

Sermon January 22, 2023

1 Cor 1: 10-18

United as one Body in Christ

¹⁰ "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,^[a] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."

Paul is expressing his deep desire to unite his fellow believers. This was the church in Corinth and there were problems not from the outside but from the inside between the church members and leaders.

Paul emphasizes unity and peace among the church members. Paul calling out all of the members that being united in service to Christ is vital.

How many churches through out the years met their demise by self-centered thinking among it's members and splitting up the unity, and members leaving to find a better church that perfect church that is never found.

Christ is the center of the church and as soon as we lose that centeredness the devil will be in the details of the decline. The need to follow Christ's teaching and pure doctrine of God's word and Godly oneness of mind is important!

It is when we find common cause common purpose in working together for Jesus Christ, sharing his love and grace to each other in his house, our house our church!

Paul is making it clear it is not about us or because of us but clearly see it has all to do with the God that died for us.

This morning I wanted to start out with a message from our epistle reading from 1 Corinthians 1 on the very foundation of Christ's work within his Church.

It starts with this church, and it begins with each of us because before we can have the spirit of God working with in our hearts and minds as a congregation, we first need to step out in faith for God first!

We can begin our journey of unity together here at Pinnacle as we put Jesus Christ first in all on ministry efforts to unite us in one common cause.

Unity and strength through our common cause to glorify God together here each week is so important so fundamental to having Christ lead us to grow and bring others here!

So this morning as we look at the Gospel lesson in Matthew 4 we see the ending of one ministry John's and the beginning of Jesus beginning his ministry after the fourth days in the wilderness.

Jesus' intention was not to infringe on John's teaching but to confirm it! He reinforces the need for the foundation of John's teachings of repentance of our sins!

Matthew 4: 17

"From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus had a clear path to begin his ministry that would show the true word of God the fathers will for his Son.

Jesus fulfilled the prophet Isaiah prophecy by leaving his home in Nazareth to move to Capernaum, this prophecy was important to us as it was to our ancestors in the past that God's word is the truth! Then, now and forever as the infallible word of God!

Matt 4: 12-16

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."^[a]

Isaiah talking about the Galilee of the Gentiles where many were in great darkness both in body and spirit. A light that overtook the darkness of spirit that was there for both the Jew and the Gentile had started as a steady glow of light, hope and forgiveness that would only grow brighter into a blinding light of Jesus on the cross.

This is our light here as we come in unity as one body to hear his word with scripture and believe as one body one true light of Jesus. This is how we grow our family of faith by knowing the true pure world of God.

Jesus calls us to work together young and old to uplift each other through Christ! To build up to follow him to shine the light on this very dark world that wants to tear down and bury his teachings to our children and young adults.

Jesus leads us in love and obedience to follow him. As he asked his first disciples .

Matt 4: 18-22

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James's son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Christ seeks this kind of immediate obedience from each of us every day. To believe in him and still follow him, even when we have the bottom of our own lives drop out from underneath us.

To believe in his saving grace and to drop our own stubborn self-centeredness to control and mold our own lives.

A quote from a church father " Those that hold on to spiritual word of God are uplifted by it. Those that hold onto earthly things will be brought down by them."

Material positions, money, your profession, your own pride, lustful actions, addiction all are part of the flesh, are all part of the earthly things that take over ones heart.

The best news this morning as Jesus had chosen the 12 disciples, he also has chosen you! He seeks you and asks you and me to follow him for you also will be fishers of men.

Jesus goes out he teaches, preaches and heals and in that his name became known through the area of Galilee.

Matthew 4: 23-25

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis,^[a] Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.”

He traveled about Galilee like a devoted doctor healing out of Love. But also to build faith in a few not because of the miracle it self but seeing what Jesus said was the pure truth for he knew all about them and their own sins.

As we become united together in the faith of Christ let us too see his miracles that he performed in our own lives. The gift of family love, of church family, of the sacraments and of course his saving us forever through his blood shed for us.

In closing Isaiah described the sinful nature of this world, people walking in darkness and the shadow of death, unable to find their way and lacking the ability to help themselves. We see this growing all around with increasing in intensity the past few years!

But into this dark world comes Jesus, the light of the world, His great light shines first in Galilee and now on the whole world!

To this sinful hurting people around us Jesus gives life, hope and deliverance.

As we start this new year here at Pinnacle, we are united and we pray that his light will grow brighter each day with Hope and Love and repentance to turn us into a might force of God!

Peace, Mercy and Grace be yours from our Father Jesus Christ!

In Jesus Name !