

CHAPTER 32.2  
*My People*  
in this *City*

“THE CENTRALITY OF CHRIST”  
1 Corinthians 1-4  
January 21, 2018

The centrality of Christ unites the church.

- I. United in Christ (1:1-9)
  - A. Sanctified (1:2)
  - B. Called to be saints together (1:2)
  - C. Enriched (1:4-7)
  - D. Sustained and Guiltless (1:8-9)

When Christ is first, unity is birthed.

- II. The Essential Centrality of Christ
  - A. The Power and Wisdom of God (1:24)
  - B. Christ Crucified: the essential truth (1:23; 2:2)
- III. The childishness of preference.
  - A. Preferences rend. Jesus mends. (1:10)
  - B. Jealousy and strife are signs of spiritual immaturity. (3:1-4)

When Jesus is pre-eminent, personal preferences pale.

- IV. The Christ-centered, Christ-glorifying Church (3:9 – 4:21)
  - A. God’s building. (3:9-15)
    - 1. The foundation is Jesus. (3:10-11)
    - 2. Each of us builds on that foundation alone. (3:12-15)
  - B. God’s temple. (3:16-17)  
Destroying God’s holy temple (the church) brings destruction!
  - C. Church leaders are servants of Jesus and stewards of the mysteries of God. (4:1)

**How does this apply to me?**

## **NEXT WEEK**

“SEXUALITY PURITY”  
1 Corinthians 5-6

### **Passage Overview:**

Turning to Jesus is transformational in every aspect of our lives. Living in and for Jesus results in a new heart and mind, which is controlled by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit’s holiness, which is sanctifying us as believers, confronts our culture. Culture is the composite result of sinful peoples’ shared values and practice. This doesn’t mean that everything in culture is bad, but its origin in human beings means that it has significant deficiencies and fallacies. When we put our faith in Christ, we become members of a new family, the family of believers. Our Father is God Himself. We also become citizens of heaven, where our Lord reigns. Heaven’s ‘culture’ is not the result of our values, but of God’s holy character. His holiness sets the standard by which we now live.

It is this culture conflict between heaven’s kingdom and Corinthian values that the Holy Spirit begins to address in this section of 1 Corinthians. Corinth is a city that celebrates sexual license and pleasure for self. But as members of the church, these new believers need to live by God’s holy standards. God is the creator of sexuality, but it must be celebrated and experienced within the parameters and for the purposes He planned.

When the current Corinthian cultural values and patterns creep into their new family that has been purchased by Christ and sanctified by His Spirit, they must be rooted out. The church must take a stand corporately for the new kingdom values that they live under as subjects of the Lord Jesus.

In the realm of sexuality, there is a new master in town. They have been purchased at a huge cost by their Lord Jesus. Their bodies are now temples of His Spirit. So they must glorify Him in their bodies.

As you read this week, consider where the holy values of the kingdom of God run counter to the accepted values of our culture. Which values are you living by?

**Reading for Next Week: I Corinthians 5 - 6**