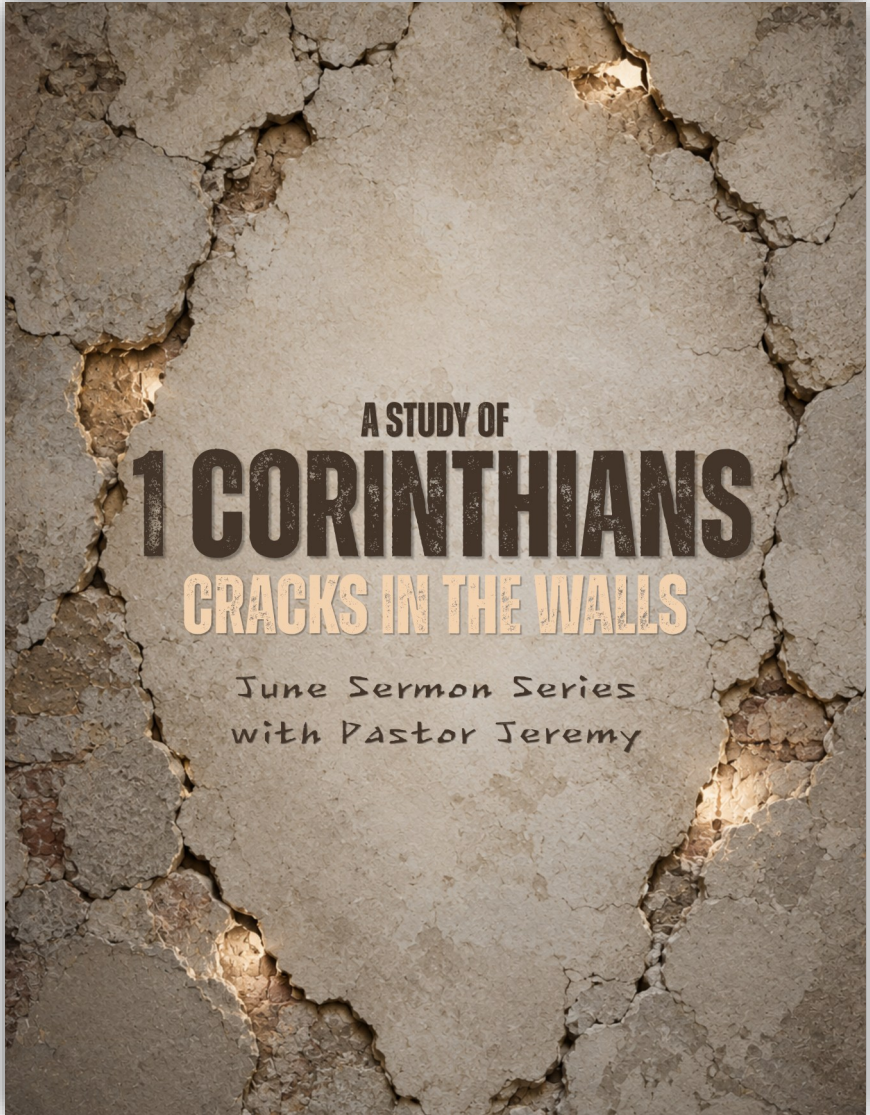


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A STUDY OF
1 CORINTHIANS
CRACKS IN THE WALLS

June Sermon Series
with Pastor Jeremy

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Week of June 7 - June 13

Sunday, June 7

1 Corinthians series | Cracks in the Walls

Divisions in the Church

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 and 3:1-23

Crack #1: F _____ T _____ W _____ L _____

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Crack #2: B _____ W _____ T _____ W _____

M _____

1 Corinthians 3:1-15

Crack #3: P _____ D _____

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

SERMON DOODLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Monday, June 8

1 Corinthians 1:1-17 | The Good and the Bad

Welcome to the kick off of our series in first Corinthians. This is the first letter that Paul wrote after starting the church in Corinth and it is clear that there have been letters sent to him about the church. Paul starts his response to the church with an introduction to who is writing the letter & a commendation to those receiving the letter. This letter is intended for those who believe in Jesus Christ and have found salvation in Him.

