Crossroads International Church Singapore Dr. Rick Griffith

Title

3 Feb 2019 Message 45 of 66

NLT 40 Minutes

**Be Different**

***Book of 1 Corinthians***

**Topic:** Godliness

**Subject:** How should we be different from unbelievers?

**Complement:** Be different by being united, moral and selfless.

**Purpose:** The listeners will be different from unbelievers in a new area of their life.

**Attribute:** We worship our Unique God

**Reading:** 1 Cor 1:1-7

**Benediction:** 1 Cor 15:58

**Song:** Lord, I Want to Be a Christian, O to Be Like Thee

# Introduction

Herd

### Interest: Too often Christian churches don’t look much different than other social groups.

#### Every church has problems being like the country where it is located.

Be Different

(3 slides)

#### But this should not be. We cannot simply accept this, since Jesus has come into our lives to make us different than the world.

### Need: Does your life—and our church—look different from non-Christians?

#### Does your presence unify or divide others around you?

#### Are your personal ethical standards higher than those who do not claim Jesus?

#### Do you handle difficulties differently—in a way prioritizing other people over yourself?

Butterfly

### Subject: How should we be different from unbelievers? I just told you three ways! What are some of the ways that God wants your life to escape the herd mentality? How does Jesus desire you to rise above the fray?

### Background: Corinth was a tough city in which to be different.

Bckgrd

(10 slides)

#### Corinth was an immoral, seaport city in Greece.

Subject

#### Paul's establishment of the church at Corinth on his second missionary journey took about eighteen months from AD March 51-September 52 (1 Cor 3:6, 10; 4:15; Acts 18:1-17). Nearly four years later while in Ephesus on his third missionary journey he received bad news about the church from two sources: (1) disturbing reports from the household of Chloe regarding divisions and disorders in the church (1:11), and (2) news of difficulties from the church itself via letter carried by three men (16:17).

#### Therefore, Paul's letter is actually a response to these three issues, answering the problems of (1) divisions, (2) disorders and (3) difficulties raised in the church's questions.

### Preview: Today we’ll see three arenas where we should have higher standards than unbelievers—three ways we should be different.

Be Different

### Text: We will survey the whole first letter of Paul to Corinth.

(What is the first way that we should be different from unbelievers? Chapters 1–4 tell us to…)

# I. Be united (1 Cor 1–4).

• United

[Do not divide over favorite teachers or preachers.]

## Position: The church is set apart for God to be different (1:1-9).

1

(3 slides)

### Salutation: Believers are *set apart* for God’s special purposes (1:1-3).

MP

#### What does it mean that we have “been sanctified” (1:2)?

##### The NLT renders this “called by God to be his own holy people.”

##### Literally, it means to be “set apart by God as His possession” (BKC).

#### Why would Paul refer to such a carnal church as “sanctified”?

##### He wanted the church live up to what God had already made them.

##### It’s like a royal baby that has inherited the kingdom but still needs to learn to live up to that position.

#### Our position in Christ is perfect and unchanging, but our practice is ongoing and needs effort. Rather than throw our hands into the air and give up, 1 Corinthians says we need to have our practice be increasingly more like our position.

### Thanksgiving: We will achieve ultimate sanctification (1:4-9).

Leader

(3 slides)

## Problem: We should never have competing factions based on our favorite teachers (1:10-17).

### The church had its own PAP (explain).

### Do you compare the speakers for this church?

## Misunderstandings: See the message and messengers humbly (1:18–4:21).

2

(3 slides)

### Message: The gospel is not human wisdom but Christ crucified (1:18–2:16).

3

(10 slides)

### Messengers: Unity sees God as the source of its blessings—not its leaders (1 Cor 3).

### Pride: We should treat leaders biblically as faithful, humble servants (1 Cor 4).

4

(3 slides)

## I am from the DSA, the Divided States of America.

(What is the second way that we should be different from unbelievers? Chapters 5–6 tell us to…)

# II. Be moral (1 Cor 5–6).

[Do not fall into the trap that there are no moral absolutes.]

5

(3 slides)

## We must discipline immorality because it pollutes the entire church (1 Cor 5).

### The correct response to an unrepentant, immoral man at Corinth was to humbly expel him (5:1-2).

#### The church knew of a member who had illegally and incestuously married his step-mother (5:1; “to have a woman” means to marry her in Matt. 14:4).

