

I CORINTHIANS

December 1997

c Ministry of the Saviour

Volume 1 Issue 1

PAUL WRITES CHURCH OF GOD IN CORINTH

Divisions and Problems in the Church

I am writing to the church in Corinth, you who have been called by God to be his own holy people.

I just can't stop thanking God for all the generous gifts he has given you when you believed in Christ Jesus. He enriched your church with the gifts of speaking and every kind of knowledge. This shows you that I told you the truth when I was there. You now have every gift and every kind of gift that you need while waiting for the return of the Lord. Jesus will keep you strong until the end. Jesus will keep you from blame on the great day when He returns.



**I JUST CAN'T STOP
THANKING GOD FOR ALL THE
GIFTS HE HAS GIVEN YOU**

Can God do this? Sure He can, He always does just exactly what He says He can do and He is the one who invited you into this wonderful relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Praise God that His grace is given to you in Jesus Christ. May you have peace from God our Father in everything. Our God is a faithful God and trustworthy.

I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be harmony and no divisions among you. Be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment, united in thought and purpose. It is reported

I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves

that some of you say that "I follow Paul, or apollo, or Peter, or Christ," Is Christ divided? I think not. There must not be contentions and quarrels among you. Love one another, think in the same

inside...

The real important things
A carnal mind
You are God's Temple
Order of service for churches

Jesus the only foundation
Looking for justice
Sin in the House of God
Marriage

More...

Divisions No - Wisdom Yes

I thank God that I baptized none of you but Crispus and Gaius and Stephanas. I did not baptize to the name of Paul. Was I crucified for you? Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the good news. Not with clever speeches and high-sounding ideas and wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. The preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness but unto them which are

PREACHING OF THE CROSS...

**UNTO THEM WHICH ARE SAVED
IT IS THE POWER OF GOD.**

saved it is the **Power of God**. It is written "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." (ref. from 1s 29:14)

Where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made them all look foolish and has shown their wisdom to be

useless nonsense. The world could never find God or know Him through worldly wisdom. He has used foolish preaching to save all who are saved! Preaching seems foolish to the Jews because they want a sign from Heaven and the Greeks believe only what lines up with their worldly wisdom. So when we preach to the Jews that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and gentiles, Christ is the mighty power of God and wonderful wisdom of God. The foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans. God's weakness is greater and stronger than man's greatest strength. God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. He chose those who are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things that the world considers nothing at all to bring to nothing the things

that the world considers important. Therefore, no one can ever boast in the presence of God! No flesh should glory in His presence.

As it is written, "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

Who made it possible for you to be in Christ?

God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit, God made Christ to be wisdom itself. Christ is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy and he gave himself to purchase our freedom.

How shall you be saved unless you be called unto salvation? How shall you be righteous unless it is imputed to you by Christ? What sacrifice can you give that would make you acceptable in the eyes of God?

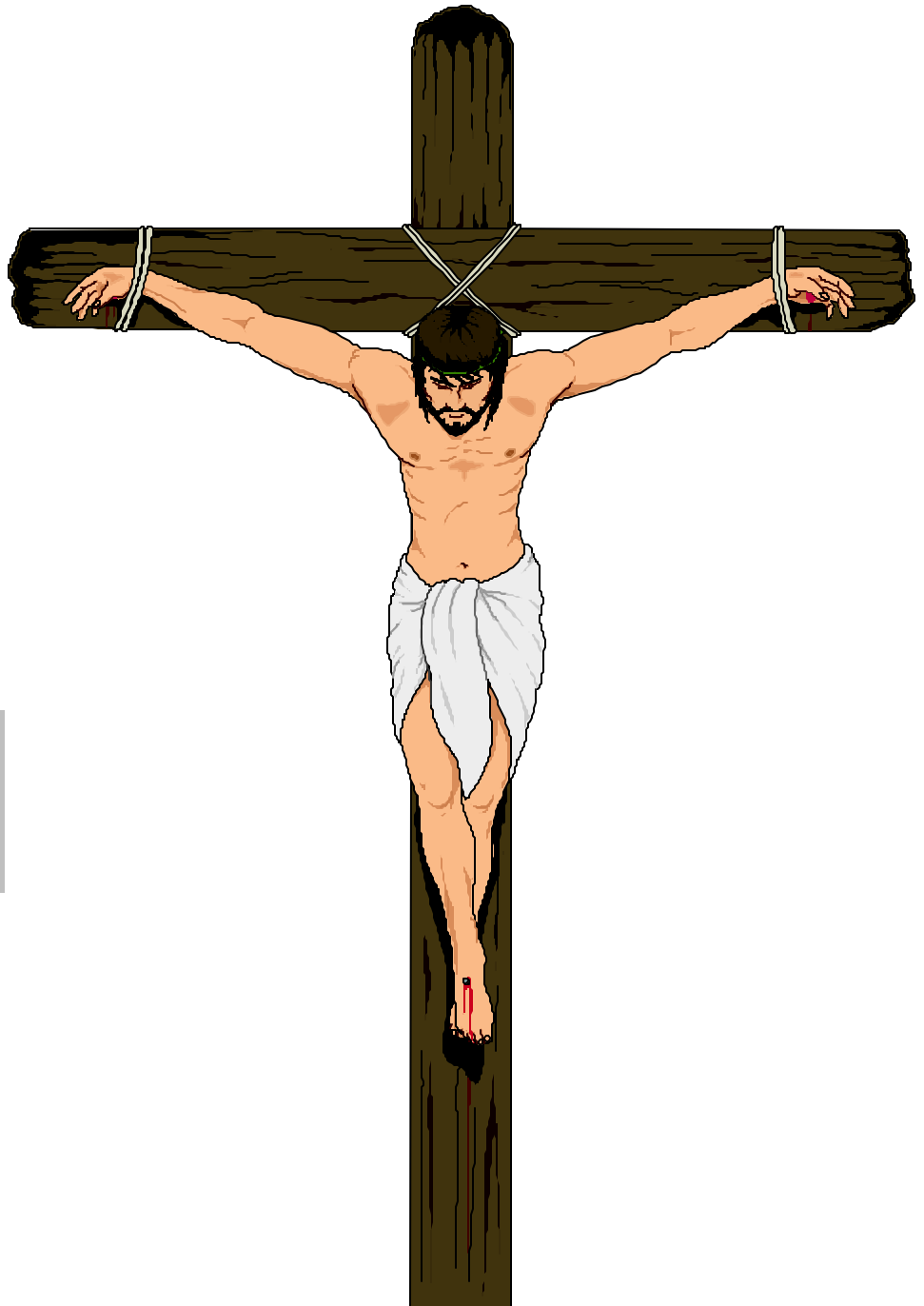
Boast only of what the Lord has done for you!

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING EXCEPT...

My dear brothers and sisters who are my fellow-Christians, when I came to you, it was without any high pretensions to eloquence or to philosophy or learning to tell you God's message and testimony. I decided to concentrate only on Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. I came to you in weakness, timid and trembling. My message and preaching was very plain. I did not use clever talk to persuade you but in demonstration of the convincing power of the Spirit instead of human wisdom. We do of course speak wisdom among those who are spiritually

made for our benefit before the worlds began. None of the leaders of this world understand or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory. It is written (Is

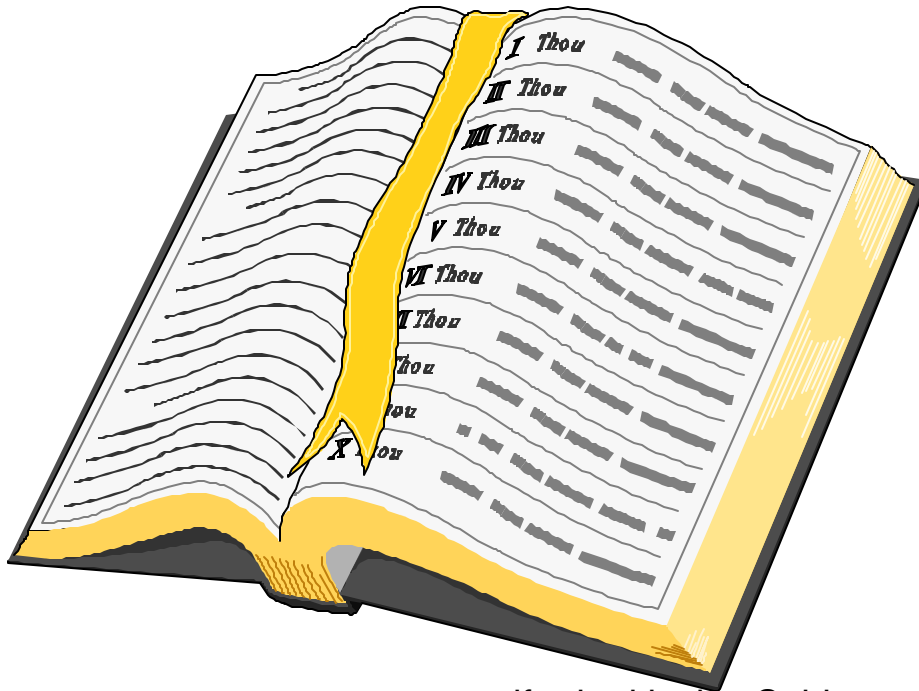
64:4) Eye hath not seen nor ear heard nor imagined in the heart of man the things God has prepared for them that love Him.



I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified

mature although it is not the wisdom of this time or the rulers of this age which will pass away. We speak a wisdom that came from God once a covered secret now uncovered, which God foreordained and was

THE REAL IMPORTANT THINGS ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED



We who are Spirit filled have the mind of Christ!

Therefore, we have understanding!

God reveals things by His

No eye has seen , no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has given us a revelation of these things through His Spirit for the Spirit searches and explores everything even the inmost depths of God's being

What man knows the things of a man except his own spirit that is within him. No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received the Spirit that comes from God that we might understand and have insight into the gifts and blessings God has graciously and freely given us.

Who can know the thoughts of God to be able to instruct Him?

