

Sunday Morning, June 18, 2023
Proper Care for the Body Life of the Church
1 Corinthians 3:1-23; 1:10-18

Paul addresses the schismatic behavior that's threatening the body life of the church at Corinth by laying out a "visual" corrective action plan – **a map of "body life practices" that matter for the health of the church.**

I. Your maturity level matters 1-3

- A. This is where you are, presently I must address you as "people of the flesh"
- B. This is where you need to be, I should be addressing you as "spiritual people" by now
- C. This is what you need to do in order to get there,
 - 1. Repent of spiritual laziness
 - 2. Practice faithful use of the means of grace
 - 3. Trust God to produce in the body a fuller demonstration of growth in Christ

II. Your maintenance of the ministry gifts matters 4-9

- A. This is where you are, divisively "tearing the fabric"
- B. This is where you need to be, cohesively displaying what you already are, "having been knit together."
- C. This is what you need to do in order to get there,
 - 1. Repent of self-serving patterns of misappropriation
 - 2. Practice using the ministry gifts as designed, for serving others
 - 3. Trust God to produce in the body a more intimate bond of unity in Christ

III. Your measurement of success matters 10-15

- A. This is where you are, your contribution is as fleeting as "wood, hay, straw"
- B. This is where you need to be, your contribution needs to be as enduring as "gold, silver, precious stones"
- C. This is what you need to do in order to get there,
 - 1. Repent of false standards and assurances
 - 2. Practice full reliance upon the Word and Spirit of truth
 - 3. Trust God to produce in the body a greater degree of purity in Christ

IV. Your mindset matters 16-23

- A. This is where you are, sights set on the "wisdom of the world"
- B. This is where you need to be, sights set on the "wisdom of heaven"
- C. This is what you need to do in order to get there,
 - 1. Repent of pride and arrogance and foolish boasting
 - 2. Practice the wisdom of boasting in the cross
 - 3. Trust God to produce in the body a clearer view of glory in Christ