



Paul to the Corinthians 53AD

‘To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for a good purpose’(12:7)

Everyone is needed for a vibrant church to carry out Jesus’ mission in the world.

Acts 15:40 - 16:8

‘Paul chose Silas to accompany him ... He travelled through Syria and Cilicia, consolidating the churches ... to Derbe ... Lystra (Timothy) ... through Phrygia and the Galatian country ... and came down to Troas.’



Acts 16:11

‘We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi’

Acts 17:1

‘on to Thessalonica.’

Acts 17:15

‘from Beroea to Athens.’

Acts 18:1

‘Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.’



50-51AD

Letters from Corinth to the community in Thessalonica

Acts 18:18-19

‘Paul sailed for Syria,
accompanied by
Priscilla and Aquila
... When they
reached Ephesus he
left them.’



Acts 18:21 - 19:10

“Paul set sail from Ephesus, landed at Caesarea and went up to Jerusalem ... and then down to Antioch. After spending some time there, he departed and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia ... and came to Ephesus ... Paul spoke in the synagogue for three months ... then in the lecture room of Tyrannus for two years.’

Ephesus: 52-55AD



Letters from Ephesus

First Corinthians 53AD

Philemon 54AD

Colossians 54AD



First Corinthians 1:2

‘To the church of God that is in Corinth,
to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints,
together with all those who in every place
call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
both their Lord and ours.’



Jesus is THE Sacrament,
THE Mystery
THE Symbol of God

The Church is THE Sacrament
THE mystery
THE symbol of Jesus

As a community we are to be disciples of Jesus

The Church is his 'body' in the world,
living the life given to us by his Spirit –
the Spirit he shares with the Father.

Church is One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

I. The Church is One

- The Church is One because there is One Source, One Word, One Spirit
- Communion, not uniformity – Diversity of various churches. Need to ‘make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace’(Ephesians 4:3).
- The Church ‘subsists in the Catholic Church governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him’(LG 8§2).

1 Corinthians 1:10-12

‘I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.”

- When unity is broken ‘often enough both sides are to blame’. Present members are not to be blamed for past breaks. We are to accept each other as brothers and sisters. Need for renewal, conversion, knowledge, dialogue, prayer together, working together.

1. Those dividing the community lack true wisdom (1-2)

1Cor 1:23

‘We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.

1Cor 2:12

‘We have received the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.’

2. The role and authority of an apostle (3-4)

1Cor 3:9

‘We are God’s servants, working together;
you are God’s field, God’s building.’

1Cor 3:16

‘You are God’s temple. God’s Spirit dwells in you.’

1Cor 4:1

‘Think of us as servants of Christ
and stewards of God’s mysteries.’

‘Bearers of the Mystery and Doctors of the Soul’(Bernardin)

3. Their behaviour demonstrates their lack of true wisdom (5-6)

- Incest
- appealing to pagan courts
- Irresponsible sexual behaviour

1Cor 6:11

‘But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.’

4. Paul answers questions put to him (7-10)

- Questions on marriage and virginity

1Cor 7:7

‘I wish that all were as I myself am.
But each has a particular gift from God,
one having one kind and another a different kind.’

- Questions on eating meat offered to idols

1Cor 10:24

‘Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other.’

Conduct in the Christian Assembly (11-14)

1Cor 11:23-26

‘I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’



