understand the importance not only of what we do, but how we do it. We could be a great speaker, a great teacher, a great servant, a great singer or greeter, but if we do not do it with genuine love, then we are missing something. Church, may we live in love this week as we walk with one another.

Tuesday, June 30

1 Corinthians 14:1-25 | For the Good of the Church

I am wondering today if you know any other languages? In high school I took 4 years of Spanish and in the summer after my junior year we took a trip to Mexico. To be honest, I was nervous because my retention of any amount of Spanish was minor. Thankfully we spent most of our time in the touristy areas and everyone spoke English, so it was a wonderful vacation to Cancun and Cozumel.

Paul continues talking about the gifts of the Spirit and when to use them. When it comes to speaking in tongues, Paul says it is not very useful for the church as a whole unless there is an interpreter. For example, if a nonbeliever walked into a place where people were talking in a language they did not know, they would think the people were crazy. That would not be helpful to the spread of the gospel, but speaking in tongues is useful in the private prayer life of the individual. What Paul says is useful is the prophecy or teaching of the word of God that can help people grow in their faith and begin their faith in Jesus Christ.

Today I was drawn to verses 24 and 25. It is my prayer that we would walk so closely with the Holy Spirit that God would use our words and actions to lovingly convict hearts, reveal His presence, and draw both believers and unbelievers alike to worship Him. Lord, grant us all the ability to speak directly into the current situation that is going on in the lives of those around us. Whether it be to encourage or to convict, may we speak the truth that is needed. Lord, help us all to be able to prophesy for the expansion of Your kingdom.

Wednesday, July 1

1 Corinthians 14:26-40 | Order is Good

Have you ever noticed that in a restaurant like Subway that they put their products in the same places each time? As a former Subway sandwich artist, it was good for there to be order in how the ingredients were set out, that way the workers would know where to grab to complete the sandwich and the order could be accomplished in a timely manner. If they changed the layout everyday it would be chaos, frustrating, and less efficient.

Paul continues his encouragement for the church to be orderly. He knows that multiple people may show up to a meeting with a testimony, a word, or a song in their heart, but it was to be done in a fashion that was orderly for the benefit of all present. He then addresses women and one possible interpretation of this is once again for order. It was common for the women in this culture to be less educated and so there was a habit to ask questions as others were speaking. Again, this could cause disruption for the one testifying or those around the person and so Paul encourages those who have questions to wait for a less distracting time to ask them. Paul is not a control freak when it comes to the order of a service, but I think we can all agree that focusing on one thing or person at a time is more productive than multiple things going on at once.

This chapter does not say that the church service must be exactly the same way each time. It also doesn't mean that everything has to be completely planned out to be an

appropriate service. The Corinth church did not know who was going to have a word until people showed up. This was a very free flowing style of worship that invited everyone to use the gifts they had and the word they received for the benefit of the whole body.

SONG:

["All Things Bright and Beautiful"](#) – Keith & Kristyn Getty

KIDS QUESTION:

Do you like order and structure or would you rather have things just flow in any manner? Why is one way better than the other? Do you like the style of our worship time at church?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

Why is order good? What are the benefits of a free flowing ordered worship style and what are the benefits of a more set ordered worship style?

PRAYER:

Lord, may we always be open to what Your Spirit has for us for this day. Lord, may Your Spirit speak the words that each of us need to hear as we come together as a body.

Thursday, July 2

1 Corinthians 15:1-34 | The Importance of the Resurrection

Do you believe that we will be raised from the dead? When Jesus comes back and the world is over will you and I rise from the dead or will we remain where we are? This was the question that some in the early church were asking. They didn't necessarily discount the resurrection of Jesus, but the resurrection of anyone else seemed harder to believe. This is why Paul addresses the topic in our passage today. From Paul's perspective, if you don't think it is possible for us to rise again in the end, then you are also denying that Jesus could rise again.

Paul goes on to declare what this means for our faith. If Christ did not rise from the dead and defeat death, then our faith is to be pitied. In fact, if Christ did not rise from the dead, then whatever faith we have is only for this life and has no help for the life to come. If Christ did not rise from the dead then we are all still stuck in our sins and dead in our sins, which means that we still face the same judgment in the life to come that we were under before Christ came. The resurrection is key to the sanctifying work of Jesus.

I'm guessing most of us today believe that Jesus rose again from the dead and that his body is not still in that tomb. We believe that Jesus ascended into heaven and now sits in all power and authority at the right hand of God the Father. We believe that this act of resurrection was a sign that death had been defeated and that our sins were atoned for. This matters, for if it did not happen, we are without hope. Praise God for the hope we have in Jesus Christ today.

Friday, July 3

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 | This Life and Beyond

I grew up on a farm in central Iowa where my dad planted oats, hay, corn, and beans. I didn't spend much time planting each year, but I do think I can easily say one thing: the seed that was buried in the ground produced something that looked different. A giant seed did not come out of the ground, but a stalk, some leaves, a tassel and an ear. We know that each seed produces a plant that does not have the same shape or look at all visually like the kernel that was planted.

Paul here is describing the difference between the body on this earth compared to the one to come. Our bodies will not be the same. When we die, we bury this kernel of a body in the ground and what we receive in eternity will be something different. It will be a body that is immortal, it will be whole, it will be free from sickness and pain. We will no longer have the disabilities we had on this earth, but we will be made complete in this beautiful new body that God has in store for us.

I look forward to that day when this temporary body will be exchanged for an eternal one. I'm not worried about what it will look like and I'm not worried about whether I will notice people I knew on this earth. I honestly don't spend much time thinking about what it will all be like, but what I know is that I trust completely in the one who said it would happen. I trust God who said I am an heir to the king and that one day I will be with Him in eternity. I can't wait for that day to come!

Saturday, July 4

1 Corinthians 16 | Final Encouragement

Paul takes this last piece of the letter to work on some encouragement and administrative pieces. Paul sets forth his desired travel plan, knowing that God can change that plan at any given moment. The first time Paul went to Macedonia and Corinth it was not on his radar, but it was on God's radar. It's a good reminder that God is ultimately in control of what will happen and we need to be faithful to His plan and not our own.

Next Paul encourages the church to welcome and support the leaders and pastors that come their way. I love the picture of the church remembering, encouraging and supporting various leaders. I appreciate that of MRC as well. They welcome back, encourage, and support pastors from their past. Unfortunately, not all churches do that and in fact some denominations tell pastors to not stay in contact with their old churches. I love the unity that is in the early church and pray that it can be more prevalent in the world today.

We find ourselves at the end of the book of 1 Corinthians. This book is a challenging book, but I hope you have been encouraged as we have looked at things that need to be addressed in our churches today. We will never be the church God calls us to be if we are unwilling to be corrected or rebuked when we are stepping out of line. There is always room for growth and I look forward to growing with you as we go forward into 2 Corinthians next week.

