

The Shallowness of Prestigious Christianity

Building His Church—The Ekklesia (Called-Out) Wall: Part 3

| January 23, 2022

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.

Wall #1: "Basalea" — βασιλεία — Acts 1:3 & Acts 28:23

- The Church of Jesus Christ living for and proclaiming His Kingdom

Wall #2: "Koinonia" — κοινωνία — Acts 2:42-47

- The Church of Jesus Christ and living in His Community vertically and horizontally

Wall #3: "Ekklesia" — ἐκκλησία

- The Church of Jesus Christ and His "Called Out" Ones, set apart as holy in an unholy world

3 Warnings of Erosion Related to Shallowness in the Ekklesia (1 Corinthians 1-4)

Shallowness found in our _____ — when the gospel is only as deep as a slogan

Shallowness found in our childish _____ — when the gospel is all about "I"

Shallowness found in our spiritual _____ — when the gospel is about personal prestige

- PRESTIGIOUS GROWN-UPS vs. A _____ OF CHRIST
— 1 Corinthians 3:5
- PERSONAL PHYSIQUE vs. A _____ OF GOD
— 1 Corinthians 3:16
- HUMAN SUPERIORITY (FOOLS) vs. CHRIST'S _____
— 1 Corinthians 3:18
— 1 Corinthians 4:10
- CHILDISH ISOLATION & INDEPENDENCE vs. TRANSPARENCY & _____
— 1 Corinthians 4:15-16
- ELOQUENT SPEECH vs. THE DEPTH AND FINALITY OF GOD'S _____
— 1 Corinthians 4:6
— 1 Corinthians 4:20



Digging Deeper

(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)

Review the 5 points from this morning about the erosion that occurs from childish spiritual superiority. Discuss how these points might apply to your personal life and the life of our church.

Open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 3 & 4. Take the time to read the assigned passages as well as some of the verses around them. Discuss how this can potentially erode the Ekklesia here at LifeWay, as well as eroding your own personal depth. *(15 minutes)*

Where can we find unity in the Church? Look up these statements and scriptures and discuss how we can find unity in His Church with such great diversity of ages, backgrounds, etc. Are these statements true—and if so, how are they true? *(20 minutes)*

- Unity comes around the person and work of resurrected Jesus Christ.
 - Ephesians 4:3-6
- Unity comes as each of us finds our “Kingdom assignment”.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:8-9
- Unity is Christ’s gospel mission for each of the members of His Body.
 - John 17:20-26

How can we help others in our church “grow up” beyond infancy and immaturity?

As a group, discuss how we collectively can be a church that helps others grow up in spiritual maturity. *(15 minutes)*

GROUP DEFINITIONS *(10 minutes)*

Take some time to come up with your own group definition of...

- Spiritual shallowness:
- Spiritual maturity:

PERSONAL QUESTIONS to examine in your own time:

- How can I grow up beyond infancy and immaturity?
- What are the blind spots in my life?
- Is there someone in my life who is a spiritual guide for me? If not, do I need to find one?

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Continue to read Acts 1-20 side by side with the reading of 1 Corinthians.
- Messages for the next weeks will focus on 1 Corinthians 5-8.