

Local Churches In The N.T. #4

Corinth

Introduction:

- A. Today we consider the church at Corinth.
 - 1. We should know more about Corinth than we do any other church.

I. The Beginning Of The Church At Corinth.

- A. Paul went to Corinth in 51 or 52.
 - 1. Paul spent a year and a half in Corinth – Acts 18:11.
- B. Paul's methods used in establishing this church.
 - 1. First, he went to the synagogue of the Jews – Acts 18:4.
 - 2. Then after being opposed by the Jews, he turned to the Gentiles – Acts 18:6.
 - 3. He preached Christ to them – 1 Cor.1:18; 2:1,2.
 - a. By so doing he laid the foundation upon which they built – 1 Cor.3:10,11.
 - 4. They had responded in faith and obedience – Acts 18:8.
 - a. But Paul had himself baptized only a few of them – 1 Cor.1:13-16.
 - b. But it is apparent that their obedience had resulted in cleansing --1 Cor.6:9-11.

II. Corinth Was Like All Other Local Churches.

- A. They assembled to worship God.
 - 1. The Lord's supper – 1 Cor.11:18,20,33.
 - 2. Their giving – 1 Cor.16:2.
 - 3. Praying, singing, and edification – 1 Cor.14:15,16,19,23,26.
- B. They exercised discipline.
 - 1. At first they did not but Paul corrected them for it – 1 Cor.5:1-5.
 - 2. Their obedience brought results.
 - a. The sinner repented – 2 Cor.2:6-9.
- C. They worked through their treasury.
 - 1. They supported some who preached the gospel – 1 Cor.9:12.
 - 2. They assisted the poor saints at Jerusalem – 2 Cor.8:10,11.
- D. It is easy to see that in these respects Corinth was like all other local churches.
 - 1. They received the same word – 1 Cor.1:7; 4:7; 2 Cor.1:13; 12:13.
 - 2. They had received all of the word also – 1 Cor.2:16; 4:17.
 - 3. In all fundamentals, Corinth was like the other churches.

III. Corinth, The Problem Church.

- A. The church at Corinth was plagued by many problems.
 - 1. The problem of division – 1 Cor.1:10-13; 3:1-3.
 - 2. The problem of carnal-mindedness – 1 Cor.3:1-3.
 - 3. The problem of immorality in the church – 1 Cor.5:1-11.
 - 4. The problem of disputes over carnal matters – 1 Cor.6:1,2.
 - 5. Marriage problems – 1 Cor.7:1-40.
 - 6. Problems over differences of opinion – 1 Cor.8:1-13.
 - 7. The problem of preacher support – 1 Cor.9:1-15.
 - 8. Problems over the headship of man – 1 Cor.11:1-16.
 - 9. Problems over the Lord's Supper – 1 Cor.11:17-34.
 - 10. Jealousies over the spiritual gifts – 1 Cor.12:1-13:7.
 - 11. Problems over the lack of order in assemblies – 1 Cor.14:1-39.

12. Problems over the false teachers concerning the resurrection of the dead – 1 Cor.15:1-58.
13. We think we have problems?
- B. Corinth repented – 2 Cor.7:8-11.
 1. Would we be as swift to repent as was Corinth?

Conclusion:

- A. The church at Corinth was not the best church we read about in the Bible.
 1. There was a lot to be desired, yet...
 2. It appears they sought to correct their ways.