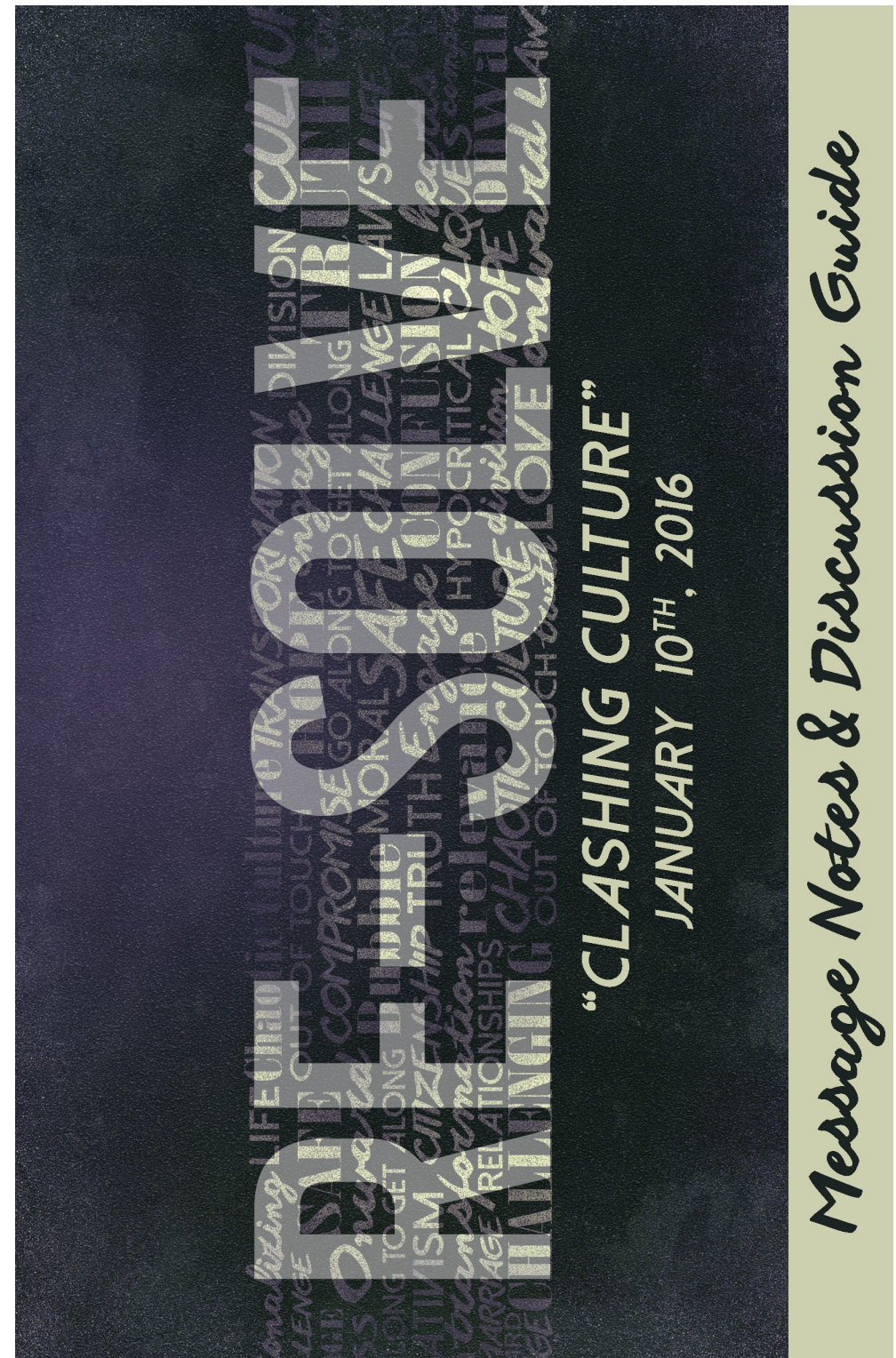




Ice Breakers: Option 1: Last week you talked about ways to share Jesus with the world. Did you have the opportunity to do this? If so, share your story. Option 2: What is the biggest culture change you have seen in the last ten years?