#### Paul demanded them to change their prideful attitude by expelling him with grief and humility (5:2).

### The reasons the Corinthians had to discipline the sinning man were for both his and the church’s benefit (5:3-8).

Reasons

(4 slides)

#### Discipline hands a believer over to Satan’s dominion to end his hypocrisy in the church (5:3-5).

#### Discipline maintains the purity of the body (5:6-8).

### The condition on discipline depends on whether or not immoral people are believers (5:9-13).

## We must solve our own disputes to show Jesus as competent and not to shame him (6:1-11).

6

(6 slides)

### The ones to solve disputes between believers must be Christians (6:1).

### The reasons believers’ disputes must be solved by Christians are because of the church’s competency and witness (6:2-11).

## Sexual immorality harms our relationship with God, others, and ourselves (6:12-20).

### Immorality harms our relationship with God, who gives the body value (6:12-14, 17, 20).

### Immorality harms our relationship with others (6:15-16).

### Immorality harms our relationship with ourselves (6:18).

(What is the third way that we should be different from unbelievers? Chapters 7–16 tell us to…)

MP

# III. Be selfless (1 Cor 7–16).

[Do not make your own fulfillment, comfort, or preferences your highest goal.]

## Singleness is great but marriage should be honored also (1 Cor 7).

7

(4 slides)

### The Corinthians should be content with the marital, ethnic, and socio-economic state God placed them since each situation has its advantages (7:1-24).

### The reason Paul advocated singleness during the Corinthians’ trials was because it has many advantages (7:25-40).

## Avoid idol meat that offends others but also avoid pagan idol feasts to glorify God (8:1–11:1).

8

(8 slides)

### Avoid food sacrificed to idols (and other amoral areas) out of love for a believer with a more sensitive conscience (1 Cor 8).

### Paul relinquished his rights as an apostle but Israel misused of its privileges as examples of Christian liberty and God’s judgment for selfishness (9:1–10:13).

9

(4 slides)

### Eating idol-meats is consistent with Christian liberty if it edifies others but inconsistent if it is part of a pagan idol feast (10:14-30).

10

(6 slides)

### Paul's guiding principle on Christian liberty is to do everything to glorify God by not pleasing self at the expense of others (10:31–11:1).

## Wives leading worship at Corinth must cover their heads so they don’t blur sex roles (11:2-16).

11

(6 slides)

Title

### Wives and husbands at Corinth must follow God’s authority structure and act in worship in a way that was not shameful in their culture (11:2-6).

14

(3 slides)

### Corinthian wives must show submission to their husbands with a head covering during public prayer or prophecy to show a husband’s authority since creation (11:7-12).

### Corinthian wives should wear a head covering during public prayer or prophecy to show proper sex distinctions in Corinth where they were blurred (11:13-16).

## The Lord’s Supper is selfless when we look outward, back, forward, and inward (11:17-34).

11:17-34

(4 slides)

### The way to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner is to look outward (horizontal aspect) for others in the body (11:17-22).

### The way to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner is to look back (vertical aspect) at Christ’s death for you (11:23-25).

### The way to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner is to look forward by proclaiming Christ’s second coming to enact the New Covenant (11:26).

### The way to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner is to look inward in self-examination or suffer God’s judgment in sickness or even in death (11:27-34).

## Spiritual gifts must help the church worship in selfless love—not selfish pride (1 Cor 12–14).

12

(5 slides)

### The church is spiritually gifted with unity and diversity like a human body for every member to play an important part and benefit the entire church (12:1-31a).

### Love is superior to and essential for beneficial use of gifts as love is superior to gifts, benefits others, and outlasts gifts so believers should act selflessly (12:31b–13:13).

13

(2 slides)

### Orderly worship ranks prophecy over uninterpreted tongues and imposes speaking limitations on both (1 Cor 14).

## Christ’s resurrection means we also we be resurrected (1 Cor 15).

`15

(6 slides)

### *Historical Argument*: The resurrection of Christ was a key part of the gospel that the apostles preached and the Corinthians believed (15:1-11).

### Christ’s resurrection will bring the resurrection of believers in new bodies (15:12-57).

### *Experiential Argument*: The result of God’s promise of the believer’s resurrection should be confident service for Christ now with assured reward (15:58).

16

(3 slides)

## We advance the gospel by giving and teamwork (1 Cor 16).

### We advance the gospel by giving to the needy saints (16:1-4).

### We advance the gospel by teamwork (16:5-24).

(How should we be different from unbelievers?)

