

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



The Called

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Danny Hall • April 7, 2013

The community of the called

The character of the called



The Called

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

Today we begin a new series, The Cross-centered Community, where we will take a deeper look at the early chapters of 1 Corinthians. In the way that Romans is considered to be Paul's theological treatise, 1 Corinthians is thought to be his treatise on church life. How do we live out the gospel in the messiness of church life? There were numerous problems in the Corinthian church stemming from the surrounding pagan culture and their immature attempts to live out their faith. In 1 Corinthians, Paul teaches about what it takes to become a vibrant Christian community that stands out from the culture as a whole.

Engaging with each other

1. What are some of the defining characteristics of the culture we live in?
2. In what ways does the modern-day church differ most from the culture we live in?

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read 1 Corinthians, chapter 1 aloud. Have each group member read a verse or two.
2. Re-read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9. In verse 1 Paul mentions Sosthenes. What do we know about him? (See Acts 18) Why might it be significant that Paul mentions him in this letter? (1 Corinthians 4:12-13)
3. Who does Paul address this book to? What could this imply about why Paul is writing this letter?
4. Paul often gives thanks for the faith of the churches he addresses. In this letter, there are no such thanks. What does he give thanks for? Why do you think this is important?

5. At the beginning (v. 2) and the end (v. 9) of this passage, Paul uses the word "called." How should this frame our thoughts about the church? How about VCC?

Engaging with our stories

1. What kind of church do you want to be a part of? How will you contribute to its life and health?
2. In what ways do you struggle to be different from the culture you live in? How does the church help or, perhaps, hinder you in this struggle?
3. If Paul were to write you a personal letter today, what would he thank God for about you? What reminders or challenges would he give you?