

Spirituality and Spiritual Gifts

I Cor. 12:1-3

Introduction

Paul has been educating and exhorting the Corinthians to stop being selfish. He revealed their attitude of self oriented behavior in the area of not being sensitive to a weaker brother over the issue regarding meat offered to idols. He told them to be a servant not selfish 8:13. He then revealed an attitude of arrogance and a lack of submission regarding head coverings 11:1-16. Finally, he reprimands them for their behavior at the Lord's supper and reminds them of the terrible consequences of such selfish behavior at a time of worship 10:17-34. Paul now spends 3 chapters dealing with a new problem ("Now concerning...12:1") that has the same basic issue of selfishness and disorderliness (14:40)- Spiritual Gifts Chapters 12-14. It seems that the major consideration of chapters 8-14 is the theme: "Have respect for one another"

The key for the body is not so much having a gift but in being a gift.

Preview

1. The topic of Spiritual Gifts is essential not optional
2. The topic is personal and problematic
3. The topic requires humility and honesty
4. The topic demands diligence, depth, and detail!

We will look at this in depth and in detail. This requires exegesis of the text and, biblical, systematic, historical, and pastoral theology.

I. The Social Background

A. The Sociological

B. The Religious

1. Status in Hellenistic religious expression.

2. Status in OT religious expression

C. The Psychological

II. The Spiritual Behavior 12:1-3

A. The Structure

Intro :1-2

Thesis :3

A- Spirit (Spirituals) :1

B Jesus :3a

B' Jesus :3b

A' - Spirit (Holy Spirit) :3

B. The Situation

1. Problem :1-2

a. “ Now concerning Spirituals” :1a

b. “I do not want you ignorant (Not knowing agnoeo)” :1b

c. “You know (oida) when you were pagans.....:2

2. The Principle :3

The Corinthians came from a status seeking culture. They thought speaking in ecstatic speech and having words from the gods was how you got status in the church. Hence this was a problem carried into the church from the culture.

Paul provides a test based on doctrine to determine if the HS is leading a person. (Some of the same bad attitudes about Lords Supper- selfishness)

Paul says 2 points I want you to KNOW ginosko (:1b Not know)

*. “No One can say (by the agency of the Spirit)

“Jesus “is” accursed” “anathema”

* “No one can say (but by the agency of the Holy Spirit)

“Jesus “is” Lord”

A. The Definition of Anathema

1. Secular Gk Votive offering to be laid at the shrine or temple of a deity

2. OT Cherem that which is destroyed as holy to God.
Given over or consecrated to God

3. New Testament Cut off or cursed from God
Gal 1:8-9, Rom 9:3 10:1

B. The Grammar of Anathema “Jesus Accursed”

1. Imperative- Jesus be accursed

2. Indicative - Jesus is accursed

C. The Theological Meaning of Anathema

1. Confession Context
2. Worship Context
3. Biographical Context
4. Christological Context

Conclusion- The church had confused the Culture of Corinth with the Christian worship service. They who thought they were so spiritual, actually concluded that you could say “Jesus is accursed” and confused that with the leading of the Holy Spirit. Paul says you can not. It is “Jesus is Lord” that is from the Holy Spirit. The church needed some theological training concerning spiritual gifts and what it means to be spiritual.

Principles

The Church can get so confused and co-mingled with the culture that it says ridiculous non-biblical doctrinal teachings. That is why we need bible, theology, ethics. Culture can be Corrosive to the Corporate Church and the Christian!

The Church can get misdirected with the cultural focus: Fame, Fortune, Power, Pleasure

1. Fame
2. Fortune
3. Power
4. Pleasure

I John 2:15, 2:28, 5:21

He who dines with the devil must be sure to use a very long spoon