



The Gospel is the Answer to Church Problems

by David McClister

When we think of a New Testament church that was beset with problems, perhaps the first one that comes to our minds is the church at Corinth. Here is a list of the problems that Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians:

- They had an incorrect view of the gospel, which led to an incorrect view of gospel preachers (ch 1-4).
- They tolerated a fornicator in their fellowship (ch 5).
- Some were suing each other in civil courts (ch. 5).
- Some were engaging in sexual immorality (ch. 6).
- There were marital divisions (ch. 7).
- Some were abusing their Christian liberty (chs. 8-10).
- There was an improper practice concerning female prophets (ch. 11).
- There was an abuse of the Lord's Supper (ch. 11).
- There was bickering over spiritual gifts, which turned into a desire for prominence (chs. 12-14).



And there were probably more problems than just these. In 11.34 Paul said, *"As for the other matters, I will instruct you about them when I come."*

We tend to be shocked when we read of all the problems this church was having, but we should remember that these were newly-converted pagans. The gospel and the church were unfamiliar to them, more so than to the average American. Actually, it is not surprising that they misunderstood some things and had difficulty making the transition into their new lives in Christ. It was actually somewhat normal. This, however, did not excuse the shortcomings of the church there.

If you have read 1 Corinthians, you know that Paul has a lengthy section (chapter 15) on the gospel, with special emphasis on the resurrection. This, in fact, was the key to the whole thing. The fact that some of them did not believe in, or doubted, the resurrection, and thus had failed to grasp the gospel itself, was the root of all of their problems. This is why chapter 15 comes at the climactic position in the book – after Paul has noted and discussed the nine problems listed above. It was Paul's way of pointing out that, in truth, all of their problems actually had a common thread, a common root, and that was the Corinthians' lack of commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

How is the gospel, and specifically the resurrection, of Jesus the answer to their problems? Because:

The gospel is first about the historical death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. If the Corinthians had committed themselves to this doctrine that Paul had taught them, they would not have misunderstood the nature of the gospel (problem #1).

The gospel is about death to sin; we join Jesus in a life of dying to the flesh and to sin (Rom 6.1ff). If the Corinthians had committed themselves to live new lives after the pattern of the resurrection of Jesus, they would not have tolerated a fornicator among them (problem #2), nor would some of them have been engaging in sexual immorality (problem #4).

The gospel is about humility and self-sacrifice for others.

Such was the life that Jesus lived and that led Him to the cross (which was followed by His resurrection). If the Corinthians had applied this truth to themselves, they would not have been suing each other in the civil courts (problem #3), they would not have been abusing their Christian liberty at the expense of others (problem #6), and there would not have been bickering over spiritual gifts (problem #9).

The gospel is about living according to the will of God. It is about following God's appointed order, following His way, and respecting it as such. The authoritative teaching of Jesus is presented as the answer to their questions about marriage (problem #5), and if the Corinthians had respected the divine pattern, they would not have been using female prophets inappropriately in their church (problem #7).

The gospel is about appropriating and assimilating the life of Jesus to and within ourselves. If they had understood this, then their practice of the Lord's Supper would not have been so perverted from its original intention (problem #8).

You see, then, that in every case, a fundamental grasp of and commitment to the gospel of Jesus would have prevented their problems, and was the solution to those problems. When we live by the pattern of Jesus, the pattern of the gospel, when we die to self and sin and live in newness for God's will to be done, when we sacrifice ourselves for the good of others – then things in our church will be according to God's will, the result will be peace and harmony, and we will avoid sin. But to the extent that we deviate from the gospel pattern, to that same extent we will see problems in the local church. It really is that simple.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Kathy Austin's** surgery/procedure on her knee had to be rescheduled.
- **Linda Peterson's** hernia surgery turned into an incision resulting in a painful hematoma. She was able to come home Saturday.
- **Brenda Swann** is home and welcomes visitors (with masks) and loves phone calls.
- **Cecelia Neel's** son, Will, had an accident that totaled the car – although he was relatively unharmed.
- **Morgan Potter's** mother, Jackie, had the planned surgery on Monday (10/26) and should be in the hospital for a week.
- **Maliissa Sam Leonard** asked prayers for his grandmother Nelima Florence who is ill and has been admitted but not in good condition.
- **Roberto Tondelli** asked prayers for him and Italian brethren. Curfew was declared Saturday, from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., in various regions (Italy is subdivided into 20 regions). Rome and Milan are directly involved by curfew. I don't think I am too far from reality if I say that the situation is explosive in many cities. There were violent demonstrations in Naples, for instance, and I am expecting similar things will happen in other areas, too.
- **Doug and Mary-Lou Hall, Bill Hooton, Carl & Annette Yaws, (as well as Maureen Chegin's mother, Linda Peterson, Brenda Swann, Alan Swor, Helen West and Al Williams.**