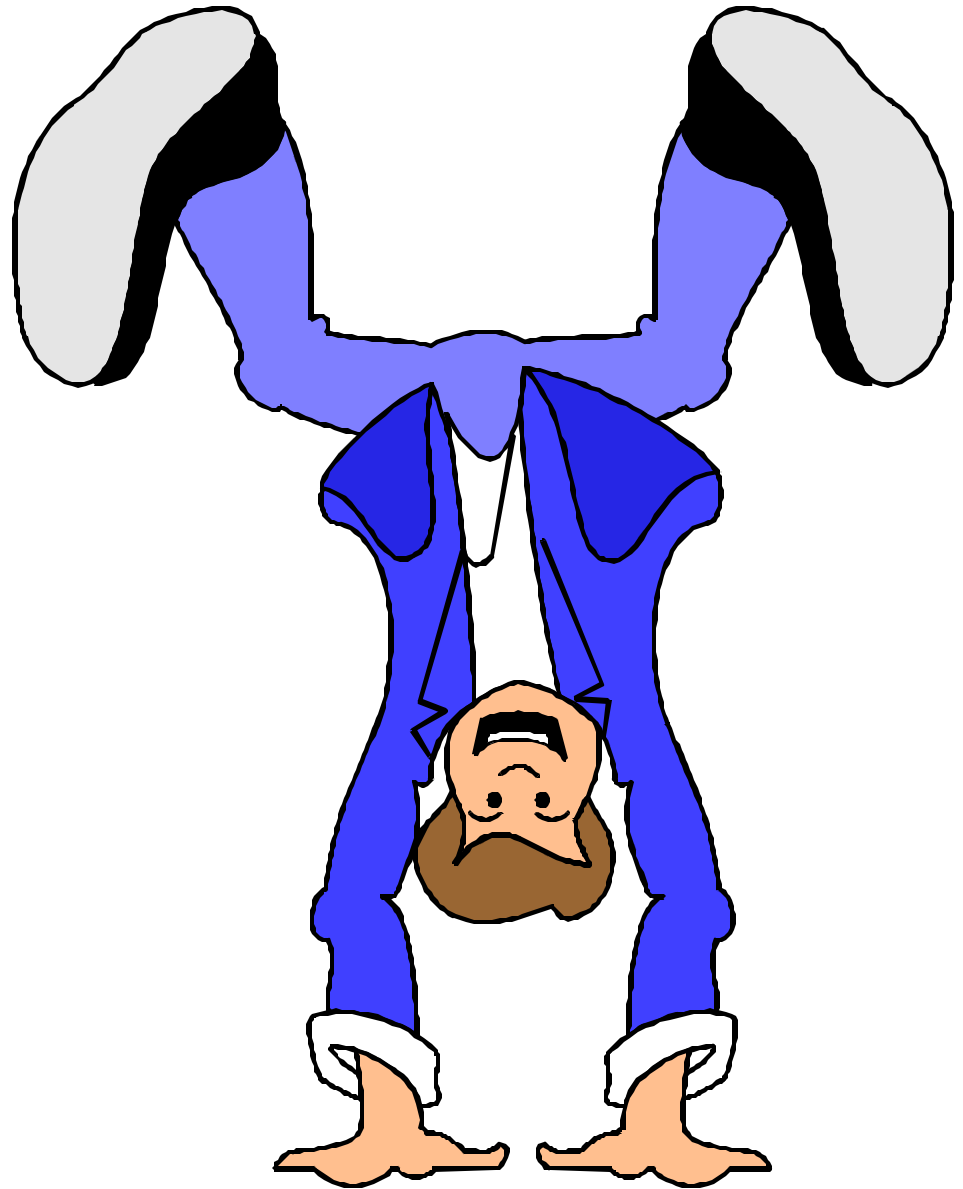
In telling you this, we speak not with human wisdom but with words given to us by the Holy Spirit to explain spiritual truths. Unspiritual man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God because it is understood only by spiritual insight and you must have the Spirit in order to have spiritual insight to see their real value. A person

gifted with the Spirit can judge and appraise all things. With spiritual insight, people are able to understand everything. Yet that person has a true value no unspiritual person can see or have understanding of. Who can know the thoughts of God to be able to instruct Him?

And who can comprehend the mind of the Lord? We who are spiritual have the very thoughts of Christ! We who are Spirit filled have the mind of Christ. Therefore, we have understanding.

A CARNAL MIND HINDERS SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was there with you, I could not speak to you as mature Christians, I had to speak to you as people of the world and as babies in Christ not able to have solid food but in need of milk because you couldn't handle anything stronger. You still are not ready for solid food because you are still controlled by your own sinful desires. You are carnal for there is envy and strife and divisions. You are jealous of others and quarrel with each other. **Does that not prove that you are carnal and walk according to the flesh?** One says I am of Apollos another says I am of Paul. That is from this world not from God. I preached to you that you might trust the power of God rather than human wisdom. We are only servants. Each of us did the work that God gave us. My job was to plant the seed in your heart, Apollos watered it and God made it grow! The ones who do the planting and watering are not important, but God is important because He made the seed grow. We will work together as partners who belong to God. You are God's field, not ours. You are God's building, I have laid the foundation and another builds thereon, but whoever



is building on this foundation should take heed and be very careful how he builds. It may

My job was to plant the seed, Apollos watered it and God made it grow!

be gold, silver, stones, wood, hay or stubble. Fire shall try every work what sort it is. If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward. If it is burned, he shall suffer loss but still be saved.

JESUS - THE ONLY FOUNDATION

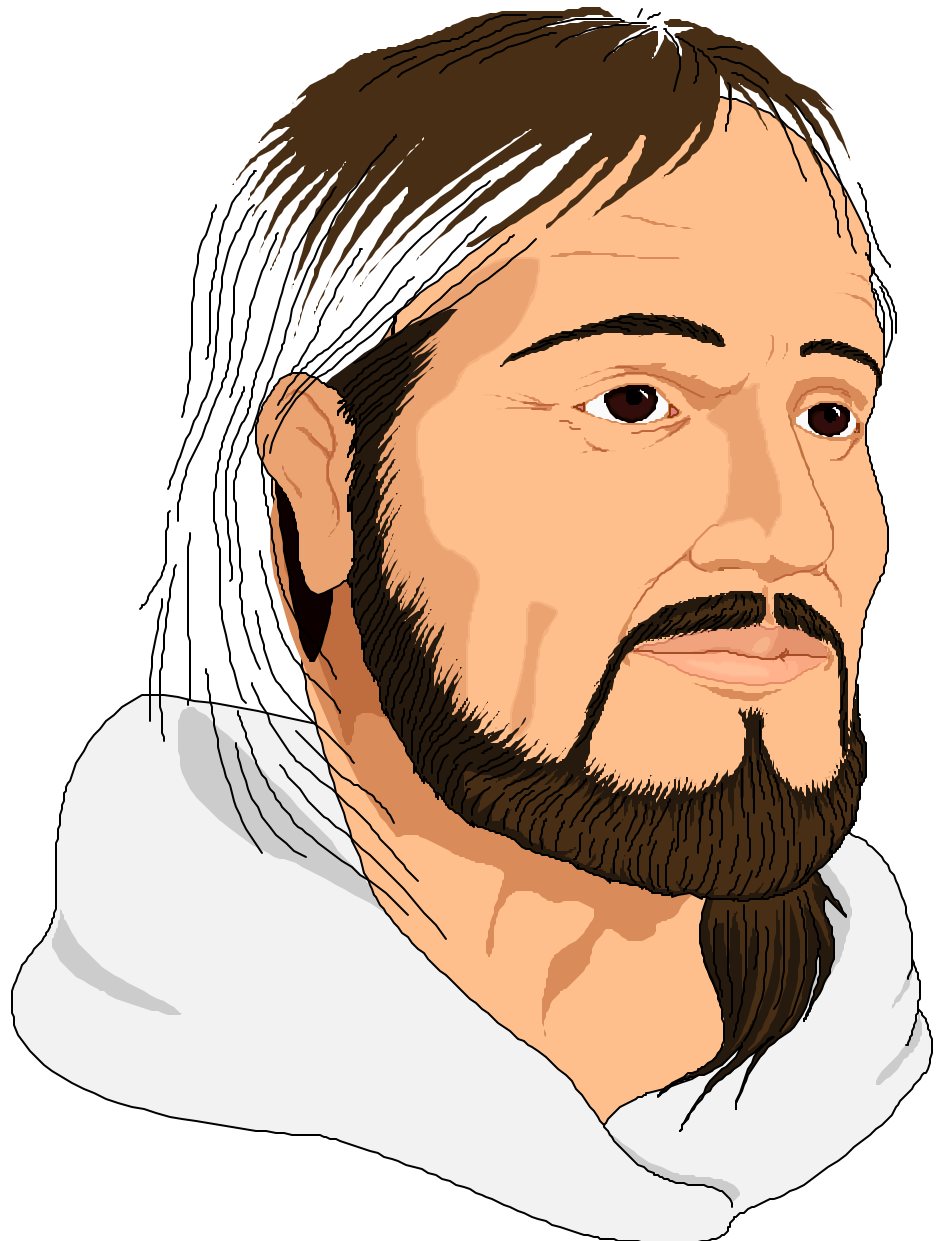
Because of God's special favor to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. No one else can come and lay the foundation that we already have which is Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God who came to earth fully as a man and was sinless and suffering the cross He gave his blood as a sacrifice for our sins that we might have right standing with God. He was raised from the dead

quality and worth of the work. If the work stands the test, he will be paid for that work. If his work is destroyed under the test, he loses it all. Yet like a man being pulled through a wall of flames he will be snatched from the flames and he will be

pulled out of the fire and he himself shall be saved! Be very careful to build upon the foundation with that which is eternal and will stand the test and bring you a reward. When one teaches you, consider the time of testing.

THE FOUNDATION IS JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.... WHO GAVE HIS BLOOD AS A SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS THAT WE MIGHT HAVE RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD.

