



Wednesday, May 17, 2017

What Kind of Church are You?

1 Corinthians 3 – 4

Introduction: Have you heard the saying “Beauty is skin deep, but ugly goes straight to the bone”. The church of Corinthians was an ugly place, ugly to the bone. What makes the church ugly?? Let’s look at Paul’s point of view on the church of Corinth.

1. Strife in the Service – Jealously & Division

Chapter 3:1-4

- a. Paul’s criticism – they’re carnal, immature, babes in Christ
- b. He wants to feed them meat, but they are still on milk
- c. Envy – a feeling of discontentment or resentment, longing aroused by someone else’s possessions

2. Pride in the Pews

Chapter 4:18

Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you

- a. Pride is an inwardly directed emotion that carries two common meanings (both with negative connotation)
 - i. Pride refers to an inflated, sense of one’s personal status or accomplishments (conceit, self-esteem, egotism, vanity, vainglory)
 - ii. *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18)*
 1. A man’s pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor

3. Backbiting among Believers

Chapter 9:1-6

- a. What is backbiting? To attack the character or reputation of a person (who’s not present); slander, to deprecate, belittle, defame
- b. James says the tongue is an unruly evil full of deadly poison
- c. *For by the words thou shall be justified, and by thy words those shalt be condemned (Matthew 12:37)*
- d. *A forward man soweth strife and a whisperer separates chief friends (Proverbs 16:28)*