

Message by John Johnson
September 1-2, 2007
A Missional Church for a Pagan Culture
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

For the next several months we will be studying the letter Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth. This is a church with many similarities to our own. It was surrounded by a self-pleasing, pagan culture, much like the culture here in Washington County. And the church was influenced by that surrounding culture, as we are tempted to be. Paul's instructions to the Corinthians will be applicable and helpful to us Villagers.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Are there any specifics you recall from the message that were interesting or helpful to you?
2. What do you recall about the location and background of Corinth?
(Strategic port, rich, international, huge pagan shrine, big sports town, pleasure/sex, temple of Aphrodite)
3. What is meant by Pastor John's comment that this is an "in your face" letter?
4. Do you remember some of the questions/issues in this letter that John listed in his overview?
5. Paul gives a lot of criticism to the Corinthians in this letter. Yet, this introductory passage is quite positive and flowery. How does Pastor John explain why this is?
6. How many times does Paul include the name of Jesus Christ in these first 9 verses? What's the probable reason for this?
7. What does it mean to "be set apart," to "be holy" in this unholy culture?
(we should be acting different, not compromising or blending)
8. How would you summarize this passage of scripture?