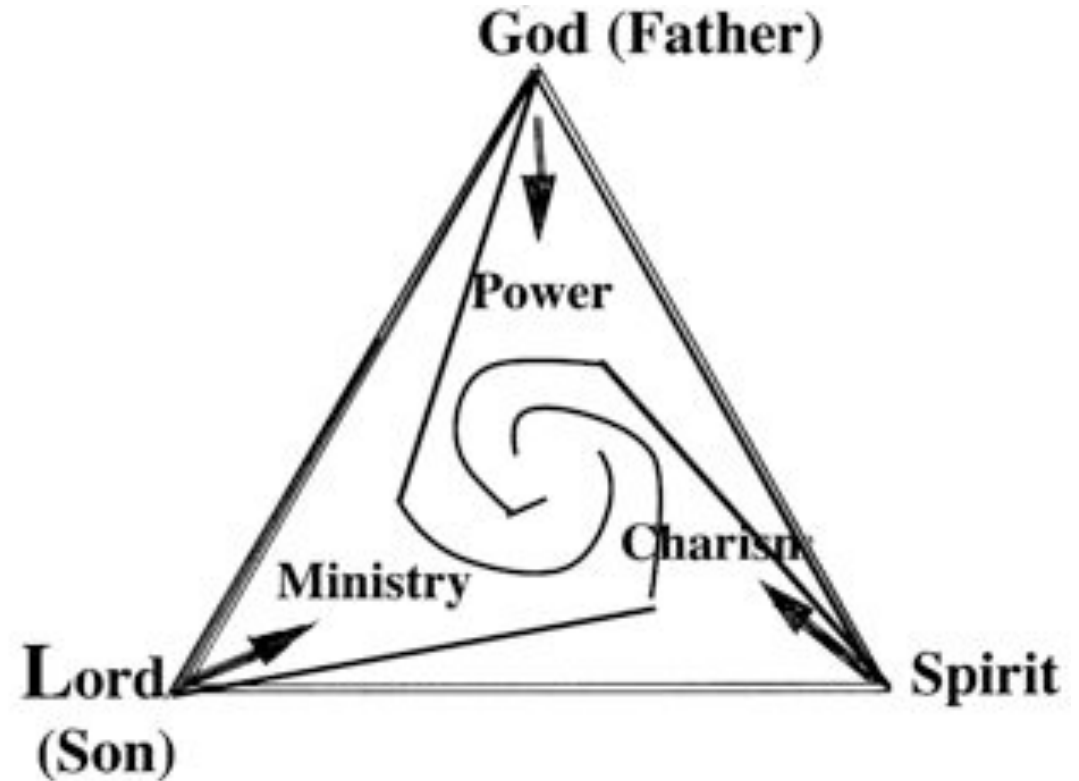
Tintoretto 1592

‘There are varieties of gifts
 [charisma]
 but the same Spirit;

there are varieties of ministries
 [diakonia]
 but the same Lord;

there are varieties of
 ways of exercising power
 [energema]
 but it is the same God who
 activates them all in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of
 the Spirit for a good purpose.



Who is my neighbour?

If you do good, know to whom you do it,

Sirach 12:1-7

and you will be thanked for your good deeds.

Do good to the devout, and you will be repaid—
if not by them, certainly by the Most High.

No good comes to one who persists in evil
or to one who does not give alms.

Give to the devout, but do not help the sinner.

Do good to the humble, but do not give to the ungodly;
hold back their bread, and do not give it to them,
for by means of it they might subdue you;
then you will receive twice as much evil
for all the good you have done to them.

For the Most High also hates sinners

and will inflict punishment on the ungodly.

Give to the one who is good, but do not help the sinner.

Sirach 50:25

Two nations my soul detests,
and the third is not even a people:
Those who live in Seir, and the Philistines,
and the foolish people that live in Shechem.

John 4:9

(Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans)

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Woman of Samaria

“The person who has the scaly skin disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be disheveled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, “Unclean, unclean.” He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.”

Though quarantine is insisted on, the conditions described are, for the most part, not contagious, which leads to the conclusion that those affected are isolated for ritual, not hygienic, reasons. The various skin conditions listed here have in common a scaling of the skin. It would seem that this renders a person ‘impure’ because it has the appearance of death. It is the link with death that is the problem, even apart from the fact that the condition was commonly thought of as divine punishment for sin.

Jesus and the Leper

Psalm 101:7

No one who practises deceit
shall remain in my house;
no one who utters lies
shall continue in my presence.

Jesus eating with sinners

Isaiah 56:3-5

Do not let the foreigner joined to YHWH say,
“YHWH will surely separate me from his people”;
and do not let the eunuch say, “I am just a dry tree.”
For thus says YHWH:

To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
I will give, in my house and within my walls,
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 56:6-8

The foreigners who join themselves to YHWH,
to minister to him, to love the name of YHWH,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord YHWH,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Mark 7:8-9

You abandon the commandment of God
and hold to human tradition.

You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God
in order to keep your tradition!

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.

Mark 10:11

Whoever divorces his wife and marries another
commits adultery against her.

Mark 10:14

Let the little children come to me. Do not stop them.

John 5:15-16

The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath.

John 7:37

If anyone is thirsty, come to me

John 8:12

Anyone who follows me will have the light of life

Mark 12:41-44

The widow's mite

‘This poor widow has put in more than all who have contributed to the temple treasury, for they have put in what they had over, but she, from the little she has, has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.’

2-page document on Salvation offered to ALL

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

‘Love never stops caring;
love acts always in a kind way.

Love does not act out of jealousy or envy;
love does not boast; or behave arrogantly;
love does not behave indecently or insist on its own way.
Love does not give way to irritation; or brood over wrongs;
love takes no pleasure in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

Love has space enough to hold and to bear everything and everyone.
Love believes all things, hopes all things, and endures whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.’

16:13-14

‘Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.’