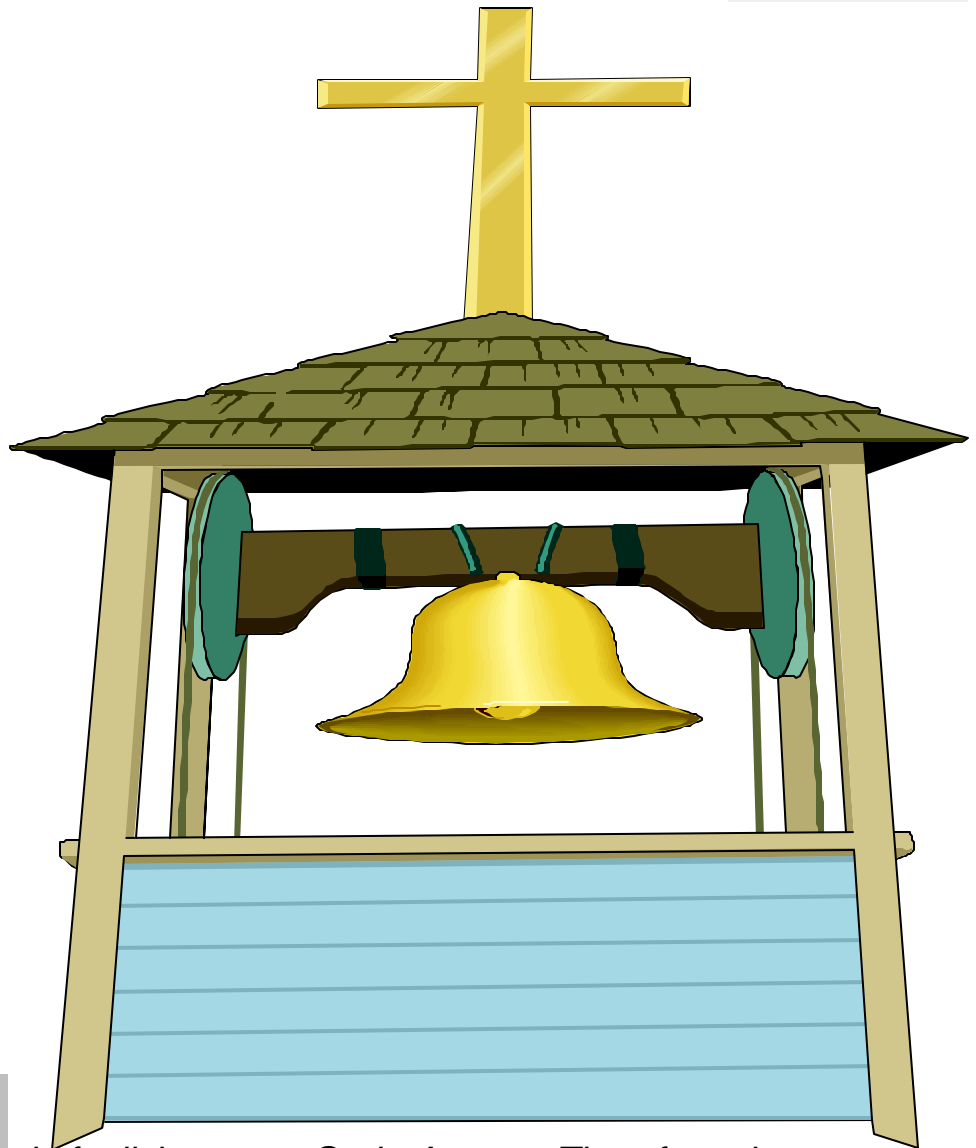
by the Spirit of God which is the same Spirit that indwells us who are called unto salvation and believe in Jesus. Others are building on that foundation and must be very careful. Their works are compared to gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and stubble. These works will be tried by fire and the character of one's work will come to light. The fire will test the



YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE

Do you not know and realize that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells and makes His permanent home in you? If a man ruin the temple of God, God will ruin him. If you defile the temple of God, God will destroy you. The temple of God is sacred, and so are you.

Let no man deceive himself nor be under any illusion over this, if any one thinks of himself as wiser than the rest of you in what the world calls wisdom, let him become a fool that he may be wise. Be a fool rather than let it hold you back from the true wisdom from above. The wisdom of this world



**YOU ARE THE
TEMPLE OF GOD AND
HIS SPIRIT DWELLS IN
YOU.**

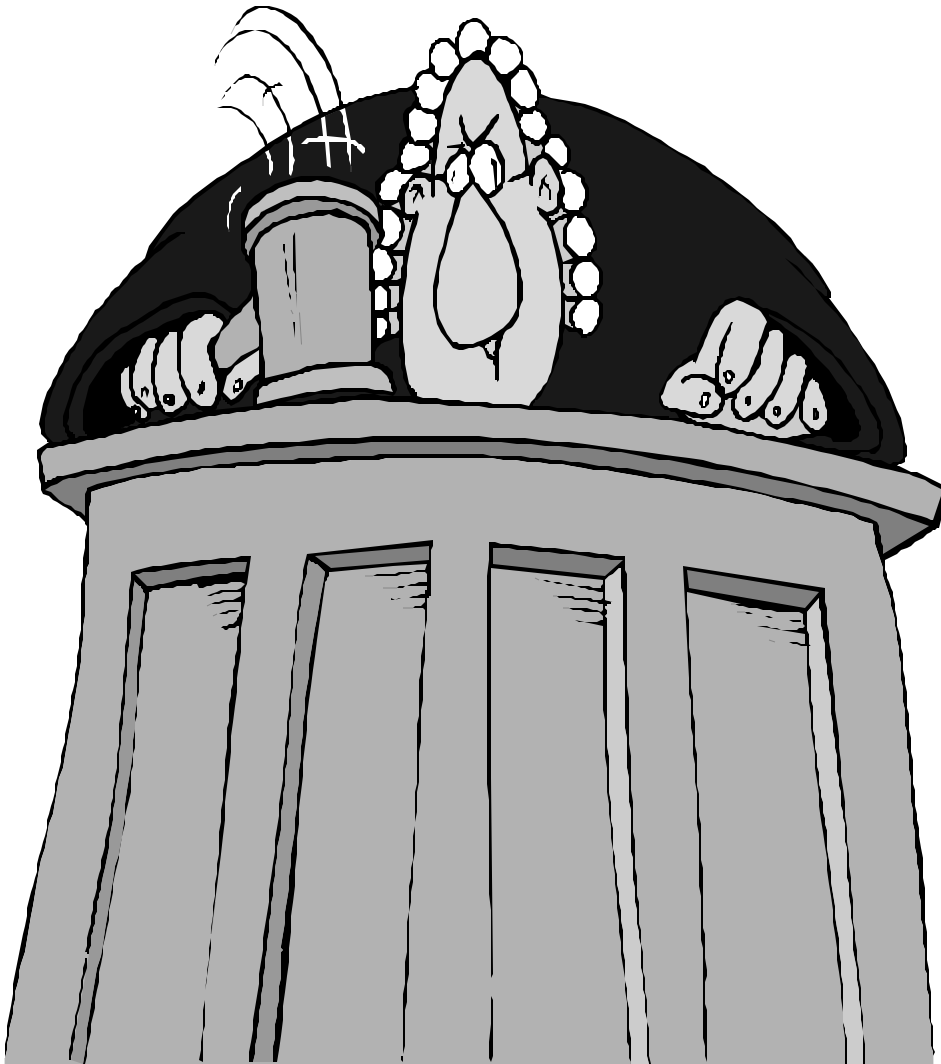
**THE TEMPLE OF
GOD IS SACRED AND
SO ARE YOU**

**EVERYTHING
BELONGS TO YOU AND
YOU BELONG TO
CHRIST**

is foolishness to God. As the scriptures say, "The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise that they are vain. God catches those who think they are wise in their own cleverness. The lord knows the thought of the wise that they are worthless." (quoted from Ps 94)

Therefore, let no man glory or boast in men, don't take pride in following a particular leader. Everything belongs to you. The whole world and life and death: the present and the future. Everything belongs to you and you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

LOOKING FOR JUDGMENT



of unfaithfulness yet in this, I am not hereby declared righteous or justified. Therefore judge nothing before the time of the Lord is come. The moral of this is that we should make no hasty or premature judgments. So do not criticize at all, the hour of reckoning has still

**DO NOT
CRITICIZE AT ALL,
THE HOUR OF
RECKONING HAS
STILL TO come
COME.**

to come.

The Lord will bring to light the hidden things of darkness for **He will light up the darkness which now hides things.** He will expose the secret motives and plans of men's hearts. Then will every man get from God the praise that he

Let men look on us as Christ's servants and managers authorized to distribute the secret truths of God. You demand of any manager that he should be trustworthy. It is a prime requirement of a steward that he should

be worthy of trust. For my part, if I am called to

**JUDGE NOTHING BEFORE
THE TIME OF THE LORD
IS COME.**

account by you or by any human court of judgment, it does not matter to me in the least. I do not even pass judgment on myself. I know that I am not guilty

You demand of a steward that he should be trustworthy.

**THE LORD WILL BRING TO
LIGHT THE HIDDEN THINGS
OF DARKNESS.**

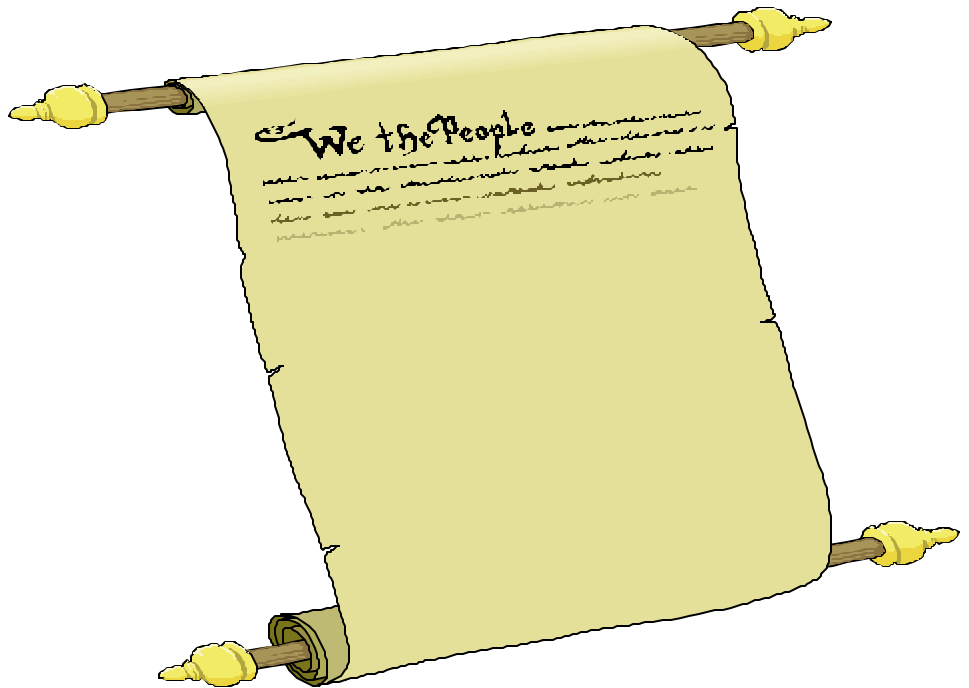
deserves.

Shall I take over the job of the Lord to pass judgment on others?

