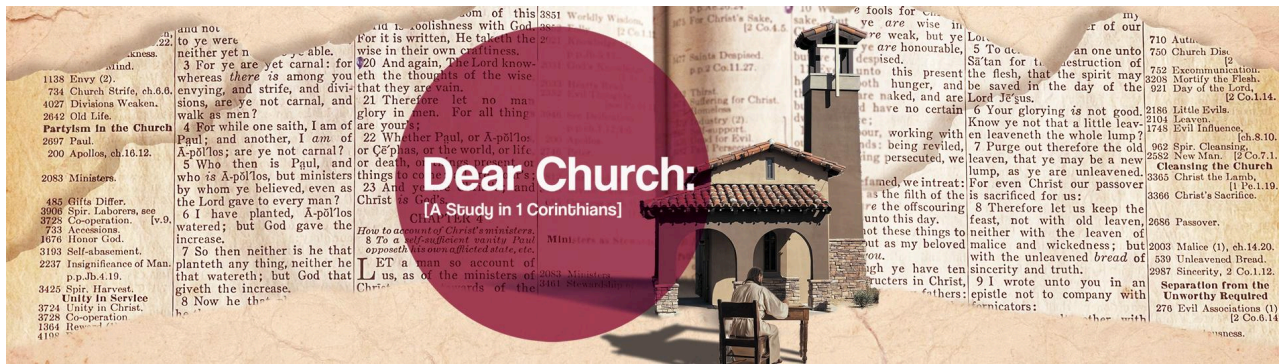




Pursue Love, Preach Jesus

1 Corinthians 14:1-25 | Thomas Slager

The past few weeks we have encouraged our small groups to go through a discussion from 1 Corinthians 12-13 and talk about our spiritual gifting, our personal story, and how God uses those to help us find our role in God's Kingdom work. *If you have yet to do that 3-week series, we'd love for you to complete that as we embark this year on our "Green Dot" initiatives of living on mission for Christ.* The following discussion is centered on the sermon in 1 Corinthians 14 this past Sunday.

REVIEW: The public gathering of the church is important (Heb. 10:24-25). And in setting we worship God together through song, prayer, and the teaching of His word. God is worthy of all honor and praise (Rev. 4:11)! He is the object of our worship, and He has given gifts to the church for encouragement of each other to the praise of His glory. When we do anything within a service that takes our focus off of Him, they can become the "main thing," and the church in Corinth was dealing with such distractions.

4 Reasons prophesying takes priority in a church service:

1. Builds up the church (vv. 2-5)
2. Benefits the church (vv. 6-15)
3. Instructs outsiders (vv. 16-19)
4. Convicts unbelievers (vv. 20-24)

This passage has implications for our faith, community, and mission as disciples of Jesus Christ. Take the time to read the entire passage aloud as a group. Then discuss the following:

Grow in Your Faith:

1. What did God personally impress upon your heart from the 1 Corinthians 14 message/passage? Why do you suppose that is?
2. What did you find particularly challenging from the text? Helpful?
3. What are the things that tend to distract you during worship? How do you guard your heart/mind in those instances?

Connect in Community:

4. Can you share a time when you were in a church gathering and someone spoke a specific word of encouragement or exhortation to you that was uniquely powerful or timely? Have you been that person to someone else?
5. How have you seen the topic or exercise of spiritual gifts be divisive or confusing in a church? How can we each play a role in preserving the unity of the body when it occurs? Be specific.

Live on Mission:

6. While the Sunday morning service is a gathering of believers in Christ, the reality is we have many non-Christians attend services. How many of us have come to faith in a church service? What was it that God used to reach your heart?
7. Who are some non-Christians you feel God placing on your life that we can stop right now and pray for them to come to faith in Christ? What opportunities are upcoming at Highlands that are “easy invites”? What might be something our small group can do to offer more opportunities to interact with non-believers?