week 2

Studying

 THE CHURCHAAA

Together

 [a weekly study of the Church as a church]

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Day 1

Reading - Romans 15:1-13

Keep in Mind

 As Paul deals with accepting one another, he is addressing the Jew/Gentile divide that the church was facing along with other social divisions (wealth, class, gender, etc.).

Did You Notice?

 1. How are the strong in the church to treat

 the weak? (see 15:1)

 2. What is the goal of accepting one

 another as we’ve been accepted? (15:7)

 3. We are meant to have the same mindset

 toward each other as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had. (15:5)

What Do You Think?

 1. Paul seemed convinced that the genuine

 unity and loving acceptance of disciples

 would lead to praise to God. How do the

 church’s inner relationships promote or

 prevent the glory of God?

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Day 2

Reading - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17, 3:1-9

Keep in Mind

Paul had originally established the church in Corinth by bringing the gospel there. Peter (or “Cephas”) was known to the church as the lead apostle, and Apollos had come to Corinth to teach them after Paul left.

Did You Notice?

 1. What three appeals did Paul make to the

 Corinthian church? (see 1:10)

 2. What was one dividing issue in the church

 which showed their worldliness? (3:3-4)

 3. In Paul’s agricultural imagery, what roles do

 people and God play in working the fields?

 (3:6-7)

What Do You Think?

 1. How does this same issue of being divided

 over human leaders show itself today?

 Have you seen its effects on the church?

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Day 3

Reading - 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-12

Keep in Mind

It seems that the Corinthian believers had misunderstood God’s grace and were tolerating a terrible sin within their church. Rather than dealing with it decisively, they were apparently proud of how gracious they were being about it.

Did You Notice?

 1. What was the sin being committed within

 the church by one of its members? (5:1)

 2. What did Paul suggest as the proper

 response to this sinfulness? (5:2)

 3. What did Paul instruct them to do

 collectively to the sinful brother? (5:4-5)

 4. With whom are we *not* meant to associate?

 (5:11)

What Do You Think?

Have you ever seen this kind of “church discipline” exercised? What are your thoughts about the process Paul commanded?

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Day 4

Reading - 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11

Keep in Mind

In Romans society, as in ours, there were courts for settling personal grievances. Apparently, the Corinthian believers were suing one another in public courts.

Did You Notice?

 1. Paul wrote that believers will judge the

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (6:2) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (6:3).

 2. What should they have done instead of

 going to civil court to settle things? (6:2,5)

 3. Paul wrote that it would be better to be

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than to sue each

 other. (6:7)

What Do You Think?

Paul was not just creating another rule to follow. How would you describe his deeper concern for the church and for onlooking unbelievers in this section?

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Day 5

Reading - 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34

Keep in Mind

The earliest disciples didn’t observe “communion” the way we do today. They partook in the bread and wine as a part of a whole meal. It seems some were coming to this meal early and neglecting those who came later.

Did You Notice?

 1. What kind of effect did their church

 gatherings have? (see 11:17)

 2. What can divisions in the church show us?

 (11:19)

 3. What judgment were some facing for

 unworthily taking the Lord’s Supper? (11:30)

 4. What is one way to avoid coming under

 judgment? (11:31)

What Do You Think?

Why do you suppose we take Communion now the way we do? What are the pros and cons of observing it the way we do versus as a meal shared together?

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