Authority of the Apostles

I have taken Apollos and myself as examples of these things so that you might learn the precept from what I have said about us so that you will not speak boastfully of one teacher and put down another. What power do you possess that has not been given you as a gift? If you really received it all as a gift, why do you boast as if it had been something you had achieved yourself? Already you are filled and become rich. Are you all so soon satisfied? Are you so soon rich? Have you already taken possession of your kingdom without help? I wish you had the kingdom so we might reign with you.

God has exhibited us apostles at the very end of the procession like criminals condemned to die in the arena, put on display at the end of a victor's parade, to be stared at by men and angels alike. We are for Christ's sake 'fools' but you by your union with Christ, are men of discernment. We are



weak but you are strong, you have glory but we have dishonor. When until this present hour we suffer hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed, beaten, and homeless. We toil to exhaustion with our own hands, we meet abuse with blessings, we

are treated like the world's garbage. I am not writing to shame you but to warn you as my beloved children. I became your father when I preached the good news to you. So I ask you to follow my example.

Some of you have become arrogant. When I come I shall find out whether these arrogant people are just talkers or whether they really have God's power. **FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT FANCY TALK, IT IS LIVING BY GOD'S POWER.** The kingdom of God does not consist of talk but of doing.

I ASK YOU TO FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD DOES NOT CONSIST OF TALK BUT DOING.

meet persecution with endurance. We respond gently when evil things are said about us. We

SIN IN THE HOUSE OF GOD



I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality and fornication going on among you. Something so wicked that even the pagans don't do it, that a man in the church is living in sin with his father's wife!

You are proud of yourselves. You should be mourning in sorrow and shame. Why haven't you removed this man from your fellowship? I assure you as solemnly as if I were actually present before your assemble that I have already pronounced judgment

concerning the one who

CAST THIS MAN OUT OF THE CHURCH AND INTO SATAN'S HANDS

has done this deed. Call an assembly and my spirit and the power of our Lord Jesus will be with you when you meet. Cast this man out of the church and into Satan's hands so that his lower fleshly lusts and nature be destroyed in the hope that this will wake him up and save his soul before it is too late.

Your pride in your

church is out of place, don't you know a little yeast makes the whole dough sour? Purge the leaven so that you may be free from that leaven.

Remove this wicked person from you that you may remain pure. Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. So let us celebrate the festival not by eating the old bread of wickedness and evil, but by eating the new bread of purity and truth. I wrote to you in a letter not to associate or mix with those who live in sexual sin. It is not possible to keep away from such people without going out of the world completely. What I meant was, if a man pretends to be a brother but lives in sexual sin, idolater, drunkard, or a thief, do not eat at the table with such people. It is not my job to judge the lost. But you must judge those in your fellowship. The scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you." (from Deut 17:7)

CHRISTIANS AND CIVIL LAW

Would any of you having a lawsuit against his brother bring it before a court of pagan unrighteous men instead of the community of God's people? Someday, the Christians are going to judge the world. Do you not know that we are going to judge and reward angels. Are you incompetent to judge the most trivial matters of everyday life? If therefore you have common or business disputes, you would do better to appoint the most insignificant of your own number as judges than to go to outside judges that are not even Christians! I say this deliberately to rouse your sense of shame. Are you really unable to find among your number one man with enough sense to decide between a man and his brother? No, one Christian sues another and that before unbelieving judges.

Even to have law-suits with one another at all, is evidence that you have utterly failed. Why not rather prefer to put up with wrong.? Just accept



mistreatment and leave it at that. It would be far more honoring to the Lord to let yourself be cheated. Instead of this, you yourselves do wrong and fraud and rob others, yes, even your brothers.

The kingdom of God will never belong to the wicked. The unjust will never come into possession of the

kingdom of God. Those who do wrong have no share in God's kingdom.

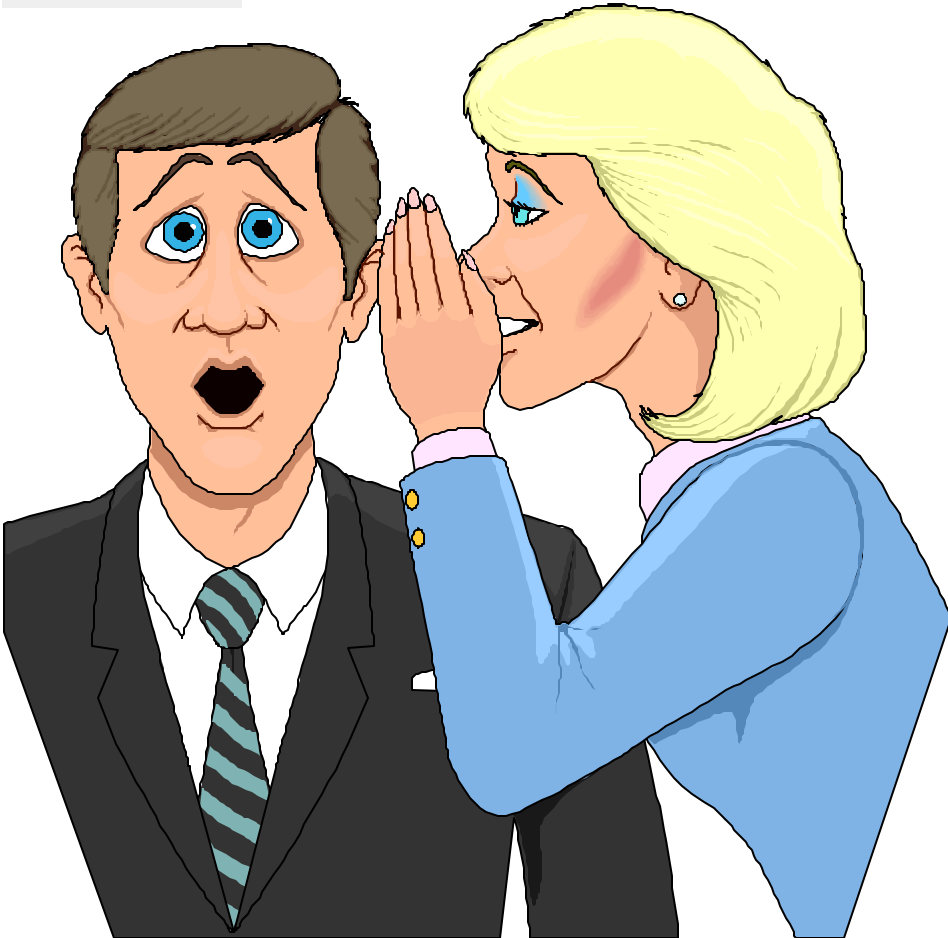
CAN I SUE ANOTHER BELIEVER?

JUST ACCEPT MISTREATMENT!

THE KINGDOM IS WORTH IT!

It is time to stop being misled.

CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE PURE



Some day God will do away with both of them. Your body was not made for immorality. It was made for God and God cares about your body. God will raise your body from the dead just as He did our Lord. Your body is a member of Christ. Shall I take it and make both my body and Christ members of a prostitute? God forbid! If a man joins himself to a harlot, she becomes one body with him. If a man is joined

All things are lawful to me but not all things are good for me. All things are lawful to me but I will not be brought under the power and enslaved and mastered by anything.

Don't be misled, people who are sexually immoral, lives in sexual sin, worships idols, who are guilty of either adultery or of homosexual perversion, thieves, greedy, covetous, slanderers, or drunkards and partyizers, extortioners **shall not** inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God. Some of you were just these kind of characters at one time but now your sins are washed away

and you became Christ's people and are set apart to God. You have been put in right standing with God because of what the Lord Jesus and the Spirit of God have done for you.

All things are lawful to me but not all things are good for me. All things are lawful to me but I will not be brought under the power and enslaved and mastered by anything.

You may say that food is made for the stomach and the stomach for food.

unto the Lord he is united with the Lord in one spirit. Run from sexual looseness like the plague. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives within you. You do not belong to yourself, God bought you with a high price so honor God with your body.

INSTRUCTIONS ON MARRIAGE

Concerning the questions you raised in your letter. It is good for a man to have no intercourse with a woman but live a celibate life. It would be well for a man to remain single. However, because of the temptation to immorality, let every man have his own wife and every woman have her own husband. The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy which is the right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband but give him his due. The wife gives authority over her body to the husband and the husband gives authority over his body to the wife. **Do not deprive each other of sexual relations.** The only exception to this rule would be the agreement of both to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so they can give themselves more completely to prayer. After that come together again that Satan tempt you not through your fleshly passions and lack of self control. As a suggestion and not a rule, **I wish that everyone could get along without marrying just as I do.** But we are not all the same, God gives some the **gift of marriage** and others the **gift of singleness.** I say to the widows and the unmarried, it is better to remain single and unattached just as I am but if you cannot contain, restrain, and control yourselves, get married! It is better to marry than to burn. It is better to marry than to burn with passionate desire and be tortured by unsatisfied desire.



memorable qu
(a pull quo
's interest.

MORE WORDS ON MARRIAGE

To those who are already married my instructions are- or rather not my instructions but the Lord's command. Let the wife not leave or be separated from her husband. If she is already parted from him, let her remain single or be reconciled with her husband. Let not a husband divorce or put away his wife. I will speak to the rest of you even though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a brother has a wife who is an unbeliever and she is



free man that is called to salvation is the slave of the Lord Jesus Chris. God bought you and paid for your redemption at a tremendous cost. Stop becoming slaves and servants to men and the world.

Don't worry about your position in this world, the important thing is faith in God!

Brethren let every man wherein he is called, therein abide with God. For unmarried daughters, I think it best to remain as you are. Are you married? Stop trying to get a divorce. Are you unmarried? Stop looking for a wife. Marriage is not sin. Yet I do believe that those who take this step are bound to find the married state an extra burden in these critical days and I should like you to be as unencumbered as possible. The time is short so let those who have wives live as if they had none and those who weep must forget their tears, those who rejoice have no time to enjoy their joy, those who buy have no time to enjoy their possessions. Your contact with this world must be as light as possible.

