

I heard a joke several years ago about a teacher who asked a young class what certain holidays were. She asked them about Thanksgiving. One child replied, it is when we are thankful for everything we have, and Mom makes a real big Turkey. The teacher then asked them what is Christmas? Another child answered it is the day we celebrate Jesus' birthday. The teacher then asked what is Easter? Another child quickly replied. It was when Jesus had the last supper and dies on the Cross. The teacher responded very good but you forgot the most important part. Oh! I forgot and once a year he comes out of His tomb and if He sees a shadow there is six more weeks of winter.

Yes, they forgot that most important part

In our second reading, today the Corinthians just do not understand the role of the apostles. Paul feels they are looking at the teaching of Christ worldly, that they are using worldly wisdom in place of spiritual wisdom. They are focusing more on the messenger than the message. They are saying I belong to Paul or, I belong to Apollo or, I belong to Cephas. If we look back a few verses, we can feel Paul's frustration when he says, "Brothers, I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ."

Paul is frustrated that the people do not fully understand who Christ really is. They have a very shallow understanding and it can lead to them believing false teaching. It is like going out for a good swim and finding a beautiful lake and when you go to jump in, the water is only an inch deep. In order to swim you need to find deeper water and that is the message Paul is trying to get across. You need to have complete trust in Christ in everything you do but you need to go into deeper waters to find it.

Therefore, by saying I belong to Apollo, I belong to Paul, or I belong to Cephas they are opposing their ministers and going against God's Plan. Paul does not want them to sabotage this by competing against one another

In the Old Testament God warned of building too many Temples because the people could conclude that God's presence is greater in one temple than the other.

It would be like saying I belong to Father Trask, I belong to Father Kraig, or Christ is more present in one parish than another, could you imagine the division it would cause.

Christ is the one who was Crucified, died and rose on the third day. He is the Living word among us. There may be several messengers but the message

cannot change. To truly understand that you need to be able to open your hearts to the teachings of the Gospel. To live your life in the presence of Christ. To have total faith in the Risen Christ. Paul got it and he preached this tirelessly. The Jewish law to Paul was like walking on a balance beam 15 feet high. When you look down at the beam, you worry about falling and Paul fell often as he often refers to in his writing, until he gave his life completely over to Christ. Now, we do not care how narrow the balance beam is or how high it is as long as our focus is on Christ, we won't fall, and if we do Christ will be there to help us up.....If we let Him.

Christ lives within each one of us, He is with us always just as He is present in every parish we worship. Has our church changed over the years.... sure it has, so have the Popes, The Bishops, The Priests, The Deacons , and all the people. The one thing that remains the same is Christ Presence in the Eucharist no matter where you go, what Country, State or City Christ is there. He does not pick or choose His parishes, His presence is the same everywhere. His message is the same everywhere.

If we stop believing this we begin to look to other places for answers. We begin to grasp at things. just as Eve did in the Garden and we begin to choose fruit

of the wrong tree. We begin to believe that we know what is best for us and we begin to think we are smarter than God.

It has been said that our Hearts are made with a hole , so we can begin to fill them with Love and Charity, and by doing so we let God also dwell in our hearts.

That is why a church community is so important. This is why we worship as a community, we listen to God Word together, we sing together as one voice, we pray together and why we come to his table in the Eucharist as one. Then we go out and spread the Good News. Like Paul, We go out and be that example of Christ by bringing Him to those who need it most.

Looking to the Gospel. Jesus tell us that we are to not only to love our neighbors but we are to love our enemies as well. To pray for those who persecute us. To turn the other cheek. It seems unfair. However, being a follower of Christ will not always be easy, spreading the Good News of the Gospel may not always be accepted. It is easy to talk to a loved one or a friend who share your same thoughts, but it is more difficult when you are dealing with someone who does not see eye to eye with or is not friendly with you no matter how hard you try.

This is where we need to remember who we are, who Christ is, and that we are the Temples of God and God dwells in us. This is where the holes in our hearts that have been filled with Gods love, to allow us to see the other person as God sees them. It allows us to put our full focus on Jesus'. Then the Gospel is easier to understand, because we will be reading it through the eyes of Christ himself.

We live in a society where less and less people feel they are Holy. I am sure there are many reasons for this but,..... maybe they are still searching to find that holiness.

Paul reminds us that the temple of God, which we are,.... is Holy.....

We cannot forget that or stop believing that. We are all Temples of God, and as we grow spiritually, we all take part in building up God's temple. God lives in a temple not built by human hands.