1. Pastor Tom said, "Dissention and division in Corinth (and today) usually occurs when people take their eyes off Jesus and adopt the imprint of a polarizing culture as their own." Check out the sermon notes and review the three areas that Pastor Tom gave for true spiritual harmony in Christ. What steps can you take to maintain spiritual harmony?
2. Pastor Tom stated, "God has designed diversity to create unity, not divisions." Read 1 Corinthians 12:17-20. Why do we need each other? What are the advantages of us being different?
3. Paul indicated that there were divisions in the church at Corinth. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. What does Paul ask them to do in verse 10? Why is that important? What attitude does Paul want to convey in verse 13?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:13, 2:2, 11:18 and Ephesians 2:14-16. Pastor Tom said true spiritual harmony is found in three aspects of Jesus: His person, cross, and Lordship. What does each aspect represent? What steps can you take to maintain spiritual harmony?

New Year, new series, new group! Plan now to attend Small Group Connection NEXT SUNDAY, January 17th & 24th @ 6:00pm in the Video Café as we launch new groups. Childcare provided, but pre-registration is required. Sign up today at www.myriversidechurch.com/sqconnect.





“Clashing Culture”

[Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

MESSAGE NOTES

- How do we _____ the culture without losing the gospel?
- How do we deal with the reality that our culture, which often both scares us and angers us, has also left its _____ on our lives that we bring with us into the church?

Note I Corinthians 12:17-20

God designed diversity to create _____, not divisions.

Note John 13:35

Note I Corinthians 1:10

“divisions” = “schismata” = “schism” = “to _____ apart”

1. The F_____ at Corinth

- A. “Paul” faction—many in Corinth had strong bonds with him (he was their “_____ in the gospel”, I Corinthians 4:15). Taken their eyes off the _____ and longed for the “good old days”. “They were traditionalists to the bone...they had fallen into the _____ of reasoning that because God never changes, the world in which we live or the circumstances under which we work never change either.” (Wagner) Paul was careful in Corinth to avoid any personality cult by having others do the majority of _____. (note I Corinthians 1:13-16).
- B. “Apollos” faction—from Alexandria (i.e., “the most respected and _____ university city of the Mediterranean”, Prior) - note Acts 18:27. He didn’t try to start a personality cult, but in the inevitable comparisons that occur in a church over _____, some found Apollos to be much more desirable than Paul.
- C. “Cephas” faction—represented some form of _____ Christianity. Probably pushed hard for I _____...seek the “easy” way of the Christian life, the “_____”...without the Holy Spirit. When Christianity is _____ to a set of “do’s and don’ts”, there will be problems. Main problem = attitude, _____.
- D. “Christ” faction—best name, worst a _____. Spiritual superiority—“Who needs _____? Christ is our only leader...” “I’ve got God-on-a-_____ mentality” (Wagner). Super spiritual _____, looked at everyone else as 2nd class Christians, if Christians at all.

Paul never condemns any of these groups’ _____ doctrines or theology (Paul doesn’t tolerate h_____, note Titus 3:10).

He believes these groups can and should _____ together (note I Corinthians 1:10).

Dissension and division in Corinth (and today) usually occurs when people take their eyes off Jesus and _____ the imprint of a polarizing culture as their own.

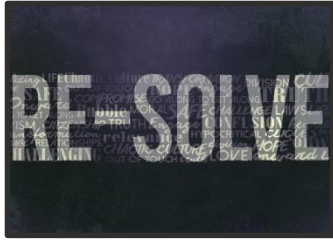
2. True Spiritual _____ is Found in Jesus

- A. In His P_____ (note I Corinthians 1:13a) - “Has Christ been p_____ out?”
- B. In His _____ (note I Corinthians 1:13b and 2:2) - only Jesus can _____ men and women and He does so through His cross (note Ephesians 2:14-16). No room for pride or spiritual s_____ at the cross (note I Corinthians 11:18). The cross is the great I _____.
- C. In His L_____ (note I Corinthians 1:13c) - to be _____ into someone’s name was to indicate complete submission to that person...to become the possession of, disciple, i_____ associate.