Let every man continue to live the life God placed you in when you were called.

pleased to dwell with him, he should not divorce her. And if a Christian woman has a husband who is an unbeliever and he is willing to continue living with her she must not leave him. For the unbelieving man has become associated with Christ's people while the wife brings holiness to the marriage. And the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise your children would not have a Godly influence. Remember, your spouse might be converted because of you. Everyone must live

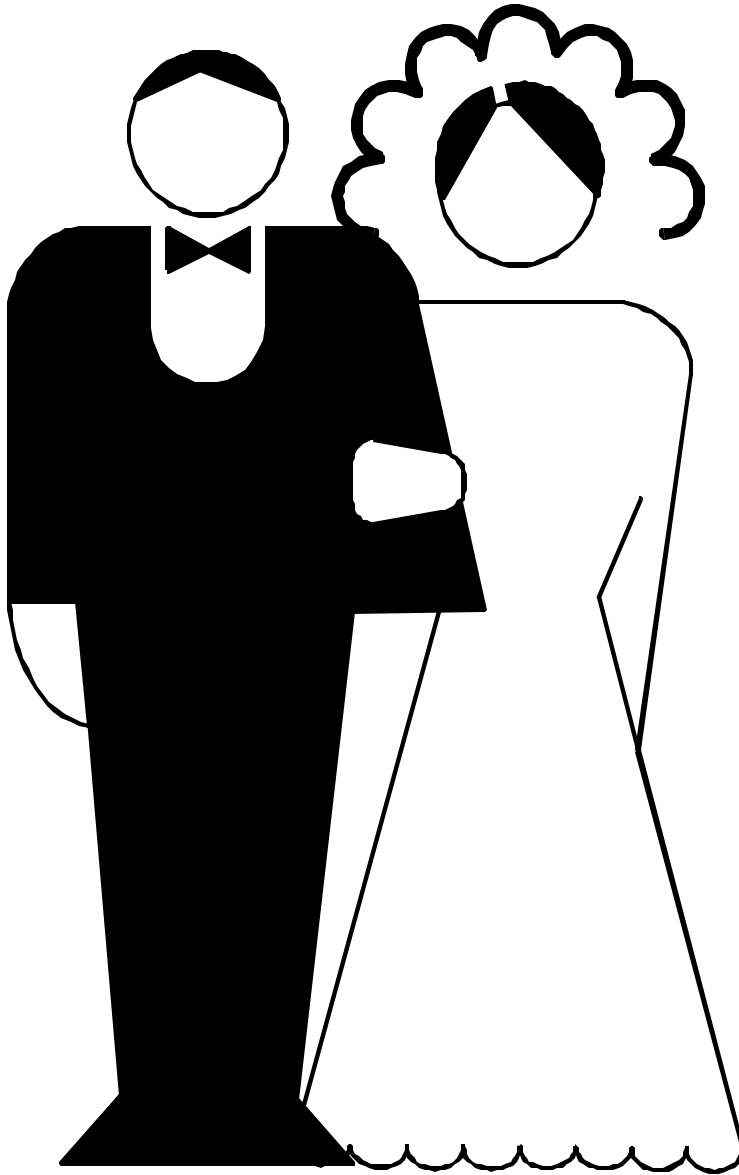
the life which the Lord has assigned and called them to.

The rule I teach in all our congregations is that if a man is saved who is circumcised, let him not try to disguise it. If a man is saved who is uncircumcised, let him not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Obedience to God's commandments is everything.

Every one must remain in the same life in which he is called . If you were a slave or servant when you became a Christian, don't let that worry you or annoy you. If you have opportunity to become free then do that. The slave who received the call to salvation in the Lord is a freedman of the Lord. The

The Unmarried Cares for the Lord

The world as you see it is rapidly passing away. I would have you without anxieties and worry. He that is unmarried cares for the things of the LORD, how he might please the Lord. The unmarried man is free to concern himself with the



Lord's affairs. His aim is to please the Lord. But a married man can't do that so well, he has to think about his responsibilities down here on earth. His devotion is divided. There is the same difference between the married and unmarried woman. A woman who is

free of wedlock is concerned with the Lord's business, her aim is to be dedicated to Him in body and in spirit and is anxious to please the Lord in all she is and does. Once married she is anxious about earthly things, desiring to please her husband. I say this to

help you, not to try to keep you from marrying. I am thinking of your service to God that it be as free as possible from worldly distractions. If a man thinks he ought to marry his fiancée because he has trouble controlling his passions and time is passing, it is all right, it is not sin, let them marry. Whatever

The unmarried are free to concern themselves with the Lord's affairs.

The married seek to please their mate.

will help you serve the Lord better. A person who marries does well. A person who does not marry does even better. A wife is part of her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband is dead, she is at liberty to be married to whoever she wishes so long as he is a Christian and the marriage is within the Lord's fellowship. It is my opinion that she would be happier if she remained unmarried.

DEALING WITH HEATHEN IDOLS

Now for the matter of meat which has been sacrificed to idols. You think that everyone should agree with your perfect knowledge. Knowledge may make us feel good it brings conceit. Knowledge may make a man look important, but it is only love that can make him grow to his full stature. If a person thinks he knows all the answers and has superior knowledge, he has a lot to learn and he does not yet know what knowledge he ought to know. If he loves God, he is opening his whole life to the Spirit of God and he will have knowledge of God.

Relative to the food that has been dedicated to idols, we know that an idol is not really a god. A false god has no existence in the real world because there is none



If he loves God, he is opening his whole life to the Spirit of God and he will have

other God. God is one. So called gods may be many in heaven and earth

but to us there is one God.

And one Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things. However, every person does not have that knowledge. Some think of idols as being real and eating of the meat to be worship of it. Their conscience is not easy, being weak, and so incurs guilt. Our food cannot change our place in God's sight. We do not gain or lose anything if we eat or we do not. Do not let your liberty become a stumbling block to them that are weak.

If one without knowledge see one with knowledge eat of meat offered to idols it encourages the weak one to be hardened to his conscience so that he is ruined by what you call your knowledge. When you sin in this way against your fellow Christians, injuring their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. If eating meat causes a brother to sin, abstain from meat rather than be the reason for him sinning.

Paul gives up Rights for Christ

Is there any doubt that I am a genuine messenger and apostle? Can you deny that I am free from man's authority? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord with my own eyes? Are you not the fruits of my labor in the Lord? Even if other people should refuse to recognize my divine commission, to you I shall always be a true messenger for you are yourselves the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. You are living proof of God's call to me. My answer to those who question my authority is "Can't I claim the same privilege the other apostles do of being a guest in homes?" Do they deny my right to carry a believing wife with me on my journeys as the rest of the Apostles do? Or is it Barnabas and I only that have no right to refrain from working for a living. Did you ever hear of a man serving in the army at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating of its fruits? What shepherd tends his flock and does not taste the milk? This isn't merely human opinion. Doesn't God's law say the same thing for the law of Moses says, "Do not keep an ox from eating as it treads out the grain." (Deut 25:4) Do you think that God was thinking only of oxen when He said this? Is he not clearly speaking in our interest? Of course this law was written in our interest

because the ploughman needs to plough in hope. If we have sown for you the seed of spiritual things, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? Yet I have not used my power but forego every claim so that I may not in any way hinder the progress of Christ's gospel. Do you know that those who perform the temple service get their living from the temple? Those who attend the altar share in the sacrificial offerings. On the same principle the Lord has ordered that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. But for my part, I have never availed myself of any of these rights nor do I intend to claim it in this letter. I would rather

die than let anyone deprive me of this, my one source of pride. Proclaiming the gospel gives me no ground of boasting for I am compelled to do so by order of my Master for a curse is on me if I don't. If I do this work because I chose to do so, I am entitled to a reward. But God has chosen me and given me this sacred trust and I have no choice.

What is my pay for this? To present the good news free of all cost, never demanding my rights as a preacher. I am not bound to obey anyone just because he pays my salary. I have made myself everyone's slave that I might win more to

YOU ARE LIVING PROOF OF GOD'S CALL TO ME.



Christ. When I am with the Jews, I become one of them so that I can bring them to Christ. When I am with the Gentiles, I fit in with them as much as I can so that I gain their confidence and bring them to Christ. I obey the law of Christ. I try to find common ground with them so that I might win them to Christ. Remember that in a race, everyone runs but one gets a prize that fades away **but we do it for an eternal prize.** You must run in such a way that you will win.

A WARNING - AN EXAMPLE

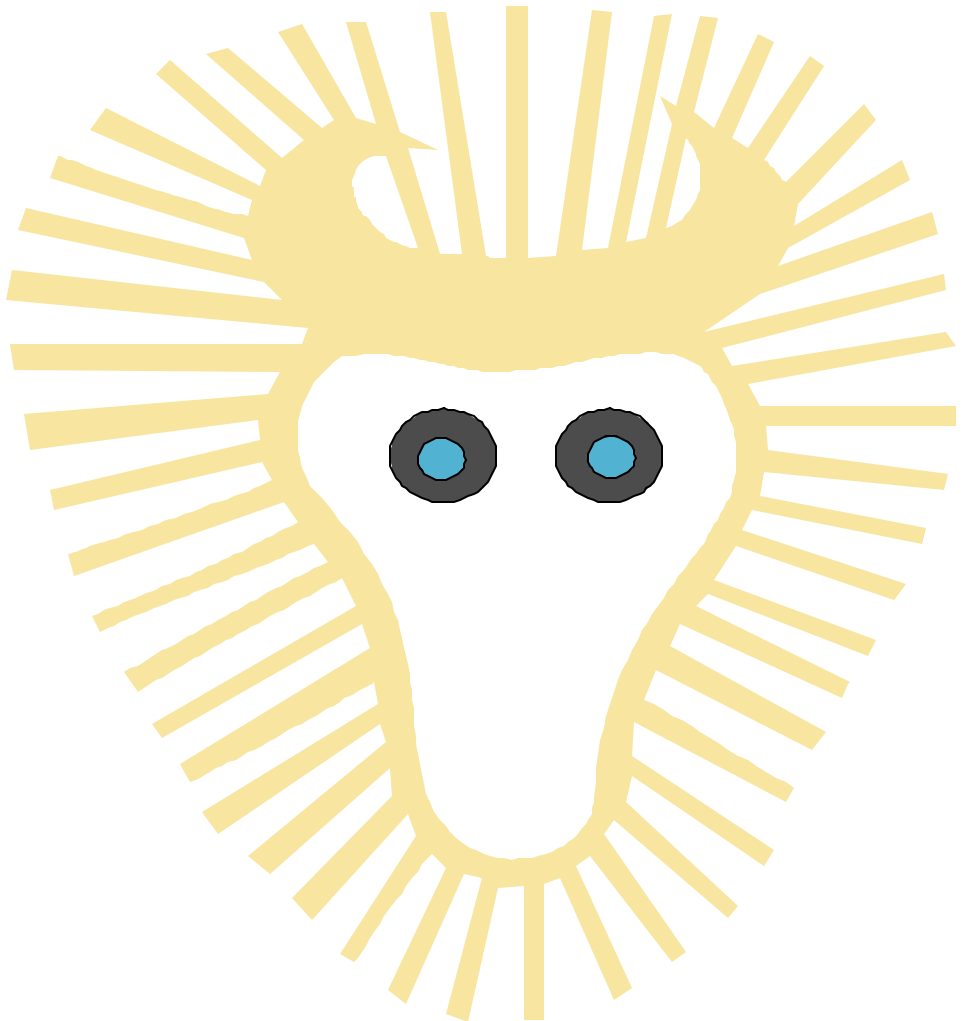
I don't want you to be ignorant or forget dear brothers and sisters in Christ how God safely guided our ancestors out of Egypt under a pillar of cloud and all passed through the sea safely. All who followed Moses were baptized in the cloud and the sea. All ate of the supernatural food and all drank of the supernatural water from the spiritual rock which was Jesus. But God was not pleased with many of them. Their dead bones say in the wilderness. These events are examples and warnings to us to keep us from lusting after evil things as they did. Do not worship false gods as

were recorded for our benefit. Let him who imagines that he is standing so securely today take heed that he does not fall tomorrow. There has been no temptation come against you that is not common to all mankind but God is faithful, **you can trust him not to allow you to suffer any temptation beyond your powers of endurance. You will not be tempted more than you can stand. When you are tested, He will also make a way out that you can come through it victoriously.**