# Conclusion

Herd

(4 slides)

Title

### Be different by being united, moral and selfless (Main Idea). Said *differently*, do not divide the church, do not be immoral, and do not act only for your own benefit (restatement).

### Exhortation: Operate on yourself! (Optional illustration on NTS notes, 161oo)

Sanctify

#### Does your presence unify or divide others around you?

#### Are your personal ethical standards higher than those who do not claim Jesus?

#### Do you handle difficulties differently—in a way prioritizing other people over yourself?

Prayer

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Paul wrote Galatians just after his first missionary journey.

### Then Paul wrote 1-2 Thessalonians on his second missionary journey.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Every church has problems being like the country where it is located.

### But this should not be. We cannot simply accept this, since Jesus has come into our lives to make us different than the world.

### Our position in Christ is perfect and unchanging, but our practice is ongoing and needs effort. Rather than throw our hands into the air and give up, 1 Corinthians says we need to have our practice be increasingly more like our position.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Occasion: Paul's establishment of the church at Corinth on his second missionary journey took about eighteen months from AD March 51-September 52 (1 Cor 3:6, 10; 4:15; Acts 18:1-17). Nearly four years later while in Ephesus on his third missionary journey he received bad news about the church from two sources: (1) disturbing reports from the household of Chloe regarding divisions and disorders in the church (1:11), and (2) news of difficulties from the church itself via letter carried by three men (16:17). Therefore, Paul's letter is actually a response to these three issues, answering the problems of (1) divisions, (2) disorders and (3) difficulties raised in the church's questions.

### Date: Paul makes two comments concerning the Corinthians' giving which indicate that 2 Corinthians was written less than a year after 1 Corinthians (2 Cor 8:10; 9:2). His mention of being about to leave Ephesus (1 Cor 16:5-8) indicates that 1 Corinthians was written in May AD 56. The letter of 2 Corinthians followed later that year in fall AD 56.

# Questions

### What does it mean that we have “been sanctified” (1:2)?

#### The NLT renders this “called by God to be his own holy people.”

#### Literally, it means to be “set apart by God as His possession” (BKC).

### Why would Paul refer to such a carnal church as “sanctified”?

#### He wanted the church live up to what God had already made them.

#### It’s like a royal baby that has inherited the kingdom but still needs to learn to live up to that position.

# Tentative Main Ideas

Be Sanctified (too old and unfamiliar)

Be Set Apart (two-word description that needs explanation)

Be Different

# Illustrations That Apply

### (Hold up an apple stem.) I am holding up part of a tree here. Actually, it's just a small twig from a certain tree. It's brown, fairly straight, roughly broken on one end and a bit ripped off on the other end. It smells nice, too. But can you guess what kind of tree this little twig comes from?

#### That's probably not a very fair question since there are thousands of kinds of trees to choose from, which makes it anybody's guess. What if I give you a little hint?

#### Attached to this part of the tree was something else that might look a little more familiar--in fact, when I show it to you, you're going to know for sure what kind of tree the twig comes from.

#### OK, here's what was attached to the twig (hold up apple). Can you guess what kind of tree the twig came from? Of course, an apple tree.

#### Why was it so difficult to determine the tree based only upon the stem? Because it looks pretty much like most other stems or twigs.

#### Why was it so easy to determine the tree based only upon the fruit? Obviously, because the apple looks quite different from all other fruits and therefore is easy to distinguish.

### Now here's the rub: When other people look at your life, how easy is it for them to be able to tell that you are a Christian?

#### Is it as difficult to determine you're a believer as it is to determine the apple tree only from the stem?

#### Or have you made it easy for others to know you're a follower of Christ by the kind of fruit that results in your life?

### Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

#### How easy it is for others to tell you're a believer in Jesus Christ is directly proportionate to how much fruit is shown in your life!

#### If a tree had only one apple on it, it would be fairly difficult to identify it as an apple tree—unless that apple happened to be on the side of the tree at which you're looking.

#### But if the apple tree had hundreds of apples all over it, none of us would have difficulty determining what kind of tree we were looking at.

### What applies to apple trees applies to you and me.

#### If someone looks at our life and sees no fruit then they have a tough time determining whether we have trusted Christ.

#### But what if someone sees fruit all over the place in our life? It won't be hard to see that we live under the control of the Spirit since, as Jesus said, we can't bear fruit apart from Him!

# New Testament Survey Notes

These 70 pages are available for free download [here](http://www.biblestudydownloads.org/resource/new-testament-survey/) so are not repeated in these notes.

