

More Than Mere Men

I Cor 3:1-23

5/20/01

Intro

- Evening of Prayer
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Paul is writing to the church at Corinth to correct some problems, and the first one is their lack of unity in the Lord. Instead of unity there were factions based on which man each group wanted to follow.

Last week, we saw read as Paul taught that God works in our weakness, so why allow such spiritual competition?

This week we see Paul giving insights into how to live as mature Christians in Christ.

God wants us to be more than mere men.

I. God Wants Us to be Spiritual Men.

Vs 2:14

A. He mentions three different types of men.

- Natural men (chapt 2) who don't know God.
- Carnal Men, (verse 3) immature Christians that don't want to grow.
- Spiritual Men, (verse 1) maturing Christians that continue to grow.

B. It's important to see that God does not want us to stay as we began in Christ.

Vs 1-2

- Carnal Christianity can be destructive.
- They miss out on what God desires for them.

C. How can you tell the difference between Carnal and spiritual?

- Spiritual desires the deeper things (verse 2).
- Carnal acts more like self-centered men than God (verse 3).

II. How We Live Does Matter.

Vs 6-7

A. It's God that causes results.

- Paul planted, Apollos watered. That's all.

B. But each of us is judged by God.

- According to what he has done.

Illus- It's only a quarter.

II Cor 5:10

C. Eternal vs. temporal.

- Precious vs common.
- Judgment by fire

Illus- In a fire, we are left with our robes (we're still saved).
**Like when we had the earthquake many years ago,
but that which eternal remains (no punishment).**

III. We are the Temple of the Living God.

A. Some people see the church like a restaurant.

- They come and go according to the menu.

Vs 17

B. Others see that they are part of the holy dwelling of God.

Vs18

C. Therefore, be careful how treat the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Vs 20

D. **Let there be NO private kingdoms.**

- This is why committees often don't work.
- Is it your *thing*, or God's?
- Are you doing this for the edification of the church or because it's your private kingdom?

Conclusion

We are called to be more than mere men. We are called to have the thoughts and actions of the Holy Spirit.