

# SOME PILLARS OF CHURCH LIFE ASSUMING THE NEW HEART

*1 Corinthians 1:1-12*

## Introductions

Paul typically addresses his readers as believers who need to grow and he is usually generous about that, but he seems to go beyond that in this letter.

Paul assumes they are believers, at least most of them, and can therefore say amazing things about them.

- “Sanctified in Christ Jesus”
- “Called to be holy”
- “Their Lord and ours”
- “Enriched in every way-in all your speaking and in all your knowledge”
- “You do not lack any spiritual gift”
- “He will keep you strong so that you will be blameless (He is faithful)”

Then, when he wants to address issues, he says the following:

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that...”

## Do You Remember?

This is the church that was not unified. *1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:1-23*

This was the church that did not think of others when taking communion. *1 Corinthians 11:17-34*

This was the church that did not take sin seriously when they needed to. *1 Corinthians 5:1-13*

This was the church that questioned Paul and his apostleship. *1 Corinthians 9:1-27*

This was the church who were still “children” in their thinking. *1 Corinthians 3:1-9, 14:20*

## Remember the Gospel

- Paul can be confident because God is faithful! *Philippians 1:6*
- Sanctification is guaranteed for ALL believers. *Romans 8:28-30*
- He has given every believer an internal motivation to live for Him. *1 Peter 1:6-9, Hebrews 10:14-18, 8:7-13 with Jeremiah 31:31-34*
- Unless we are willing to say someone is not a believer, we must assume they desire to live for God. This means we can point them to Scripture and they want to obey. They will not perfectly obey any more than you do everyday.

## Application

How does this mean we should approach one another in the body?

- Patience *1 Corinthians 13:4*
- Hope and believing in people *1 Corinthians 13:7*
- Persistence if they do not respond properly
- Gentleness and respect *2 Timothy 2:22-26*
- Seek to encourage by Biblical methods rather than manipulation *Philemon 8-11*
- Acknowledge what God is doing in people *Ephesians 1:15-16, Phil 1:3-6, Col 1:3-8*

What causes us difficulty with thinking the best of one another?

- Assuming bad motives.
- Forgetting God’s work in them.
- Assuming we must manipulate in order for things to happen.
- Previous experience-bad track record.
- A desire to see our own agenda happen no matter what.