

A LOVING REBUKE

Tomorrow (Sunday, 06/13) we continue our series in the book of 1 Corinthians (3:1-4). The Apostle Paul wrote this to the church he had founded while on his second missionary journey.

Paul had spent the first two chapters emphasizing the importance of the church's focus being on the "*Preaching of the Gospel*". He knew that any endeavor that focused on human ingenuity rather than on "*Christ crucified, buried and raised the third day*", would be a continual series of epic failures.

Sure, their creative and inventive ideas may have gathered a crowd. It also may have stirred the mind and emotions of those who came, but none of those who attended the church would experience the "*Power of God unto salvation*".

Paul had known that when the Gospel was preached, the Holy Spirit and His power would convict the heart of the sinner. That and that was the only way for a man to be saved. Anything else would be futile.

Now, in chapter three, Paul had to address the major problem of "*Carnality*". He knew that unless he confronted the church with this, they would eventually erode the sure foundation God had established through him.

He also realized that when he did this, it would come across as a stinging rebuke. Part of the reason for this was due to the believers' high opinion of themselves. Because of their pride, they were blinded to the erosion that was taking place in their

church and that eventually their “*Carnality*” would extinguish any effectiveness they would have had in their city.

Carnal Christianity is still a problem today. It will divide and conquer a church body if it is not dealt with. The good news is that the Holy Spirit had inspired Paul to confront this plague, in his day, and by doing so, has given us a path of keeping it out of our own heart and church.

I’ve entitled our series, in 1 Corinthians, “*Living Upright in a Fallen World*”. It is my prayer the Holy Spirit will ignite a fire in our hearts. And, a desire to burn brightly, for Him, in a world that is desperate to know the power of the Gospel.

Look forward to our time together. Please pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the entire Calvary Chapel family.

There are several opportunities for worship. On campus (10:00am & 12:00pm), drive-in church (92.1fm), and online (Facebook: Calvary Inverness)

Jesus Our Righteousness,
Pastor