

I. Introduction

A. Where we've been

1. First Things: Jesus first and living in the power of the Holy Spirit
2. So What?: What that looks like in some specific areas of my life (fear, family, work, influence, technology, treasure)

B. Where we're going

1. Q: How do we live life together in spite of our differences and the inherent problems that arise in any human community? What does it look like for believers to live in Gospel community ("Jesus first" empowered by the Holy Spirit)?

\*"Jesus first" when I'm alone is way easier than when you are added to the mix.

2. 1 Corinthians

- a. Major port city, strategic and influential
- b. Paul spent a year and a half teaching and discipling and growing a church.
- c. After a while, Paul got reports that there were problems forming between the believers there.

\*1 Corinthians answers the question, "How do we (Jesus followers) live together in Gospel community?" Over the next months, we are going to be unpacking what it looks like to live in Gospel community through the lens of 1 Corinthians. Today, we start with the 10,000 mile view.

II. The linchpin (1 Corinthians 15)

A. The Resurrection

1. The Resurrection is the foundation of our connectedness and community. It is why we stick together in the light of day and in the darkness of night.
2. "No matter how devastating our struggles, disappointments, and troubles are, they are only temporary. No matter what happens to you, no matter the depth of tragedy or pain you face, no matter how death stalks you and your loved ones, the Resurrection promises you a future of immeasurable good."  
Josh McDowell

\*\*For the believer, no matter the vehicle of death it always, always, always gives way to victory.

B. 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

1. Verses 1-2

- a. The people at the church in Corinth were followers of Jesus.

- b. They had heard the Gospel Paul preached and they received it, they stood upon it, and they were being saved by it.
- 2. Verses 3-4
  - a. Paul was simply a messenger - delivering what he received.
  - b. What Paul received:
    - 1) Christ died for our sins.
    - 2) Christ was buried.
    - 3) Christ rose to life on the third day.
- 3. Verses 5-11
  - a. How did Paul know Christ rose from the dead?
  - b. Witnesses: Peter; the 12; 500 at once, most still living; James and the apostles; Paul himself
  - c. Focus on the living Christ.

\*It is unimportant who brought the message, the point is that you and I believe the Gospel as revealed in Scripture.

- 4. Verses 12-19
  - a. Christ's Resurrection is the linchpin of the Gospel and Christianity.
  - b. If no Resurrection then no Gospel; no point in pursuing Jesus
  - c. "If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that He said; if He didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what He said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like His teaching but whether or not He rose from the dead." Tim Keller
- 5. Verses 20-28
  - a. Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of resurrection for all who believe.
    - 1) Firstfruits of any harvest mean more is coming
    - 2) Christ is the first, then believers follow.
  - b. Verse 25
    - 1) Christ has always reigned (John 1:1-2; Hebrews 1:1-3)
    - 2) Implication of the resurrection on Jesus' reign
      - A) Christ is now fully man and fully God—God taken on human form.
      - B) As such, He is the declared Messiah, the Christ openly and for all to see.
      - C) Reign is based on His finished work of redemption.

\*The reign of Jesus Christ is a saving reign. Judgment is delayed. He rules in a day of grace.

- 3) "Until"
  - A) Christ reigning now (not beginning at 2nd coming)
  - B) He is at war against His enemies.
- 4) "All"

A) Disease, addiction, demons, habits, faults, vice, weakness, temper, moodiness, pride, self-pity, strife, jealousy, perversion, greed, laziness

B) When I do battle with sin, I do not fight alone!

5) "Must"

A) See verse 27 = God's will

B) Why?

a) Christ uses authority to redeem a people for Himself from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

b) Christ defeats the enemies of God.

c) Christ draws all attention back to God the Father.

C. Gospel community

1. Result of the resurrection of Jesus

a. Forgiveness of sin

b. Life eternal with God and all those forgiven

c. A connection to one another that goes deeper than wiring, preference, experience, race, or anything else that creates distinction

2. The Resurrection of Jesus results in a bond that we have with all those who have been redeemed. A local and a global Gospel community!

a. The issues and problems that arise between us are already settled at the cross and we are restored with one another through the Resurrection.

b. While our differences and tensions and hurts are real, God calls us out of these places to be His family.

c. "Jesus' Resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from Earth to Heaven but to colonize Earth with the life of Heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about." NT Wright

III. Challenge

A. Memory work: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

B. Questions:

1. Does the resurrection of Jesus Christ change me and my relationship with others?

2. What is one change that I can begin practicing today that will place me more in line with the results of the resurrection?

Pray