My friends, keep away from idolatry, continually flee from it. I speak to you as men of discernment and appeal to your intelligence and good sense, form your own opinions about what I say. When we share the communion cup from the Lord's table, aren't we sharing the benefits from the blood of Christ? The bread we take in communion, do we not share the benefits of his body which was broken for us? There is one bread and we who are many are one body. We all share the one loaf.

GOD IS FAITHFUL!

some of them did. After feasting and resting, the people got up to dance in worship to the golden calf. Stop practicing immorality and fornication as some of them did and in one day twenty three thousand were killed. Stop trying the Lord's patience as some of them also tempted and were destroyed of serpents. do not murmur, grumble, complain and say evil things against the Lord as some of them did and God sent an angel to destroy them. Now these things happened as examples and



THE CUP OR THE DEVIL

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils. You cannot be a guest at both the Lord's Supper and the table of devils. Are we trying to stir up God's anger or do we intend to rouse the Lord's jealousy? Surely we are not stronger than He is! All things are lawful for me, that is we are free to do anything but all things are not expedient and not everything can be done without harm. All things are lawful for me but all things do not build up the church or character. Let no man then set his own advantage as his objective, no one should always be looking after his own welfare but also that of his neighbor.

You may eat anything

**All things are lawful for me but
II things do not build up the
church or character.**

that is sold in the meat market without making inquiries to satisfy your conscience. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.



Everything that is in the earth belongs to the Lord! If an unbeliever invites you to his house and you consent to go, feel free to eat whatever is set before you without asking any questions. But if your host tells you straight out that this meat has been offered in sacrifice to an idol, make it a rule not to eat of it for his conscience, not yours. Why should my liberty be limited by another person's conscience? If I by grace be a partaker and eat after giving thanks, why am I blamed for eating food that I

thank God for? Whether you eat or drink or anything else that you do, do everything to glorify God. Give no one an occasion to stumble, not Jews, Gentiles nor to the assembly of God. I myself am in the habit of pleasing everybody in everything. I do not strive for personal profit, but seek the good of as many as possible that they may be saved.

**EVERYTHING THAT IS IN
THE EARTH BELONGS TO
THE LORD.**

**GIVE THANKS BEFORE
YOU EAT IT.**

PUBLIC WORSHIP

Pattern after me as I pattern after Christ. I am happy dear friends, that you always keep me in your thoughts and you are following Christ's teachings that I passed on to you.

There is one thing that I want you to know. A man is responsible to Christ. A woman is responsible to the man. Christ is responsible to God. 1. If a man covers his head **while praying or prophesying**, he dishonors Christ.

2. If a woman does not cover her head **when she prays or prophesies** she dishonors her husband because it the same as shaving her head. If

We have no other custom than this.

men and women ought to pray, teach and prophesy

a woman will not veil herself, she should shave her head at once. 3. And since it is shameful that a woman shave her head or have her hair cut, she should wear a covering.

4. A man should not wear anything on his head while worshipping for he is God's glory, made in his own image but the woman is the glory of the man. 5. Man does not originate from woman but woman from man. Man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman was created for the sake of man. 6. A woman should wear a

covering on her head as a sign of authority because the angels are watching. 7. In relationships, among God's people, men are not independent of women and women are not independent of men. The first woman came from man, all men have been born of woman ever since and everything comes from God.

What do you think about this? Is it right for **a woman to pray to God in public** without covering her head? 8. Isn't it obvious that it is disgraceful for a man to have long hair?

9. Isn't it obvious that long hair is a woman's pride and joy? For it has been given her as a covering. If anyone wants to argue about it, all I can say is that **we have no other custom than this** and all the churches of God feel



NOTE THIS

the same way.

There is confusion or there is order of responsibility. Man is appointed to be head of the household. The new covenant does not try to change people and customs of the day and location from without but over time from within. Do not be concerned that you are not drawn to first century customs of dress and behavior. Paul does not say that this is from the Lord as he does the Lord's supper on the next page.

Do not lose the real issue of this chapter which is: that men and women both prayed, taught and prophesied as a part of the worship service of the first century church. In twenty-first century clothes, men and women should both pray, teach, and prophesy as a part of the worship service of today's church.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

In this next issue, I cannot give you praise. It sounds as if you do more harm than good when you come together as a church. I hear that divisions and cliques prevail and there must be some truth in it. There must be cliques, dissensions, and differences of opinion among you. When you hold your meetings, it is not possible to eat the Lord's supper for each of you is in a rush to eat his own supper and one has not enough food and another is drunk. Don't you have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you really want to disgrace the church of God and shame the poor? Do you want me to praise you? I do not!

Let a person look into their own heart and only then should they eat the bread and drink the cup.

This is what the Lord himself said and I pass it on to you, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." The same way he took the cup of wine after the supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and



you, sealed by the shedding of my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." Every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again. Whosoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord in an unworthy way, shall be guilty of desecrating the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person look into their own heart and only then should they eat the bread and drink the cup. The one that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks condemnation to himself if he does

not honor the body of Christ. If we carefully examine ourselves, we will not be judged. If punishment does come, we are chastened and disciplined by the Lord that we may not incur damnation as the wicked world will. Therefore, when you come together to celebrate the Lord's Supper, those who are hungry should eat at home that your coming together be not to judgment and condemnation.

I will give you instructions about other matters when I come to you.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Now concerning spiritual gifts which are special abilities, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed and without any teachings or understanding

whether they are really inspired by God or whether they are fakes? Here is the test. No one who says Jesus is cursed can be speaking under the influence of the Spirit of God.

8. Ability to speak in unknown languages
9. Ability to understand the meaning of unknown languages

It is the one and only Holy Spirit that decides which gift each person should have. The same Spirit accomplishes all these achievements distributing to each individual just exactly

ONE BODY MANY PARTS

Just as the human body has many parts, so it is with the body of Christ. Some of us were Jews or Gentiles, some of us are free and some are slaves but we have all received the same Spirit. The body has many different parts not just one. If a foot is not a hand, should it say I am not of the body? It would not make any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? If the whole body were an ear, how would you smell? God has arranged all of the parts of the body as he wished them to be according to His own plan. If we were all one single organ, how could there be a body at all. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." On the contrary the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable. Those parts we call less honourable, we clothe with the greatest of care. God has put us together in such a way that extra care is taken of those parts that have less dignity. If one part suffers, all parts suffer. If one part is honored, all the parts are glad. **Each one of you are separate and necessary parts of Christ's Body which you are altogether!**

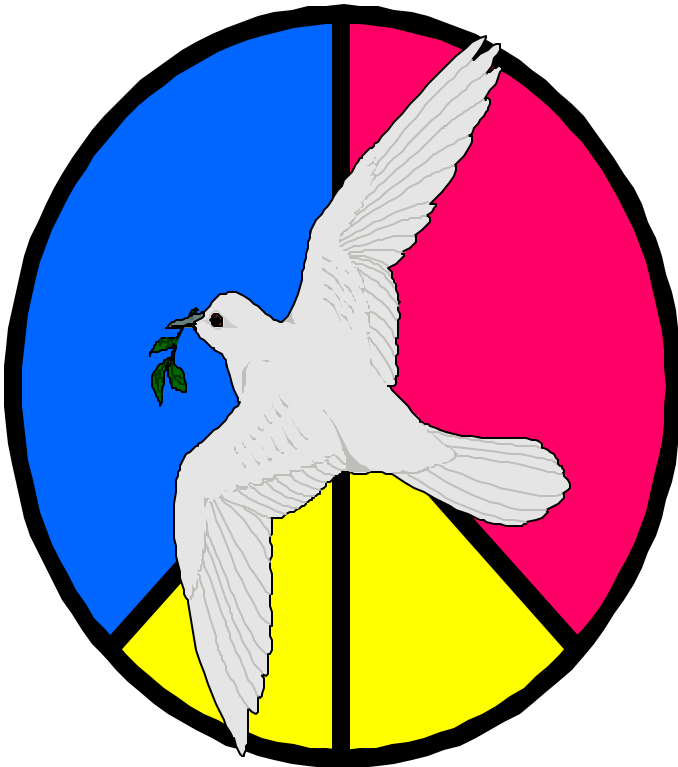
No man can say Jesus is Lord unless he is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

There are diversities of gifts which are distinctive gifts of grace but the same Spirit gives the different gifts to different people. There are a variety of ways of serving the Lord but it is

the same Lord who is served. There are different kinds of service and things done but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit to use for the good of all of the church.

The gifts of the Spirit are:

1. Ability to give wise advice
2. Special knowledge
3. Special faith
4. Power to heal the sick
5. Power to perform miracles
6. Ability to prophesy
7. Power to distinguish between spirits



about them. You know that when you were still pagan you

IT IS THE ONE AND ONLY HOLY SPIRIT THAT DECIDES WHICH GIFT EACH PERSON SHOULD HAVE.

were blindly led astray to worship idols that were images without voice or power. Now you are meeting people who claim to speak messages from the Spirit of God. **How can you know**

MEMBERS GOD PLACED IN THE BODY

Now all of you together are Christ's body, each one of you is a separate individual assigned part of the Body of Christ. Here is a list of some of the members that God has placed in the Body of Christ which is the church.