The next thing Paul does is to remind the people of Corinth the difference God has made in their lives. Paul is so thankful that the people of Corinth have surrendered their lives to Jesus and it is clear that it is Jesus who has made the change in the lives of the Corinthian people. God is the one who brought salvation, gave the gifts of the Spirit and will sustain the people until the end guiltless. The people of Corinth can trust this to be true because God is faithful.

With that in mind, Paul brings up the first issue that seems to be causing division in the church. It seems that the church in Corinth was divided based on the person who told them about Jesus. Some said they followed Paul, some said they followed Apollos, some said they followed Cephas, and yet, others said they followed Christ. Paul's concern here is that people are missing the point. All of us are under the heading of Christian.

It's not too hard to see that in the universal church that there are divisions. There are so many denominations and split off groups and often it seems impossible for any of them to work

together. Some say they are Baptists, some say they are Reformed, some say they are Christian Reformed and still others simply say they are Christ followers. Even within the individual church we can be consumed with following a human leader. We should only follow a human leader as they follow Christ, for Christ is our true leader.

SONG:

["Undivided"](#) - Kathryn Scott

KIDS QUESTION:

What denomination are you? Talk with your parents about what a denomination is. Are we founded on Jesus Christ? Are we better than other denominations? Why or why not?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

How many denominations can you name? Is there foundation on Jesus Christ? How can we do a better job at seeing we are Christ followers instead of _____?

PRAYER:

Lord, we live in a world that is so divided and the church is no different. Teach us, Lord, to work towards unity in Christ.

Tuesday, June 9

1 Corinthians 1:18-30 | Who Does God Choose?

We all know that this world celebrates power, pride and prestige. In fact these things can rear their ugly heads within the church as well. In the world, those in charge seem to have the power, be puffed up with pride of knowing it all, and they definitely seem to be the most well off financially. Which of these things describes the early Christians?

Paul quickly reminds us that not many were deemed wise by the world, nor powerful, nor from the "right" family. God chose the weak, the lowly, and the despised of the world to share and speak His truth, which holds more power and authority than anything else. Why did God do this? It was because it would be clear that it was from God and not from the wisdom, power, or prestige of any person.

As we mentioned above, the church can fall into this same trap and it will cause division in the church. If a church is led by a certain "family name", by the personality of a certain leader, or the money of a certain group, then the church will be led by the wrong things. The only thing that God desires to lead His church is obedience to Him. The success and the expansion of His kingdom must be solely due to His power and not any earthly reason, otherwise it can lead to pride, and people start following a person and their personality rather than God. We can be grateful for people and how they use their gifts, but we must start by giving praise to God for giving those gifts.

Wednesday, June 10

1 Corinthians 2 | The Power of the Gospel and Wisdom from the Spirit

Have you ever heard the phrase, what you win them with you win them to? This is a phrase that has been on my mind lately as I think about how to do ministry in the year 2026. Our culture has rapidly changed in the last 50 years and honestly it is exhausting to try to keep up with what is fresh or "in" or popular at the moment. By the time we catch up to the most popular thing it has become old news and there is something else to strive towards.

Paul was clear that he did not come to Corinth with gimmicks, with spouting knowledge of other things, but he simply came with the gospel. He said he decided to know nothing except for Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul could have come in and tried to attract in so many ways, but instead He wanted it to be clear that the good news of Jesus Christ is attractive all on its own, but He also admits that to those who do not accept the things of the Spirit, it will seem like folly.

I am so thankful, church, that the main thing of our faith is enough all on its own. I no longer have to strive to attract or impress people, but I simply get to proclaim the truth and the good news of God and that is enough. I don't want us to win people with anything other than God, His truth, and the gospel, because if we do then we will perpetually be chasing after the next gimmick so that we keep people wanting to be a part of the group. The gospel is powerful and the Spirit brings all the wisdom we will ever need.