**Be Different**

***1 Corinthians***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

**Summary Statement for the Book**

**Paul explains the *proper functioning of the church* in response to reports about the Corinthians’ divisions, disorders, and doctrinal difficulties to assure that the church makes its *positional sanctification practical.***

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way the church can be different from unbelievers was to make its positional sanctification practical by resolving its divisions, disorders, and doctrinal difficulties.

# [=be united, be moral and be selfless]

# I. Chloe's report of divisions by exalting favorite teachers exhorts the church to mimic humble servants preaching Christ crucified (1 Cor 1–4).

## Paul thanks God for the church as set apart for God to show that they will achieve ultimate sanctification and to begin his stern epistle on a positive note (1:1-9).

### Salutation: The way Paul refers to the church in his opening statements is as *people set apart* for God’s special purposes (1:1-3).

### Thanksgiving: The reason Paul thanks God for the church is because God assures that *they will achieve ultimate sanctification* (1:4-9).

## Problem: Paul rebukes church divisions of competing factions based on their favorite teachers—Paul, Apollos, Peter, and "Christ" (1:10-17).

### Paul rebukes the church for rallying around favorite teachers: Paul, Apollos, Peter, and "Christ" (1:10-12).

### Such divisions were contrary to what Paul had taught them (1:13-17).

## Misunderstandings: The solution to their divisions is to humbly admit their misconceptions of the gospel message and messengers (1:18–4:21).

### Message: The church shouldn’t boast of the “wisdom” of competing teachers because the gospel is not human wisdom but Christ crucified (1:18–2:16).

### Messengers: Church unity for the selfish Corinthians was by seeing God as the source of its blessings—not its leaders (1 Cor 3).

### Pride: The Corinthians should treat Paul and the apostles biblically as faithful, humble servants with a fatherly concern–not pridefully by following certain leaders (1 Cor 4).

# II. Chloe's report of disorders in immorality and lawsuits exhorts the church that God gave them wisdom to exercise church discipline (1 Cor 5–6).

## They needed to discipline an openly immoral man because his immorality had polluted the entire body so the church was proud of its “liberality" (1 Cor 5).

## The reasons disputes between believers must be solved by Christians are because they are more competent and will cause less shame to the body (6:1-11).

## The reasons the Corinthian believers should avoid sexual immorality with prostitutes were because it harmed their relationship with God, others, and themselves (6:12-20).

# III. Paul's answers to the church's doctrinal questions enable them to make their sanctification practical (1 Cor 7–16).

## Paul answers questions about marriage by advocating singleness but allowing marriage and encouraging married people to remain married (1 Cor 7).

## Avoid meat sacrificed to idols out of love for a believer with a sensitive conscience and avoid pagan idol feasts to glorify God (8:1–11:1).

## Wives at Corinth must cover their heads in public prayer or prophecy as a cultural way to show their submission to their husbands in a culture that blurred sex roles (11:2-16).

## The Corinthians can celebrate the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner instead of selfishly when they look outward, back, forward, and inward towards oneself (11:17-34).

## Spiritual gifts should benefit the entire body in orderly worship and selfless love rather than selfish pride (1 Cor 12–14).

## Christ’s resurrection is the basis of the Corinthians’ faith so they must reinforce belief in their own resurrection to confidently serve Christ now (1 Cor 15).

## The way the Corinthians could advance the gospel until Paul returned to them was by giving and teamwork (1 Cor 16).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will be different from unbelievers in a new area of their life.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Too often Christian churches don’t look much different than other social groups.

### Need: Does your life—and our church—look different from non-Christians?

#### Does your presence unify or divide others around you?

#### Are your personal ethical standards higher than those who do not claim Jesus?

#### Do you handle difficulties differently—in a way prioritizing other people over yourself?

### Subject: How should we be different from unbelievers? I just told you three ways!

### Background: Corinth was a tough city in which to be different.

### Preview: Today we’ll see three arenas where we should have higher standards than unbelievers—three ways we should be different.