1. **Apostles-** One sent to be a special messenger to a person or local church or many churches.

2. **Prophets-** Some are inspired preachers with power who proclaim the word of God and the good news.

3. **Teachers-** One that has a gift being able to rightly explain the word of truth to others.

4. **Miracle- workers-** A person who has been given supernatural powers to perform signs and wonders to demonstrate the Word of God.

5. **Gifts of healings-** One given the gift of being able to pray for physical healing and and it take place because God heard his prayer and healed the sickness by the touch of His finger.

6. **Helpers <> assistants**

Those who have a gift of being able to work with others and assist them in the work of the Lord in a variety of ways.

7. **Administrators-**

Those who have the gift of planning and organizing projects and can get other to cooperate and work together.

8. **Tongues-** The ability to speak in a language that one has not studied or learned.

Is everyone an apostle?

No

Is everyone a prophet?

No

Are all teachers?

No

Does everyone have the power to do miracles?

No

Does everyone have the gift of healing?

No

Does everyone have the ability to speak in unknown languages?

No

Can everyone interpret unknown languages?

No

Desire the most helpful gifts.

GIFTS OF VARIOUS MEMBERS IN EVERY LOCAL CHURCH:

FIRST- APOSTLES

SECOND- PROPHETS

THIRD- TEACHERS

FOURTH- MIRACLE WORKERS

FIFTH- HEALERS

SIXTH- HELPS

SEVENTH- ADMINISTRATION

EIGHTH- TONGUES

If you desire a gift, it should be in the order of 1-8. Do not desire a gift to be seen of other but for ministry.

Let me tell you about something else that is greater and better than any of them!

LET ME TELL YOU OF LOVE!

If I could speak in any and every language of men and even of angels, and have not love in my heart, I would only be making meaningless noise like a clashing cymbal. Even if I could speak God's word and preach with the gift of prophecy, and understand all sacred secrets and had all kind of knowledge, and though I have all absolute faith that I can move mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.

Though I distribute all I possess for charity and give away all that I have to feed the poor, and though I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel and have not

love, it goes for nothing and I am not in the least benefited.

Love is very patient, very kind and gracious. Love never comes to jealousy, envy or is boastful, it is not arrogant or conceited. It never is rude or unmannerly or selfish insisting on having its own way. Love bears

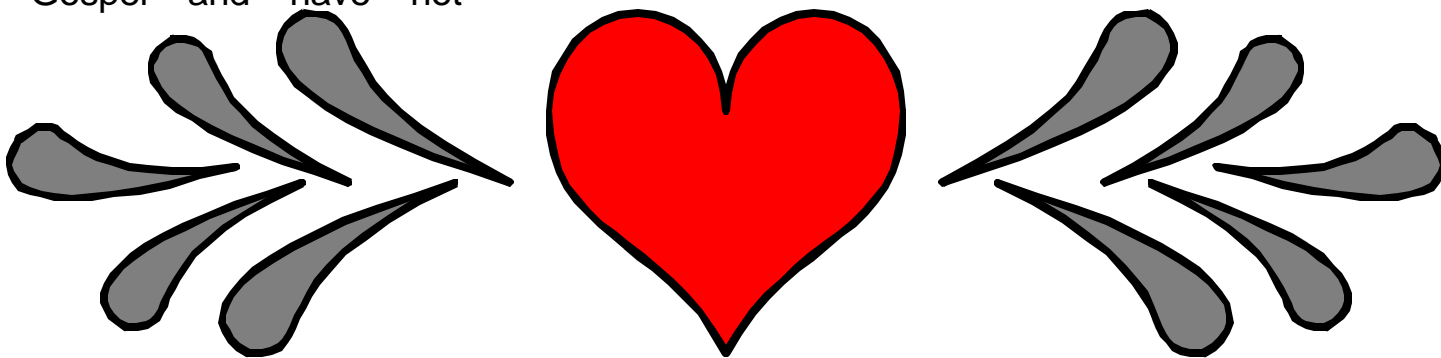
IF I HAVE ALL THE GIFTS AND HAVE NO LOVE WITH WHICH TO USE THEM, I AM NOTHING! NOTHING!

no malice and keeps no score of wrongs. It rejoices not in wrongdoing but is always glad when truth prevails. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith or endurance, always hopeful in everything, ever patient enduring without limit. Love will

never come to an end. Prophecies will be done away with and superseded. Preaching will be done with. Tongues shall stop. Present knowledge will be done away with. We only know in part and we prophesy in part. When the end comes and Jesus returns, the gifts will all be done away with.

It is like this, when I was a child, I did childish things, when I grew up, I put away the childish things.

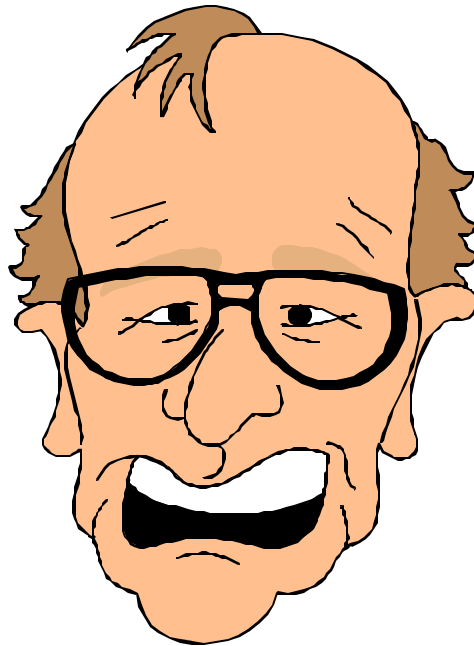
Now we see things through a poor mirror but then we will see clearly. All I know now is in part and incomplete, but I will know everything completely just as God knows me now. There are three things: faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love.



The latest on Tongues and Prophecy

Keep on pursuing love but still keep cultivating your spiritual gifts. The highest gift you can wish for is prophecy. When a man talks a strange language, he doesn't talk to people but unto God: for no one catches the meaning, but in the spirit he is speaking of sacred secrets. On the other hand, when a man prophesies he is talking to men and his words have power to build and help others grow, to encourage, stimulate and comfort them. When you talk in a strange language, you encourage yourself but when you speak God's Word, you help the church be encouraged. I would like for all of you to speak in strange languages, but I would rather have you speak God's Word for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaks with tongues unless he interprets what he says so that the faith of the congregation may be strengthened. Suppose I came to you speaking with tongues, how can I help you unless I tell you what God has told me through instruction, enlightenment, preaching and teaching? Musical instruments are examples of the need to speak plain English rather than in unknown languages. Unless each note is sounded clearly, no one will recognize the tune. Likewise, if you do not use words easy to

understand, you will be pouring words into empty air. There are many sounds and each one has meaning. If I do



not understand the meaning of what is said, I shall be as a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker will be a foreigner to me. You are eager for the gifts of the Spirit. Be eager to excel in those that build up the faith of the church. If you speak in tongues, pray for the power to interpret.

If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays but my understanding is unfruitful because I don't know what I am saying. What shall I do? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding. If you praise God only in the spirit, how shall those in the room

with you praise Him with you? How shall they give thanks with you when they don't understand what you are saying? No doubt you will be giving thanks well, but it doesn't help the other people present.

I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. But in a church meeting I would much rather speak five understandable words that will help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language.

Don't be childish in your understanding of these things but be innocent of evil. It is written, "I will speak to my own people through unknown

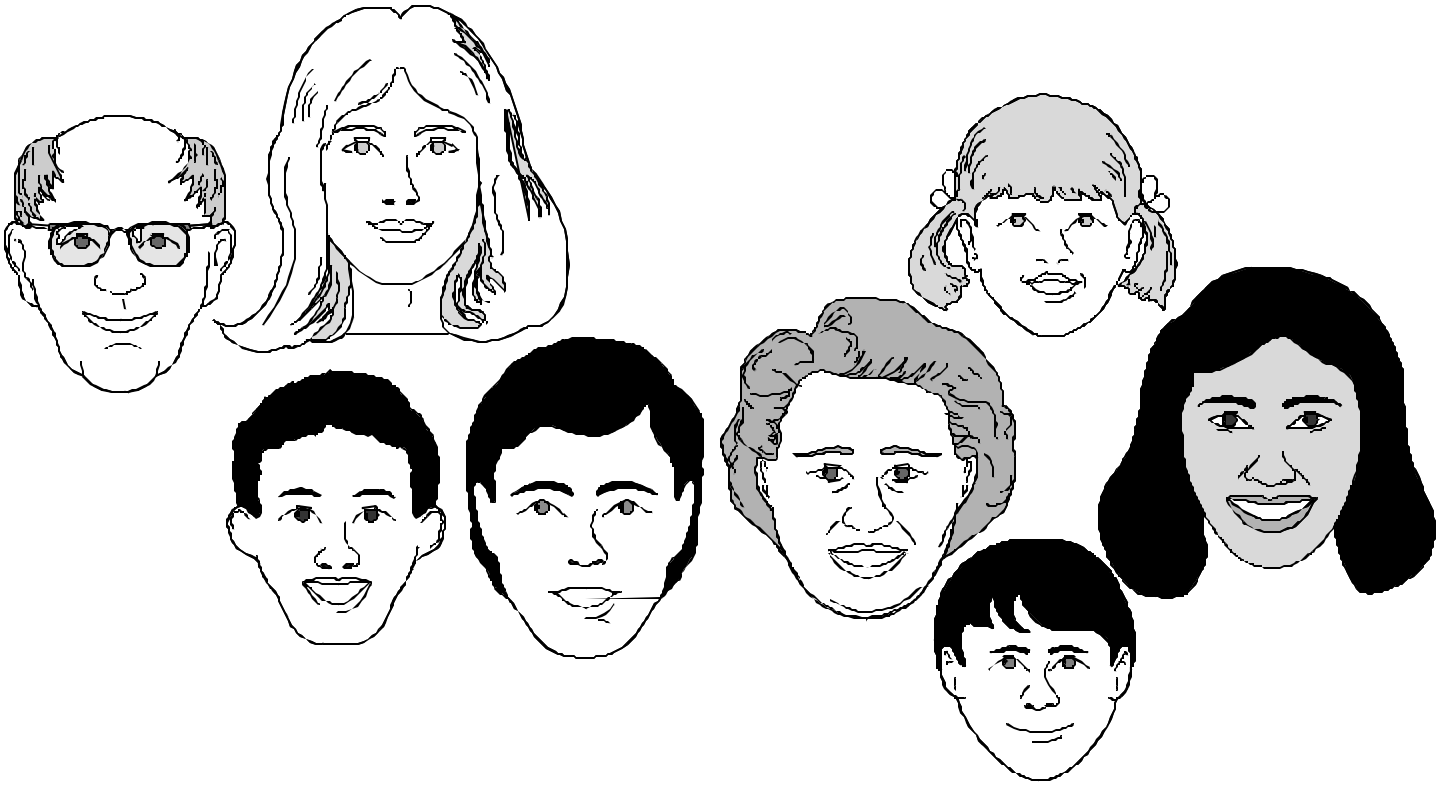
Speaking in Tongues is a sign for unbelievers, not believers.

