

Journey Through the New Testament

I Corinthians 2-6

Series: Body Language ***“Out of Body Experience”*** **7-14-19**

Introduction

This week’s reading brought us to Paul’s letters to the church in Corinth. Corinth was a wealthy, cosmopolitan, port city known for its “anything goes” atmosphere. It was the capital of the Roman province of Achaia and an important city for commerce. Diverse populations of artisans and immigrants populated Greek speaking Corinth. Paul longed for the Corinthians to live according to the gospel of Christ but they were jealous, quarreling, and living as “unspiritual people, like babes in Christ.” (I Cor 3:1) Paul did not mince words as he instructed the Corinthian believers. His care and concern for them was like that of a father for his “dear children.” Paul was clear in his message to the church—it is through the power of the Spirit that the mystery and wisdom of God is revealed in the gospel of Christ.

Opening Prayer

O Christ, you reveal what is hidden and have power over all things. Thank you for leaders who point the way and speak the truth in love. Open our hearts and minds to the power of your Spirit that we may grow in wisdom and grace, demonstrating mercy and love to all. Amen.

What?

Bible Study I Corinthians 2:1-10 (CEB)

1. What was Paul’s approach and focus when he came to Corinth to teach the church?
(v. 1-3)
2. Paul felt weak and fearful as he began his ministry with the Corinthians. What was the source of his wisdom and power? (v. 4-5)
3. Why was it important for Paul to note this? (v. 5)
4. How did Paul describe the nature of God’s wisdom? (v. 6-8)
5. What is God up to when we live in a relationship of love for him? (v. 9-10)

Read I Corinthians 3:1-9

1. What was Paul's assessment of the church in Corinth?
2. What led him to this conclusion?
3. How did Paul describe his role and that of Apollos?
4. In what way were the believers missing the point? (5-9)
(Refer also to 3:21-23, 4:2)

So What?

1. So, what did Paul do to help the conflicted church grow in wisdom and faith? (4:14-17)
2. Who has been a "Paul" or "Timothy" who helped you become more spiritually mature?
3. Review the titles for chapters 5, 6, and 7. What other situations were happening in the church of Corinth?
4. So, what was going on in the culture that impacted the believers of Corinth?
5. What conclusions can we draw about the struggle to become fully devoted to Christ?
6. How would you describe the process of spiritual maturity?

Now What?

1. What obstacles do we face as the church in our time?
2. What can we do as individuals and as a church body to become spiritually wise and mature rather than remain "babies" in Christ?
3. When we feel weak and unprepared, what is our source of power and wisdom?

Closing

*When people become believers, they don't at the same moment become nice. This always comes as something of a surprise. Conversion to Christ and his ways doesn't automatically furnish a person with impeccable manners and suitable morals. (from *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson)*

