

# Paul the Planter and His Church in Crisis

SEPTEMBER 16 & 17, 2006

Paul the Apostle:

## I. The Introduction

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

### A. Paul: An Apostle

*"Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus . . ."*

- Claims the Title for \_\_\_\_\_
- Puts Him in the Jesus Inner Circle
- Implies a position of \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus

### B. Paul: Called by God

*" . . . By the will of God . . ."*

- Establishes a Position of \_\_\_\_\_
- Implies a Position of \_\_\_\_\_

### C. The Church of God at Corinth

*"To the church of God in Corinth, . . ."*

- God's church, not Corinth's Church
- A congregation is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body.

### D. Unity Under Authority

*I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

1 Corinthians 1:10

### E. Sanctified and Holy

- Set Apart for God's Use  
*"to those sanctified in Christ Jesus . . ."*
- Called to \_\_\_\_\_ Like Jesus  
*" . . . and called to be holy, . . ."*



Last Week:

**Meet Paul**

Acts 18:1-17

Audio Available this week for Download @  
ForThoseWhoThirst.org

This Week:

**Paul the  
Apostle**

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Next Week:

**Christian  
Maturity**

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

## II. Salutation

"Grace and Peace to You . . ."

### A. Grace

- Typical Greek Greeting
- meaning "may your life be smooth and blessed"

### B. Peace

- Typical Jewish Greeting
- *Shalom* means "May your life be possess wholeness and contentment."

## III. Paul's Greeting of a Dysfunctional Church

- Paul gracefully greets the Church at Corinth with honor to establish unity.
- Paul graciously greets the East Ave Community Church with honor as well for the sake of unity.

## Our Purpose in Chico

We have chosen to fulfill three basic purposes:

- To exist for people who don't yet know Jesus
- To mentor those who are young in their faith
- And to serve as a ministry platform for those who choose to serve these purposes.

## So, what part belongs to you?

Serving God's church with Grace and Peace

## 1 Corinthians

### Chapter 1

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

(10)I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (11)My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. (12)What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas<sup>[a]</sup>"; still another, "I follow Christ." (13)Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into<sup>[b]</sup> the name of Paul?

## Hebrews 13

(7)Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. (9)Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. (15)Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. (16)And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. (17)Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

## How to Find a Church Home

### From Hebrews 13

This chapter from Hebrews 13 gives us a rich understanding of the functionality of the whole body of God. The author of Hebrews describes the relationship we are to have with our leaders.

During the time the New Testament was being written, most all of the cities that had a Christian congregation were lucky to have the one. That made finding good Christian leadership much harder to come by. Now, there are so many options for churches, we are faced with a much different set of questions about choosing a church. What characteristics should a person look for in a church?

We can find some criteria in Hebrews 13. As we choose a church, we have to understand that there is more to consider than simply the music and the pastor's hair. Hebrews describes a healthy relationship to a family of God and we can extrapolate these criteria:

1. The leaders should be worthy of being a model for spiritual growth.
2. The teachings should be clear, easy to comprehend and scripturally defensible – thereby avoiding wacky teachings.
3. The value must lie in spiritual nutrition, not in empty functionality of tradition and ceremony.
4. You should be able to see yourself fulfilling the vision of the church through your service to God within the local congregation.

That means that once you have chosen a place of worship:

1. You find a place of service within the church.
  2. Find build mentoring relationships – looking both for someone to mentor you and someone for you to mentor.
- Work within the spiritual authority structure of the local Body of Christ you have chosen and be a blessing to those who lead.

In our church, everyone is accountable. The church elects good leaders that exemplify Christ. These leaders hire a pastor to the spiritual authority for the church. The pastor is in turn held accountable by both the church leaders and our denomination's authority structure, then, ultimately by God.