



Dig Deeper @Home – “Tough Questions”

Complement to sermon on 8/12/2018 – “Why so many denominations?”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Share the last book you read and give a 30 second review.
2. If you could time travel either into the past or future (only one direction) which would you choose and why?

MEMORIZE – 1st Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

READ – 1 Corinthians 1

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. Paul references “Sosthenes” in verse 1 and calls him “brother.” But who was Sosthenes? Read Acts 18:1-17.
 - a. So, who was Sosthenes?
 - b. How does this demonstrate the importance of sharing Jesus?
4. In verse 2, Paul calls the church in Corinth “holy” and “sanctified.” The Greek root for these words stresses not the moral character but the identity of the people. (In fact, if you read all of 1 Corinthians, you will see how flawed these people were). What difference does this make? Why does this matter?
5. According to Paul in chapter 1, what does the message he share consist of? (hint: v17 &23)
 - a. Is this a message you regularly share?
 - b. Paul specifically says that his sharing is “not with words of eloquent wisdom.” Does this declaration bring you comfort? Why or why not?

Summarize 1st Corinthians 1 in your own words:

Experiential: What's in a last name?

Last names. We all have them. What does yours mean? Take time to look this up and see what you can find. If you need help, try this site ... <https://www.ancestry.com/learn/facts>

Last names are interesting ... but here's the thing. What did you do to earn your last name? Nothing. It was given to you. It's a marker of identity that you were given. Now, think again that Paul calls the Corinthian church "holy" and "sanctified." Remember, these are not description words, they are identity words. Take some time and think about the difference. What does it mean that your identity through Christ is holy and sanctified? What is the difference in living from this identity vs trying to attain this identity? What does this look like practically in your life?

Testimony Time – What responses have you had over the years when talking to people about Jesus? Specifically the cross and the resurrection?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

By our Love - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyHvO4xoEh4>

As you sing these words, let them be a prayer for unity among believers.

The Church's One Foundation – Mennonite Hymnal #375

A great hymn reminding us that no matter our differences among denominations, our common foundation is Jesus Christ

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Gracious Father, thank you that in Christ our identity is holy and sanctified. By the power of your Holy Spirit working in us, may we live out that true identity this week with our words, thoughts and actions. In Jesus Name, Amen.