IN-PERSON SCHEDULE (*Seating is based on pew capacities to maintain safe seating distances. Please follow recommended wearing of face masks, especially when singing).*

- **ONE SUNDAY SERVICE—TODAY, 11/1** at 10:00 a.m. (Lord willing).
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS, 7:00 PM.** Adult class is "BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS" and children classes will meet in their rooms to resume the curriculum series.
- **TUESDAY CLASS, 10:30 AM.** "FROM BOND-

AGE TO FREEDOM: *the story of Israel* (from *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers*) and will meet in the auditorium". ZOOM available.

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

- LiveStream events are still InPerson events and replayable on our YouTube Channel*
- **Worship** | Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
 - **Adult Class** | Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Class** | Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** on first Sundays[2-12] | 11/1 4:00 p.m. (classroom 9)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES Bible Class** on first Sundays | 11/1, 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **MEN'S DAY** with David McClister | 11/7. Posters available on the member table. Look for social media notifications.
- **TEEN DEVO** [12-18] | Sat., 11/21, TBA at the Suarez's.
- **YOUNG ADULTS STUDY** | Fri, 11/15, 4:00 p.m. at the Hooton's.
- **ADULTS STUDY** [30/40] | (TBA)

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Welcome to **Troy and Jane French**, along with their son, Cameron! See the Enews for contact info.
- NEW ADDRESS for **Nathan and Christy Shows**. See Enews for info.
- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett, Al, or Nathan know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Winter quarter classes beginning in December. **Please contact Don Hooton if you are willing to teach.**
- **TEACHERS STILL NEEDED:** Sundays for PreK (3-4 YO).

- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about getting involved in Barnabus Group.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel are coordinating food for members who need assistance after a surgery, during an extended recovery, or after a funeral.

ENCOURAGE AND PRAY FOR THE MEN WE SUPPORT:

- Santiago Acosta, East Conroe
- Okello Ambrose Bob, Uganda
- Edward Brand
- Brent Forsyth, Brea, CA
- Aaron Kemple, Casco, MI
- Sam Leonard Mallisa, Uganda
- Robert Raif, Corrigan/Huntsville prisons
- Roberto Tondelli, Italy

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

- Week Forty-four** (beginning 11/1)
- READ Psalms 43, 93, 143
 - MEMORIZE Psalm 143:10-12

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Worship AM	121	50	124	64
Tuesday Adult Class	10	23	11	9
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	59	30	55	50

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM 11/1	10:00 AM 11/8	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Craig Preuss	Al Suarez	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Adam Bohanan	Nathan Shows	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
SongLeading	Dwight Haas	Dwight Osteen	George Chapman 281.298.1303
1 st Prayer	Gary LeBlanc	Gerald Hodges	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Scripture	Clint Ford	Ethan Dulin	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	1Peter 4:12-19	Acts 13:43-52	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion_Lead	Hayden Clark	Mickey Chandler	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
2 nd Prayer	Al Suarez	Craig Preuss	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Announcements	Don Hooton	George Chapman	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	Blankenships	Bohanans	<i>Evangelists</i>
Sanitize-Pews After	Boniche	Chandlers	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	Preuss	Latson	<i>Website</i>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	George Chapman – Hayden Clark	Norman Davis - Granville Betton	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM 11/4	7:00 PM 11/11	<i>Church Email</i>
SongLeading	Hayden Clark	Keith Arrants	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Barrett Blankenship	Granville Betton	
Prayer	Lyn Ray	Troy French	
Announcements	George Chapman	Keith Arrants	