

Transforming Daily
“... *perfectly joined together* ...”
1 Corinthians 1:10

I often humorously remark that if a Christian or a church wants to know how to live rightly before God, they should read 1 Corinthians and do just the opposite of what they did. Basically the whole book is filled with Paul's corrections for the church at Corinth. He instructed them on their private life, their personal life, and their public life. Of course the model for living that Paul demonstrated and recommended for them was the life of Jesus.

For it is in Christ that we are perfectly joined together. Without Him there is chaos and confusion; there is trouble and turmoil; there is selfishness and self-centeredness. It has been said that the church at Corinth was a carnal church filled with carnal Christians. I'm not sure that the term "carnal Christian" isn't an oxymoron. However, I do believe that the church at Corinth was filled with immature Christians willing to be influenced by the world, and possibly some unbelievers that had head knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, but not heart knowledge.

Many Christians, and therefore churches, are in the same condition today. I believe it was the Billy Graham organization that set forth the statistic that 65% of church members are lost. That's one of the reasons church membership and church attendance are two different numbers. Also, George Barna has several books out about the sad state of our churches, statistically speaking (one in particular is the "The Turn Around Church").

Why is that the case? I think it's because of what Paul was telling the believers at Corinth, "You can't have your cake and eat it too." More biblically stated the believer is to be in the world, but not of it. The believer is to "come out from among them." The church is to be made up of a "royal priesthood," a "holy nation." Our lifestyles and decision making process are to be peculiar by comparison to that of the world's. But it seems, as one man put it, there is more of the world in the church and less of the church in the world.

The good thing about being an immature Christian is that one can grow out of it. One grows out of it by regular Bible study and Prayer, by exercising the spiritual disciplines of church attendance, willing service and selfless ministry, as well as, evangelizing the sinner and discipling the saints. Where do you stand? Are your feet firmly planted on Christ the solid Rock? Is one of your feet in the church and the other one in the world? Spiritually speaking, do you keep running into rocks, and furrowing crooked rows at varying depths by having one hand on the plow while always looking back? Hebrews 10:24-25 is helpful in this matter. Read it. If you do read it, keep in mind that it was written in the imperative mood. Why? It is a part of fulfilling 1 Corinthians 1:10 to be perfectly joined together.