With resolve let’s “re-solve” to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- Sadly at Corinth, these factions didn’t go away (note Clement of Rome’s first letter in about 95 AD—_____ years after Paul’s letter).
- True spiritual _____ comes only as we dedicate ourselves totally to Jesus...and allow Him to fill us with His love and patience and grace towards others.
- Do we belong to one of these 4 factions?
- Let’s be counter-cultural and be known by how we love each other instead of imitating the unending _____ that dominates our culture today.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Clashing Culture”

[Sr Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

- How do we engage the culture without losing the gospel?
- How do we deal with the reality that our culture, which often both scares us and angers us, has also left its imprint on our lives that we bring with us into the church?

Note 1 Corinthians 12:17-20

God designed diversity to create unity, not divisions.

Note John 13:35

Note 1 Corinthians 1:10

“divisions” = “schismata” = “schism” = “to cut apart”

1. The Factions at Corinth

- A. “Paul” faction – many in Corinth had strong bonds with him (he was their “father in the gospel”, 1 Corinthians 4:15). Taken their eyes off the Lord and longed for the “good old days”. “They were traditionalists to the bone...they had fallen into the trap of reasoning that because God never changes, the world in which we live or the circumstances under which we work never change either.” (Wagner) Paul was careful in Corinth to avoid any personality cult by having others do the majority of baptizing (note 1 Corinthians 1:13-16).
- B. “Apollos” faction – from Alexandria (i.e., “the most respected and creative university city of the Mediterranean”, Prior) – note Acts 18:27. He didn't try to start a personality cult, but in the inevitable comparisons that occur in a church over pastors, some found Apollos to be much more desirable than Paul.
- C. “Cephas” faction – represented some form of Jewish Christianity. Probably pushed hard for legalism...seek the “easy” way of the Christian life, the “letter”...without the Holy Spirit. When Christianity is reduced to a set of “do's and don'ts”, there will be problems. Main problem = attitude, pride.
- D. “Christ” faction – best name, worst attitude. Spiritual superiority – “Who needs leaders? Christ is our only leader...” “I've got God-on-a-leash mentality” (Wagner). Super spiritual elite, looked at everyone else as 2nd class Christians, if Christians at all.

Paul never condemns any of these groups basic doctrines or theology (Paul doesn't tolerate heresy, note Titus 3:10).

He believes these groups can and should work together (note 1 Corinthians 1:10).

Dissension and division in Corinth (and today) usually occurs when people take their eyes off Jesus and adopt the imprint of a polarizing culture as their own.

2. True Spiritual Harmony is Found in Jesus

- A. In His Person (note 1 Corinthians 1:13a) – “Has Christ been parceled out?”
- B. In His Cross (note 1 Corinthians 1:13b and 2:2) – only Jesus can unite men and women and He does so through His cross (note Ephesians 2:14-16). No room for pride or spiritual smugness at the cross (note 1 Corinthians 11:18). The cross is the great leveler.
- C. In His Lordship (note 1 Corinthians 1:13c) – to be baptized into someone’s name was to indicate complete submission to that person...to become the possession of, disciple, intimate associate.

With resolve let’s “re-solve” to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- Sadly at Corinth, these factions didn’t go away (note Clement of Rome’s first letter in about 95 AD – 40 years after Paul’s letter).
- True spiritual harmony comes only as we dedicate ourselves totally to Jesus...and allow Him to fill us with His love and patience and grace towards others.
- Do we belong to one of these 4 factions?
- Let’s be counter-cultural and be known by how we love each other instead of imitating the unending bickering that dominates our culture today.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!