Prophecy is for believers, not unbelievers.

languages and through the lips of foreigners but even then they will not listen to me." says the Lord. (quote of Is 28:11-12)

Speaking in tongues is a sign for unbelievers not believers, but prophecy is for the benefit of believers not unbelievers. If a lost person comes in and hears tongues, he will think you are crazy. If a lost person comes in and hears prophecy, he will be convicted of sin and fall down and beg God for forgiveness and worship God saying "God is really here among you."

A Godly order of service



Brothers and sisters, for a summary of what I am saying, when you meet:

- *One will sing
- *Another will teach
- *Another will tell a special revelation God has given
- *One will speak in unknown tongues
- *Another will interpret
- *Everything done must be useful to all and build them up in the Lord
- *No more than 2 or 3 speak in an unknown language
- *They must speak one at a time
- *Someone must be ready to interpret what they are saying
- *If no one is present to interpret, they must be

- silent in your church and speak to God privately in tongues
- *Let 2 or 3 prophesy and let others evaluate what is said
- *If some one is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord the one who is speaking must stop.

IS THIS THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR YOUR CHURCH? WHY NOT?

- *In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak one after the other so everyone will learn and be encouraged.
- *People who prophesy are

- in control of their spirit and can wait their turn
- *God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the other Churches.
- *Women should keep silent during the church meetings
- *It is not proper for them to speak, they should be submissive just as the law says.
- *If they have questions, let them ask their husbands at home, for it is improper for women to speak in church meetings
- *Knowledge of God's word does not begin and end with you
- *Be eager to prophesy, don't forbid speaking in tongues
- *Be sure that everything is

THE RESURRECTION



Brothers and sisters in Christ, let me remind you of the good news that I preached to you before, which you received and squarely stand in faith upon this wonderful message, which is the source of your salvation if you cling to the words I used in telling it to you unless your faith has no meaning at all by believing something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you **the primary principles of the gospel: how Christ died for our sins just as the scriptures foretold and he was buried and that he rose again the third day just as the scriptures said he would.**

He was seen by Peter and the twelve, after that he was seen by five hundred simultaneously, the majority of whom survive to this day! After that he was seen by James and the apostles. Last of all he was seen by me also long after the others thought I had been born too late. I am the least of the apostles and unworthy to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church. *By the grace of God, I am what I am! Whatever I am now it is all because God poured out such kindness and grace upon me and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not without fruit, results, and for nothing.* I have worked hard yet not I but God working in me. It does not matter if I preach or they preach, the important thing is that you believe what we preached to you.

I'M GONNA RISE AGAIN

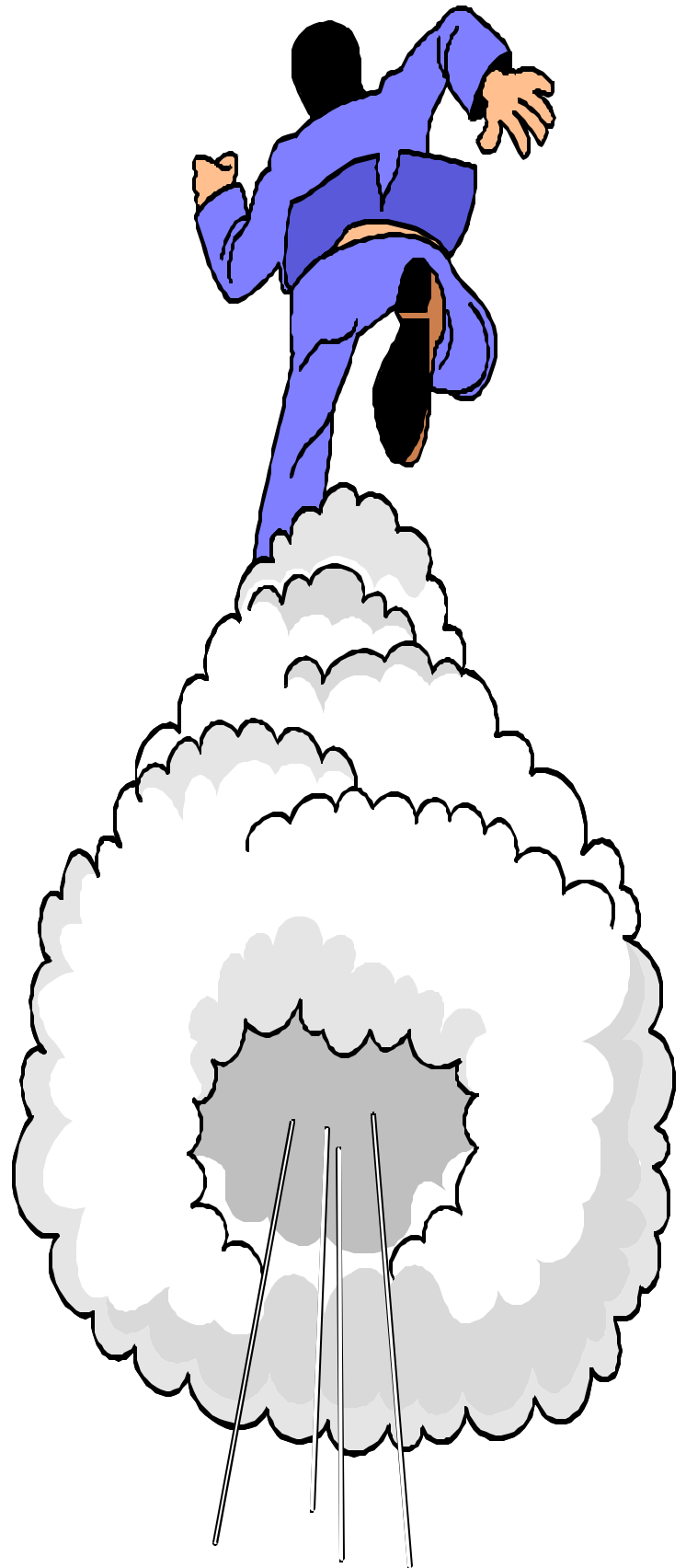
Since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ must still be dead. If He is dead, our preaching is useless and without meaning. All the apostles would be lying about God. And those who trusted Christ and died are just dead and gone. If our hope in Christ were limited to this then we are unhappy beyond all other men. **The truth is that Christ did rise** and he was the very first to rise of all the dead. Death came because of one man, Adam and a man brought resurrection of the dead, Jesus. Everyone dies because we all are related to Adam. Those who are related to Christ will be given new life.

This is the order of the resurrection:

1. Christ first
2. Then when Christ comes back all his people will be raised.
3. The end will come when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father after He puts down all enemies which are authorities, governments, and powers.
4. Christ must rule until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet.
5. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. The scripture says, "God has given him authority over all things."

If the dead do not rise, what is the point of people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it if they will not rise again?

Why should we risk our lives and face death hour by hour? What value was there in living in such peril daily if the dead are not raised? If there be no resurrection from the dead, feast and get drunk for tomorrow you die. Don't ever be fooled by these things. **Bad company ruins good morals and character.** Come to your senses and stop sinning. It is a shame that I have to write you this.



THE RESURRECTION BODY

How is the resurrection achieved? What kind of body will they be wearing when they appear? These foolish questions come from people talking without using their minds. In your own experience, you know that a seed must die, then a green shoot come up out of the seed, it is very different from the seed you first planted but a naked grain of wheat or other grain and God clothes it with the body of His choice according to His will. Every seed will have its special body. All forms of life are not the same, humans have one flesh and animals another. There are bodies which exist in the world and bodies which exist in the heavens. **The beauty of heavenly bodies is one kind, the beauty of earthly bodies is another.** The glory of the sun and the moon are each different. One star is different from another in glory. So is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption or decomposition it is raised in incorruption and can't decay. It is sown in dishonour and humiliation and raised in splendor and glory. It is sown in weakness and raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a body of the spirit. **As surely as there is a human body, there is also a spiritual body.**

The first man Adam became a living man. The



last Adam, (Christ) is a life-giving spirit. *Adam came from the dust of the earth. Christ came from Heaven.* **Just as we are like Adam the man of earth, so we well someday be like Christ the man from Heaven.**

A physical body made of flesh and blood cannot possess the Kingdom of God. What is decaying will never take part in what is immortal. I declare to you a secret truth that not all of us shall die but we shall all be given new transformed bodies. In a moment or blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown: 1. The Christians who are dead will be raised with their

transformed bodies.

2. Then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die. 3. When this happens then the scriptures will come true: "Death is overcome by life, O death where is your sting? O grave where is your victory?" (Is 25; Hos 13)

4. Sin is the sting that results in death. 5. The Law gives sin its power. Thanks to God for giving us the victory through Jesus Christ. **Be strong, be steady, be enthusiastic about the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.**

COLLECTION FOR JERUSALEM

About the money being collected for the poor Christians in Jerusalem, you should do the same as other churches. On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Don't wait until I get there to try to collect it all at once. On the first day of the week you must personally set aside some money. How much depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn. Do this so that there will be no offerings taken up while I am there.

In the meantime, I will be staying here at



REMEMBER THE POOR AND GIVE ACCORDING TO WHAT YOU HAVE

STAND

FIRM

Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost for there is a wide open door for a great work here and many people are responding.

Keep your eyes open

for spiritual danger and be on guard. Stand firm in your faith. Be courageous and continue to grow in strength. Let your affairs be in an atmosphere of love and

LET EVERYTHING YOU DO BE DONE IN A LOVING SPIRIT

Keep your eyes open for spiritual danger and be on guard.

My personal greeting written with my own hand. If anyone does not love the Lord, that person is cursed. Our Lord come! May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus

Ministry of the Saviour
Wayne Deer
12550 Plank Road
Baker, La. 70714
504-778-1865