

September 14, 2014

Series: Living As the Cross-Centered Community

Message: Keeping the Cross at the Center

Passages: Survey of 1 Corinthians 1:10-4:17

When the cross of Christ is replaced at the center of the church's life, the community of faith begins to unravel as competing ideas and preferences are allowed to contend for control of the agenda of the church. The church at Corinth was experiencing this kind of division to the point that the very fabric of the church was being torn. Into this mess, Paul speaks strong words directing the Corinthians back to the gospel that birthed them as the only true foundation upon which they can build their church.

Engaging with each other

1. Tell about a time when you either witnessed or heard about a sports team rivalry getting out of hand?
2. Have you ever known close friends or family members whose relationship became divided over a sports rivalry or other allegiance?

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:11-12 and 3:1-4. How would you describe the problem that Paul is addressing?
2. Paul calls them infants and worldly. In what ways are they acting like this?
3. In 1 Cor. 1:22-25 Paul explains the how the gospel confronts both the Jewish and Greek mindset. In essence the Jews were looking for a powerful Messiah and the Greeks wanted a god who conformed to the wisdom of their own worldview. How does the cross of Christ run contrary to both of these points of view? What does Paul say in response about the superiority of the gospel?
4. Paul describes his own personal ministry credo in ch. 2:1-5. Why is keeping the cross so important in our church and in our ministry?
5. In 1 Cor. 3:6-11 Paul describes how we should view the work of the gospel. What should our attitude be toward our role in sharing the good news of Christ?

Engaging with our lives

1. The church at Corinth was dividing along the lines of following certain people and defending certain preferences. In your experience, what are some of the chief ways churches get divided?
2. What are some concrete ways churches demonstrate that Christ is at the center?
3. Our church's vision is "Making Gospel-Centered Disciples for the Glory of God." What are some ways you can contribute to the fulfilling of that vision?