

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12:12-13

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-753

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHEN IS A CHURCH RELEVANT? – PART 4

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Development, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is **Christ**. :13 For by one **Spirit** we **were** all **baptized** into one body (*there is only one church*) - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - we have all been made to drink (*we were all given*) into one Spirit.

What's Known as Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

Jesus reveals an amazing and comforting look into His ministry.

John 17:20-21

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; :21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that **the world may believe** that You sent Me.

WHEN IS A CHURCH RELEVANT?

(*When hasn't the church been relevant? – There will always be a remnant*)

This is my life's personal goal as well as for this church

Revelation 3:7-8

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, '*He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens*": :8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Jesus is at Work to do just that – through the Holy Spirit!

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| "WHAT MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?" | Verses 1-6 |
| "WHO MAKES A CHURCH RELEVANT?" | Verses 7-11 |
| "WHEN IS A CHURCH RELEVANT?" | Verses 12-13 |

RELEVANT / RELEVANCE
is the ability to connect and communicate a message
for the creation and development of a relationship.

(Relatable)

We've learned that a relevant church
is a biblically based church. A church that holds to the inerrancy of the scriptures.

We've learned that a relevant church
is a living breathing organism that is made up of Christian believers and the Holy Spirit - who work in
concert/unity toward the furtherance of the gospel.

*In what is known as **The Westminster Catechism** of the 1640s, The "Catechism" was to educate the church in matters of doctrine and belief. The catechism is composed of 107 questions and answers. But by far the most famous and all encompassing question and answer was this: "What is the chief end of man? - Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.*

As Christians, we're to be **(1) glorifying** God above all else and **(2) enjoying** Him both now and forever.

So today we begin our look into "when is a church relevant?"

WHEN IS A CHURCH RELEVANT?

A CHURCH THAT'S RELEVANT IS A CHURCH THAT'S GOD HONORING

1.) When we're a church Born Again

v.12

1a.) When we're recognized by our unity

:12 For as the body is *(current, now, active)* **one and has many members,** *(currently, presently, active)*

God takes this business about the church very seriously.

It's the church and Jesus Christ that forms the Body.

Romans 12:5

so we, being **many**, are **one** body in Christ,
and **individually** members of **one another**.

This Profound Connection
Between Christ and we His people

John 15:4

Abide in Me, and I in **you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it **abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in Me.



Abide: grk: **me÷nw meno**, *men'-o*; to stay, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, be as one. Connected to.

Colossians 1:18

And He is the head of the body, the church,

**There is nothing more terrible on earth than a headless church.
A church separated from Jesus Christ...**

Separated from His thoughts / voice / comfort / power...

Psalms 133:1

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity!

WHEN WE'RE A CHURCH BORN AGAIN

A CHURCH THAT'S RELEVANT IS A CHURCH THAT'S GOD HONORING

1b.) When we're recognized by our faithfulness

:12 but all the members of that **one** body, being many, are **one** body, (*united*)

For us to be faithful to God

Means that we obey His commands. His commands are to deal with our will - our self determined choice.

A relevant Christian is a Faithful Christian.

And Faithful Christians gathered together make for a relevant church.

Matthew 4:19

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Our Culture is in a Crisis of Faithfulness.

Jesus Said That Such a Church Is Driven by Love

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. :35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another.**"

The Bible Says In 1 Peter 2:4-5

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, :5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

WHEN WE'RE A CHURCH BORN AGAIN

A CHURCH THAT'S RELEVANT IS A CHURCH THAT'S GOD HONORING

1c.) When we're recognized by our Christ likeness

:12 so also is Christ (*Jesus Christ is currently, presently, active*).

A relevant Christian is a Christ-like Christian.

And Christ-like Christians gathered together make for a relevant church.

John 3:3-5

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." :4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" :5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

1 Peter 1:22 NLT

Now you can have sincere love for each other as brothers and sisters because you were cleansed from your sins when you accepted the truth of the Good News. So see to it that you really do love each other intensely with all your hearts. :23 For you have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

WHEN IS A CHURCH RELEVANT?

A CHURCH THAT'S RELEVANT IS A CHURCH THAT'S GOD HONORING

2.) When we're a church Empowered by God

v.13a

2a.) We'll be occupied with knowing our new identity

:13a For **by** (*empowered by*) **one Spirit** we were all **baptized** into **one body**.
(*Because there is only one church*) -

For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into **one body**.

Baptized grk bapti÷zw baptizo, *bap-tid'-zo*; to be placed or immersed into, to be submerged; to make complete or full-whelmed.

