**LET’S ASSESS IT!**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

Premise: Ministry is a movement. To fulfill God’s plan and purpose for our lives and for the life of our church, we cannot become complacent or stagnant. We must get *On the Move*! To accomplish this, we must honestly examine who we are, where we are, and what we are as a ministry, and with boldness, begin making the necessary changes to fulfill God call (Ephesians 2:10).

**DISCUSSION**

**Mark 2:18-22**

Jesus says in verse 22, “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins.”

\*What is the meaning of this passage?

New ideas or teachings cannot be contained by old ways of thinking or doing things. The old ways will not be able to handle the new ideas and will be ruined. The new ideas need to be put into new ways of thinking or doing things. This is because the new ideas will change the old ways and the old ways will not be able to contain the new ideas.

\*What new ideas/teaching was Jesus introducing? How was it received?

As with any new teaching/idea, there will be those who embrace the new teaching/idea, as there will also be those who reject the new teaching/idea. It was true in Jesus’ day, as it is true now.

If the church is to impact our world, she must be sure that she is always moving, always advancing the gospel, always sharing the message of salvation through Christ. For many this will mean embracing new/different methodologies and practices that will connect with the current generation.

Assessments may be necessary of the existing church culture, building aesthetics, organizational structure, operational systems, and perhaps, much more than these.

What is culture? It is the ways of thinking, living, and behaving that define a people and underlie its achievements. It is a nation's collective mind, its sense of right and wrong, the way it perceives reality, and its definition of self. Culture is the morals and habits a mother strives to instill in her children. It is the obligations we acknowledge toward our neighbors, our community, and our government. It is the worker's dedication to craftsmanship and the owner's acceptance of the responsibilities of stewardship. It is the standards we set and enforce for ourselves and for others: our definitions of duty, honor, and character. It is our collective conscience.

Robert P. Dugan, Jr., Winning the New Civil War, p. 169.

Language is a major contributor to culture. If in the church we are divided in and by language, we cannot effectively minister to a dying world. Let’s begin our journey by examining first, language.

**DISCOVERY**

**Assess, Evaluate, Examine**

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Understanding the Text

1 Corinthians is a letter written by Paul to the church at Corinth. They are a church in poor spiritual health.

Dr. Warren Wiersbe suggests the following about the Corinthian church:

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – sexual immorality, drunkenness, worldly living.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – at least four different groups were competing for leadership.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – hindering the progress of the Gospel.

This was the result of the sinful life of the city infiltrating the life of the local assembly.

\*How might our church guard against this?

I believe that the starting point is given to us in verse 10. One of the keys to unity is language.

Genesis 11:1-9

The first protection point is agreement. “…*that you all agree*…”

In the Greek, this is literally translated, “that you all speak the same thing.”

As a local congregation we should have doctrinal unity. (“doctrine” means teaching)

This will create for us an effective, spiritually healthy, and harmonious church.

The teaching of the church should not be a smorgasbord from which members can pick and choose.

Furthermore, there should not be different factions within the church with their own agendas and leaders.

Where should we agree? Our church should be united by…

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**/Christ
* Mission/**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\*How are we saved?

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Did you know that St. Luke Baptist Church has a Mission Statement?

*“We exist to Disciple people for God while Demonstrating the love of God; therefore, Christ’s last command is our first concern.”*

Matthew 28:18-20

Did you know that St. Luke Baptist Church has a Purpose Statement?

*“To win people to Christ (evangelism), develop them to Christ-like maturity (discipleship), while cultivating relationships with one another (fellowship), in order to magnify God’s name (worship).”*

Ephesians 2:10

This is where we should agree!!! This is the same language we should speak!!!

**DIRECTION**

Assess – Evaluate - Examine

Spend some time this week repeating/memorizing our Mission and Purpose Statements