

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

“Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1:1-3)

1. Oftentimes, it is difficult to apply New Testament passages as we might not be familiar with the individuals and church to which such letters were written. Discuss how context (background information on the people and places) might help us better understand the texts we read.
2. In service, we learned that Corinth was known for sexual immorality; in fact, a new Greek word was at one point coined – *korinthiazomai* - which meant “to live immorally like a Corinthian”. How might this information help set expectations for the information we’ll encounter in 1 Corinthians?
3. It would seem that Paul saw success in Corinth as two synagogue leaders – Crispus and Sosthenes - seem to have come to faith in Jesus through his ministry there. Why is it significant that these sorts of conversions took place?

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

“My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1:11-12)

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

In service, it was suggested that one of the main issues within the church at Corinth was related to a problematic view of leadership and that the letter reveals to us the significance of unity around Jesus, co-operative leadership, and lack of division within the church.

1. It’s pretty apparent that Christians often gravitate to certain leaders based on their style, personality or charisma. Why do you think this occurs? How might such a gravitation be helpful to a church? What problems can be created in churches when this sort of gravitation occurs?
2. Discuss what you believe to be the significance of (a) unity around Jesus, (b) co-operative leadership, and (c) lack of division to the church in 2022. Are they present in the church today?

**Discussion Questions Set #3**

“Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are.” (1 Corinthians 5:7)  
“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:13-16)

In service, we discussed the idea that 1 Corinthians presents to us the distinction between sanctification and justification. In short, justification describes the reality that, by faith in Jesus, we have been declared righteous by God, while sanctification refers to an ongoing process of being made more holy, a calling towards holiness, and the pursuit and execution of our uncommon purpose in the world. Sanctification is the gradual process of becoming practically what we already are positionally.

1. Why is it important to one’s faith to have an accurate view of both justification and sanctification?
2. What might happen if we operate without an understanding of justification? What might happen if we operate without an understanding of sanctification?
3. When you consider the state of modern Christianity, which concept – justification or sanctification - do you believe to be better understood or accepted?
4. Discuss the following statement: *we cannot simply pretend as through the past has no impact on our present following of Jesus, but instead, knowing that we are declared righteous, we are freed to submit to an ongoing process of sanctification.*