### Text: We will survey the whole first letter of Paul to Corinth.

(What is the first way that we should be different from unbelievers? Chapters 1–4 tell us to…)

# I. Be united (1 Cor 1–4).

## Position: The church is set apart for God to be different (1:1-9).

## Problem: We should never have competing factions based on our favorite teachers (1:10-17).

## Misunderstandings: See the message and messengers humbly (1:18–4:21).

### Message: The gospel is not human wisdom but Christ crucified (1:18–2:16).

### Messengers: Unity sees God as the source of its blessings—not its leaders (1 Cor 3).

### Pride: We should treat leaders biblically as faithful, humble servants (1 Cor 4).

(What is the second way that we should be different from unbelievers? Chapters 5–6 tell us to…)

# II. Be moral (1 Cor 5–6).

## We must discipline immorality because it pollutes the entire church (1 Cor 5).

## We must solve our own disputes to show Jesus as competent and not to shame him (6:1-11).

## Sexual immorality harms our relationship with God, others, and ourselves (6:12-20).

(What is the third way that we should be different from unbelievers? Chapters 7–16 tell us to…)

# III. Be selfless (1 Cor 7–16).

## Singleness is great but marriage should be honored also (1 Cor 7).

## Avoid idol meat that offends others but also avoid pagan idol feasts to glorify God (8:1–11:1).

## Wives leading worship at Corinth must cover their heads so they don’t blur sex roles (11:2-16).

## The Lord’s Supper is selfless when we look outward, back, forward, and inward (11:17-34).

## Spiritual gifts must help the church worship in selfless love—not selfish pride (1 Cor 12–14).

## Christ’s resurrection means we also we be resurrected (1 Cor 15).

## We advance the gospel by giving and teamwork (1 Cor 16).

(How should we be different from unbelievers?)

# Conclusion

### Be different by being united, moral and selfless (Main Idea).

### Exhortation: Operate on yourself!



**Rick Griffith**

3 Feb 2019

Message 45 of 66

***Be Different***

***1 Corinthians***

# Introduction

### How should we be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from unbelievers?

### Corinth was a tough city in which to be different.

# I. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 1–4).

## Position: The church is set apart for God to be different (1:1-9).

## Problem: We should never have competing factions based on our favorite teachers (1:10-17).

## Misunderstandings: See the message and messengers humbly (1:18–4:21).

# II. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 5–6).

## We must discipline immorality because it pollutes the entire church (1 Cor 5).

## We must solve our own disputes to show Jesus as competent and not to shame him (6:1-11).

## Sexual immorality harms our relationship with God, others, and ourselves (6:12-20).

# III. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 7–16).

## Singleness is great but marriage should be honored also (1 Cor 7).

## Avoid idol meat that offends others but also avoid pagan idol feasts to glorify God (8:1–11:1).

## Wives leading worship at Corinth must cover their heads so they don’t blur sex roles (11:2-16).

## The Lord’s Supper is selfless when we look outward, back, forward, and inward (11:17-34).

## Spiritual gifts must help the church worship in selfless love—not selfish pride (1 Cor 12–14).

## Christ’s resurrection means we also we be resurrected (1 Cor 15).

## We advance the gospel by giving and teamwork (1 Cor 16).

# Conclusion

### Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by being united, moral and selfless (Main Idea).

### Operate on yourself!

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/new-testament-preaching/

Listen to this message online at cicfamily.com/sermon-listing/

**1 Corinthians**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Proper Functioning of the Church** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Answers a Report**  **from Chloe’s men**  **(1:11; 5:1)** | | | | | **Answers a Letter**  **from the Church**  **(7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 15:1; 16:1)** | | | | | | |
| **Divisions** | | **Disorders** | | | **Doctrine** | | | | | | |
| **Leadership** | | **Relationships** | | | **Theology** | | | | | | |
| **Pride** | | **Immorality** | | | **Selfishness** | | | | | | |
| **Chapters 1–4** | | **Chapters 5–6** | | | **Chapters 7–16**  -------Corporate Worship------- | | | | | | |
| Greeting & Problem | Misunder-standings | Incest | Lawsuits | Prostitu-tion | Marri-age | Liberty | Head Coverings | Lord’s Supper | Gifts | Resur-rection | Gospel Advance |
| 1:1-17 | 1:18–4:21 | 5 | 6:1-11 | 6:12-20 | 7 | 8:1–11:1 | 11:2-16 | 11:17-34 | 12–14 | 15 | 16 |
| **Ephesus** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **May 56 (on third missionary journey)** | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Key Word: Sanctification**

**Key Verse: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you have been bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your body” (1 Cor 6:19-20).**

**Summary Statement: Paul explains the *proper functioning of the church* in response to reports about the Corinthians’ divisions, disorders, and doctrinal difficulties to assure that the church makes its *positional sanctification practical.***

**Application: Does your life and church look set apart for God? Or does it have divisions, disorders, and doctrinal difficulties that make it look the same as non-Christians?**