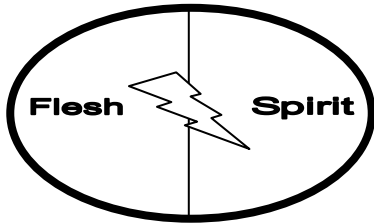


Part 2: Growing by the Gospel

INTRODUCTION – Fighting the Flesh

James 1:14; Galatians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:11

Not this...



But this...



DINE IN – Don't Blame the Gospel

Insights from 1 Corinthians 1-4...

- **1:1-9...** We are saints called into fellowship/partnership with Jesus.
- **1:10-17...** Jesus unifies us into one body. Let's live like it.
- **1:17-25...** The Gospel is central to our lives.
- **1:26-31...** We are new people in Christ.
- **2:1-5...** In evangelism, our style is as important as our content.
- **2:6-16...** The Holy Spirit gives us the mind of Christ.
- **3:1-4...** Disunity is evidence of immaturity.
- **3:5-9...** Evangelism is a team effort and together we are partners with God.
- **3:10-11...** Jesus – nothing and no one else – should be our foundation.
- **3:12-15...** Our work will be judged. Put your energies into what is lasting.
- **3:16-17...** We, together, are the temple of God.
- **3:18-23...** We belong to Christ.
- **4:1-5...** Jesus is Lord and we are his servants, therefore let him be the judge.
- **4:6-13...** Our identity in Christ allows us to respond to suffering with grace.
- **4:14-21...** The importance of modelling and mentoring in discipleship.

1 Corinthians 1:17-25; 2:1-5; 3:10-11; 4:14-21

OBSERVATION #1 – Even though the Corinthian Christians twisted the Gospel into a licence to sin, Paul never repents about preaching the message of grace. **Matthew 19:8**

OBSERVATION #2 – Paul's evangelism relied on the Spirit's power to convict and convince, rather than on his persuasive abilities.

John 16:8

OBSERVATION #3 – Paul sees Jesus as the way to God and the way back to God for Christians who have lost their way or failed to grow up.

TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

The Holy Spirit is God's power to help us grow in Christ-likeness, and we primarily access this life-changing power of God through the church, the gathering of the saints. Church is a community of mentorship where Christ-followers help one another become more like Jesus; we gather to be in *koinonia* (partnership/fellowship) with what the Spirit is doing in us and through us. If this is your church family, or you want it to be, then we invite you to be honest about your sin, open to receiving help, and ready to offer help to others. This activity of loving fellowship is one of the ways we experience God most powerfully.

Romans 8:29; James 5:16

CONCLUSION – Will You Will to Will the Will of God?

Matthew 6:10; 26:39

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Describe a situation in your past (one that you're willing to share obviously) where you would say you followed the flesh or your own self-centeredness. What happened as a result from following that natural human approach? How might have that situation gone differently if you had followed the Spirit? (Or, answer this question in reverse – when you followed the Spirit's leading instead of your flesh. What was that like?)

Look to the Book...

2. Read **1 Corinthians 4:14-20** in different translations if possible. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) Shaming (or making fun of, or criticizing others in ways that almost enjoy their failure) has no place in the church. But neither do we avoid challenging each other in our areas of weakness. What are some things we should keep in mind to help us offer encouragement and/or rebuke to one another in ways that avoid shame and maximize love? c) Who are you intentional about imitating? Who do you bring close enough in your life to imitate you? d) Paul obviously felt writing and reading was part of discipleship (hence this letter), but he also felt that studying content was no substitute for in-person mentorship (hence sending Timothy). How do you learn best – through books or people? What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of your default way of learning and growing? e) Knowing that later in this letter Paul will rebuke the Corinthians for their obsession with sensational spiritual gifts, what do you think is the true "power" of the kingdom that goes beyond words?

So What?...

3. Brainstorm what a mentorship program would look like for your Home Church? What would be the benefits of this? What would be the obstacles or barriers to this?
4. Take time to meditate on two verses – **Matthew 6:10** and **Matthew 26:39**. Then come together again to discuss anything God is saying to you about wanting his will.

The Meeting House | Sunday, Feb 27 / Mar 6, 2011 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching