

**Vision Christian Fellowship**  
**Thursday Night Bible Study – May 2, 2019**

**Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1-23**

**Title: Kingdom Life Manifestation in Unity – Session 4**

Just as the Church continues to expand and manifest the power of God all over the earth, Satan also continues to fight it by infiltrating it with deception, factions, divisions/disunity using some men and women in the Church. The enemy does this by making people proud as they serve God, selfish ambition, rebellion to God and the leaders, lust of the eyes, and the love of the money (this does not mean that it is bad no, money is good (Ecclesiastes 10) and we need it but it should never master us instead we must master it).

- This passage does not refer to the saved and the lost. This is because salvation does not depend on our works. Nevertheless, it is about all the saved believers and how they work in God's Kingdom.
- The day of course refers to the Day of Judgment, which I believe can be either the eschaton Day (last Day of Judgment) as well as the Day of testing, trials and temptation so that our true **character** can be revealed (2 Co 6:3-10).
- This text should not also be confused with the doctrine as others claims.
- Paul also emphasizes the sacredness of the community of believers using the image of the temple (*naos*) - shrine or sanctuary building in which God dwells. (v.16 – 17). This signifies the very presence of God, which means that our focus in the Church should be on the Lord, not on human beings.
- We can see that Paul here turns to the whole Church of the believers, not only the teachers – himself, Apollos and Peter. In my ministry experience, I have seen people who quit Church in an effort to frustrate the Church leadership or other Church members. However, God's work will always prevail.
- God will continue to work his purposes even after all of us are long gone. This is because God only invites us to join him in the work he is already doing, and we can only do our part. Thus, this is our very call to humility.
- It is also important to note that the division was caused by the members themselves because of them having favorites. Thus, as members of the Church, we should attain the

spiritual maturity that focuses on the Lord, not human beings. This does not mean that we become rebellious to our leaders; that in itself too is sin (Hebrews 13:7).

- As leaders in any capacity, we can avoid this by remembering the Lord's words whenever we do something "that we are the Lord's servants" (Luke 17:9-10) because people will always have their favorites.
- The Bible gives us a number of examples of individuals who caused pain and division to the body of Christ:
  1. The believers in Corinth were divided in actually four camps; Those for Apollos, Peter, Paul and those who simply said we just follow Christ.( 1 Cor. 3:1-23)
  2. Diotrefes – who loved to be the first, spreading malicious reports about others, refuses to welcome other believers and stops others from doing so unlike Gaius – a God fearing man ( 3 John v. 9-14)
  3. Demas – who loved this world than God and Alexander who did great harm to Paul (2 Timothy 4:9-15).

In (Romans 16: 17- 20) Paul said that "watch out or mark those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned...

- What causes divisions, mostly in light of the scriptures above, is pride of life, the love of money, the lust of the flesh, and self-ambition.

## Questions

1. How do you feel when people flatter you whenever you do something? Do you feel the temptation of being the best? How would you overcome that going forward?
2. What is your heart- embedded motive for serving the Lord or helping others? Is it to make a name for yourself or so that they can help you back?
3. How do you receive correction or rebuke? Well or not well? If not well, how would you make adjustments?