Notice with me church. What is the act? – baptism.
Who is the agent? – the Holy Spirit

The First Time a Believer was ever Born Again / Placed / Baptized into....

John 20:21-22

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." :22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Baptizes You Into The Church.

**What's missing here? Water. This is not a baptism of water.
This is a baptism of position, of placement, of belonging.**

There is much confusion about the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit that frankly doesn't need to be. Here we see that there is a baptism that is conducted by the Holy Spirit that results in a believer becoming a member of the body of Christ – the church. This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit which places a believer into the Body of Christ at the moment of Salvation!

The baptism of the Spirit occurs at conversion when the Spirit enters the believing sinner, giving him new life, and makes his body the temple of God. All believers have experienced this once-for-all baptism. Nowhere does the scripture command us to seek this baptism, because we have already experienced it and it need not be repeated. However, **the filling** of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) has to do with the Holy Spirit's control of our lives. In scripture, to be filled by something means to be under its control. We are commanded to be filled and we can be as we yield to Christ and ask Him for the Holy Spirit. This filling is a repeated experience, an on-going experience for we constantly need to be filled with the spiritual power that He provides if we are going to glorify Christ. To **be baptized** by the Holy Spirit means that we belong to Christ's body. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means that our bodies belong to Christ. There is a baptism of the Holy Spirit and there is a filling of the Holy Spirit. One at conversion, the other on an on-going basis as we seek Him. - *Dr. R.A. Torrey*

It is the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit to place the Christian into the Family of God.

John 14:17-18

The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells **with you** and shall be **in you**. (*fulfilled in John 20:22*) :18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

(This is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is the baptism by the Holy Spirit.

WHEN WE'RE A CHURCH EMPOWERED BY GOD

A CHURCH THAT'S RELEVANT IS A CHURCH THAT'S GOD HONORING

2b.) We'll be occupied with pressing on with Jesus

:13a For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

we were all baptized

If the Son of God did not minister and serve until the Holy Spirit empowered Him – then should we not do the same?

Recently, Pastor John MacArthur was asked; *“What would you do differently if you could start your ministry all over?”* His answer was refreshing. MacArthur said, *“I would be a lot less impressed with my abilities to organize and motivate and a lot more dependent upon the work and power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Romans 8:14-16

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. :15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” :16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

WHEN WE'RE A CHURCH EMPOWERED BY GOD

A CHURCH THAT'S RELEVANT IS A CHURCH THAT'S GOD HONORING

2c.) We'll be occupied with being ready for His return

:13a For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

We Hear A Lot Today About

“Jesus is Coming Again” and “These Are The Last Days” or “Christ is Near” – Why do we say these things? – Because...

No one knows in what direction the church should be heading and no one knows better how it should get there than the Holy Spirit.

The Success of the Church is Guaranteed
by God the Holy Spirit.

John 16:12-14

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. :13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. :14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. :2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. :3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. :4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. :5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

The Lamps and The Oil and The Waiting

I am fully Trusting the Holy Spirit
To lead me and guide me in these amazing, biblically relevant days

Titus 2:13-14

looking for **the blessed hope** (*currently relevant*) and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (*currently relevant*) :14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us (*currently relevant*) from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works. (*currently relevant*)

WHEN IS A CHURCH RELEVANT?

A CHURCH THAT'S RELEVANT IS A CHURCH THAT'S GOD HONORING

3.) When we're a Church At Large in this world

v.13b

3a.) We'll be in this world – but not of it

:13b whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - we **have** (*past tense*) all **been** (*past tense*) **made** (*past tense*) to drink into **one Spirit**.

Hebrews 10:10,14

By that (*His*) will we **have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. (*practically & positionally = currently relevant*)

:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever **those who are being sanctified**. (*practically & positionally = currently relevant*)

A sanctified (holy living) church is a relevant church.

A church that is living “**contrary to this world**” and is “existing for the advancement of the gospel, reaching the lost.”

3b.) We'll be in this world - reaching out to it

:13b whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - we **have** (*past tense*) all **been** (*past tense*) **made** (*past tense*) to drink into **one Spirit**.

James 1:26-27

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. :27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

3c.) We'll be in this world – while pointing to another

:13b whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - we **have** (*past tense*) all **been** (*past tense*) **made** (*past tense*) to drink into **one Spirit**.

We're pointing to heaven – let's not forget that

HEAVEN IS OUR HOME

OUR ELEVATED STATE the story of the Duchess, the Princess and the Coachman – Ironside

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin *is* death,

Romans 6:23b

but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:13

For “*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*”

Romans 10:9-10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Can You Say Today That You're Living a Life
That's United to Jesus Christ?

————— *End of Study* —————

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