

Excellence #4

A More Excellent Way

Recap of Last Sunday's...

1). We dealt with the Mindset of the Norm,

"Just Getting By" and the Mindset of Excellence "Whatever you do, do it heartily unto the Lord"

Four types of people regarding commitment

A. Copouts - They set no goals, make no decisions.

B. Holdouts - They are uncertain if they can reach their goals, so they fail to start.

C. Dropouts - They start, but stop when the going gets tough.

D. Allouts - They set goals, pay the price and reach their goals.

2). The Examples of Excellence

- a). Takes you to the Edge
- b). Encourage you to do what you are meant to do
- c). Brings the best together

3). Excellent Knowledge

Increasing in the knowledge of Christ, having a desire to know Him more. An Excelling pursuit of a deeper relationship with Christ.

Text: 1 Cor 12:27-31

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have

gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

Thoughts about Text.

We make up the body of Christ and because of our individual involvement, it becomes a thriving complex body with many different edifying functions.

1 Cor 12:27-31

Thus are the members of the natural body, thus should the members of the mystical body be, disposed. Note, Mutual indifference, and much more contempt, and hatred, and envy, and strife, are very unnatural in Christians. It is like the members of the same body being destitute of all concern for one another, or quarrelling with each other. This is the apostle's scope in this argument. He endeavors in it to suppress the proud, vaunting, and contentious spirit, that had prevailed among the Corinthians, by reason of their spiritual gifts.

What divides a church is when the individual members use their gifts for status, rather than edification. Many hurt others as they swing around their gift, many follow their gifts rather than the calling. If I can't use my gift here, then I'm going somewhere else where I can.

Such attitudes separate the body, and tear apart what God has put together.

Your spiritual gift is not your identity, you are greater than the "Spiritual Gifts" You are the body of Christ. God is not always trying to make himself known, He's faithful and working in the unseen realm, the most effective realm. So it should be with us. Willing to work in the unseen realm.

1 Cor 13:1-4

13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Many know this chapter as the Love Chapter... and only read it for that, but it was the balm of healing for the divided church. It was all about the motivation of Love that caused us to serve and even die for the body.

Matthew Henry –

Gifts may be valued for their use, but they are mischievous when made the fuel of pride and contention. This therefore the apostle endeavors to prevent.

True charity is greatly to be preferred to the most glorious gifts. To have the heart glow with mutual love is vastly better than to glare with the most pompous titles, offices, or powers.

True Love glows, Pride Glares. Love leads with a light glow upon the path, yet pride blinds us with confusing glare.