

OVERCOMING DYSFUNCTIONS OF A CHURCH
A SERIES BASED ON 1ST CORINTHIANS



DIRTY LAUNDRY

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH

***DIFFERENT TIMES.
SIMILAR CHALLENGES.***

THE SERIES:

- Division (Ch. 1-4)
- Immorality (Ch. 5-7)
- Legalism (Ch. 8-10)
- Individualism (Ch. 11-14)
- Defection (Ch. 15)

Filtering issues through the lens of the Gospel

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DEFECTION

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you **received**, in which you **stand**, ² and by which you are **being saved, if you hold fast** to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15

GOSPEL = GOOD NEWS

Past = Received

Present = Stand

Future = Being saved, if you hold fast



³ For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,** ⁴ that **he was buried,** that **he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,** ⁵ and that **he appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1 CORINTHIANS 15

THE GOSPEL

1. Christ died for our sins in accordance to Scriptures
 - 1a. He was buried
2. Chris was raised on the third day in accordance to Scriptures
 - 2b. He appeared to ...

⁶ Then he appeared to more than **five hundred** brothers at one time, **most of whom are still alive**, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to **James**, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, **he appeared also to me**. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ **But by the grace of God** I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15

EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION:

- Disciples in Corinth
- Fulfilment of Scriptures
- Eyewitnesses
- Paul's transformed life

IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED...

14 And **if Christ has not been raised**, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **15** We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 CORINTHIANS 15

IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED...

- Our preaching is in vain
- Our faith is in vain
- Misrepresenting God
- Faith is futile
- We are still in sins
- Perished
- We are people that is most pitiful

BUT CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED...

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.** **²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.** **²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.** **²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after **destroying every rule and every authority and power.**** **²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.** **²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**

1 CORINTHIANS 15

BUT CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED...

³²...If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ³³ Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”
³⁴ **Wake up** from your drunken stupor, as is right, and **do not go on sinning**. For some have **no knowledge of God**. I say this to your shame.

1 CORINTHIANS 15

BUT CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED...

- Made alive in Christ
- Death – the last enemy, defeated
- Know God, live rightly

⁵⁴...then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

1 CORINTHIANS 15

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15

THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE 2011



THE STANDING MIRACLE PINE TREE



THE STANDING MIRACLE PINE TREE



⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,** knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15