**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**

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

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.

The Corinthian church:

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

The first protection point against this is **agreement**. Verse 10 “…that you all agree…” In the Greek, this is literally translated, “that you all speak the same thing.”

Application: as a local congregation, we should agree in what we say/speak.

We should have doctrinal unity (“doctrine” means teaching). This will create 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…

* Salvation/Christ
	+ By faith alone; through Christ alone.
* Mission/Calling
	+ St. Luke Baptist Church 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
* Purpose/Commitment
	+ St. Luke Baptist Church 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

Why should we agree on what we speak/say?

**DISCOVERY**

**Assess, Evaluate, Examine**

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

“10 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.”

The word “divisions” is the Greek word “schismata” from which we derive the word “schism”. This word means to “tear up” or “rip”, that is to separate.

Why did these divisions/factions develop within the life of the Corinthian congregation?

* Plethora of Philosophers
	+ Corinth was a city filled with teachers and philosophers, all of whom wanted to share their “wisdom.”
* Personal Preferences
	+ Human nature enjoys following human leaders. People tend to identify more with spiritual leaders who help us and whose ministry we understand and enjoy.
	+ Instead of emphasizing the message of the Word, the Corinthians emphasized the messenger. They took their eyes off the Lord and put them on the Lord’s servants, and this led to competition.

“Speaking the same things” cuts down on **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

“Speaking the same things” gives **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** instruction and direction to the congregation.

“Speaking the same things” quiets **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** voices.

“A football team is unified – not because everyone plays the same position – but because everyone is straining for the same goal line. An orchestra is unified – not because everyone performs on the same instruments – but because everyone harmoniously plays the same song under the direction of one conductor. Likewise, the church is to be united (verse10) – not because every Christian is exactly alike – but because we all pledge allegiance to the same Lord.” - Dr. Tony Evans

Paul says “…be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.”

We are not to simply “speak the same thing”, while keeping our disagreements and objections to ourselves, making a pretense of unity. Unity must be genuine.

Unity that is not of the same understanding and the same conviction is not true unity. It is hypocrisy.

Hypocrites will add to a congregation’s size, but they will take away from its effectiveness.

We do not have to be carbon copies of one another; however, we should have the same view regarding doctrine, standards, and basic Biblical beliefs.

To better understand the power of “speaking the same things”, let’s take a look at Genesis 11:1-9, “The Tower of Babel”, and Acts 2:1-11.

The Tower of Babel

(v.1) Notice first that the whole world spoke one language and used the same words (AMP).

(v.2-4) The people, though unified, devised a plan to do evil – they arrogantly sought to make themselves famous, and they wanted to rebel against God.

 (v.5-9) Consequently, God confused their language.

Because of their evil intent, God dispersed them using the one thing that had united them – language.

God later would use the diversity of language to bring people back together again. Look at Acts 2.

The Day of Pentecost

(v.1) Notice first that these Christ followers are united in waiting for God’s promised gift. They are gathered for the same purpose and have the same expectations.

(v.2-4) When the Holy Spirit shows up, they are enabled to speak different languages.

(5-11a) They are speaking the languages of those who are gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost.

God used diversity in language to give the message of the gospel to everyone in the world. This is our call today.

**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8**

We must, with all our diversity in skillsets, abilities, ingenuities, and abilities, come together under the uniting message of salvation through Christ.

When we are united in this, we can “push the needle forward” and unify around mission and purpose.

This is not solely an individual responsibility. This is the mandate of the church!

**DIRECTION**

Assess – Evaluate - Examine

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