Thursday, June 11

1 Corinthians 3:1-15 | Who is the Foundation of the Church?

Who is in charge of the church you attend? What leadership structure is set up? Paul comes back to his earlier observation and digs deeper into the issue of who is leading. When the people of Corinth were arguing over who was the best to follow, they were actually showing a symptom of a deeper issue. When the people wanted to be known for following a person, it showed that they were spiritually immature. It's not by mistake that Paul sandwiched chapter 2 in between these two conversations about who people follow. He clearly stated that He came in such a way that people would know it was all about Christ.

Paul takes the next few verses to describe what role humans play in the divine plan of God. All human leaders are to be seen as servants of God who are simply doing what God instructed. One may share a truth from scripture and one may share the gospel, but it is only God who can grow the seed of truth that was planted in the heart of that person. The only foundation we are to build off of is Jesus and we need to make sure that we build only what is from God on that foundation of Jesus. In the end, the fire of God will test everything we taught, said, did, and passed on and only the truth will remain.

It is so easy for us to get distracted from the main thing in the church today. What we are called to do is to grow in our faith, serve the Lord obediently, and pass on the truth from His word. We cannot start our gospel conversations with anything

other than the gospel. If we do, we will cause more pain and struggle in the life of the person we witnessed to because we started them off of the wrong foundation. Let's keep preaching Christ alone and help others build off of that firm foundation.

SONG:

["Firm Foundation \(He Won't\)"](#) - Maverick City

KIDS QUESTION:

What are we called to do by going to church? Why do we need the gospel?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

Why is power, prestige, and popularity so attractive? What is the danger of an "I can do all things myself" kind of attitude?

PRAYER:

Lord, teach us to understand that we don't save anyone. Lord, You alone bring salvation, but we are to be Your faithful servants each and every day of our lives.

Friday, June 12

1 Corinthians 3:16-23 | The Temple of God

The temple was always an important place for the Jews. Solomon built the first permanent temple and it was always seen as the place where the Jews came to worship God. It was the place where God was in the holy of holies. What does the temple mean for us today as Christians? Is it the same as our church buildings or is it us as people?

As we continue through this passage I must admit that I have not stopped long enough in this passage to truly see what it is saying. For as long as I can remember this passage was a clear explanation that I am now the temple of God and God dwells in me. After spending time in this passage more today I learned that the word for you used in verses 16 and 17 were the plural form of you. It was not the singular you as in you personally, but it was plural as in the group or the church that Paul is talking to. Which means, Paul here is saying that the church is God's temple and the Spirit of God dwells in the church and if anyone were to destroy the church, then God will destroy them. In other words Paul is speaking strongly about trying to destroy a church, especially through division and arguing.

The passage ends with a reminder to check our pride at the door and not allow it to lead us in the church. It is not about being the smartest, the most creative or even the most popular. All of that is foolish in the kingdom of God because the kingdom of God is all about Christ and Him alone. Let's keep working at building up the body of Christ, the church, on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

Saturday, June 13

1 Corinthians 4 | The Ministry of an Apostle

As we finish out this week I'm wondering if you have ever heard the idea that once you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior that life is better? I'm sure this phrase was created with a good heart, but the reality is that life on this earth is not always physically better when we become a Christian. Yes, spiritually and I would say emotionally we are able to deal better with the ups and downs of life, but this life will not be without speed bumps.

In our chapter today Paul talks about the differences that are seen in the lives of the Corinthians and in His life. The Christians in Corinth seem to have it all and it seems that everything is going well. Paul on the other hand is seen as a fool, weak, hungry, thirsty, persecuted and slandered. Paul is again addressing the pride and arrogance that is seen in the Corinthian church. It is so easy to become arrogant in our own power and comfortable in our status. Paul is challenging the Corinthians to step outside their comfort zone and get dirty in the work of the gospel. Not everyone will always love you or like what you have to say. Being a follower of Christ will come with its own set of hardships, but God is faithful through it all.

Church, do we find ourselves living like kings? Are we comfortable in our easy life and wealthy lifestyle? Have we ever found ourselves choosing being comfortable over doing the will of God? Paul does a good job at pointing out the deficiencies in the Corinthian church and desires that they

