

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Magic relies on _____; magicians focus the attention of the audience away from the key movement

We must not let Pentecostalism misdirect our attention away from the character of the _____ church

I. THE CITY OF CORINTH

- A. Because of its location on a thin strip of land, Corinth was of great importance to travel and _____
- B. Corinth was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 29 BC as a Roman colony, was also _____ in culture
- C. The city was thoroughly pagan, dominated by idol worship and _____ religions from Egypt/Asia

II. THE FIRST CHURCH OF CORINTH

- A. In 51 AD Paul planted the first church ever at Corinth, during his _____ missionary journey (Acts 18)
- B. Paul labored there for _____ months but departed for Ephesus when Jews focused persecution on him
 - 1) When Paul wrote 1 Cor. all in the church had been saved out of paganism less than _____ years
 - 2) This church was filled with _____ that would have sent most of us seeking another church

III. THE PROBLEMS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

PROBLEM #1: Divisions in the church based on _____ 1:10-13; 3:1-4

- 1) The rock stars of that day gave _____; they squabbled over which speaker they were fans of
- 2) These divisions proved that they were carnal, baby Christians who acted like they were _____

PROBLEM #2: Tolerance of Sexual _____ 5:1-2; 6:15-18; 7:1ff

- 1) They tolerated a man who was committing _____ with his step-mother in their membership
- 2) They also tolerated those who were having sexual relations with _____
- 3) Another faction thought the solution was to abstain from sexual relations and _____

PROBLEM #3: Civil _____ against fellow-believers 6:1-6

PROBLEM #4: Division over foods offered to _____ 8:1ff

Chapters 8-10 reveal that while they claimed superior knowledge, they did not _____ one another

PROBLEM #5: The “Haves” _____ of the “Have-Nots” 11:17-22

- 1) Some at a full _____ before the Lord’s Supper, a meal that did not include others in the church
- 2) They were social climbers who used the Lord’s _____ to one-up others in the church

PROBLEM #6: Spiritual superiority based on speaking in _____ 12:1-3 (Chaps. 12-14)

- 1) V.1 can be paraphrased, “Now concerning what makes a person _____”
- 2) In v.2 Paul reminded the Gentile members of their background in _____ before Christ—why?
 - a) Their knowledge of what made a person _____ came from their former experiences with idols
 - b) They had had experiences in which they were filled with a “god” and spoke in ecstatic _____
- 3) In v.3 Paul defined true spirituality: those who confess “Jesus is _____” and live it out daily have it

PROBLEM #7: The heresy of rejecting the Doctrine of Bodily _____ 15:12

APPLICATIONS: 1) We ought to be patient with the foibles and failures of our local _____

Most believers have had only one local church: this is why it is difficult for us to give and receive _____

2) We ought to be patient with the foibles and failures of _____ in our local church