

Paramount – what is most important to you and in your life?

Paul makes this clear to us in I Corinthians 1

- Tenets (Most important/Essential Doctrines of the Gospel) – Kerygma
- Teachings (Important Doctrines) - Didache
- Tastes (Matters of preference)

Big Gospel Story of orthodox Christianity:

- Creation – One True Eternal God, Creator of all. There is no other.
- Fall – He created us. Adam & Eve chose to rebel and sin in the garden. Through their sin came the corruption of mankind and chaos throughout the earth. Every single one of us has sinned & continues to sin. Romans 3:23
- Redemption – offered through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, He became the ultimate sacrifice for our sins by faith through grace.
- Restoration – Jesus will return and restore Peace/Shalom

Teachings – not the core of the gospel – our beliefs i.e. baptism methods, church government, communion methods, gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Paul - warns about abuse of grace
- Apollos – warns about arrogant knowledge that puffs up & misses the gospel
- Peter – struggled with following the law
- Paul warns them about being Immature/lazy (Church planters)

Faith is doing everything you honestly and ethically can, and trusting God to do the rest.

Central Tenet of the gospel

Christ crucified (vs 22-23) - For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified,

Taste problem/Preferences

Sunday school versus small group

Styles and methods of worship (Wed pm versus Sunday morning)

Application

Know the core of the gospel

Encourage Unity

Point people toward Jesus (Pilot David)

Commit to starting your day with Christ each day by reading the Bible daily. Read 10-12 verses of chapter of 1 Corinthians every this week!

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RPC CENTRAL CAMPUS “PARAMOUNT” BY PASTOR RON HOLTON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-31

Have different members of your small group take turns reading verses from the Scripture passage above prior to beginning your group discussion.

1. Discuss and share what we learn about the character and nature of God in 1 Corinthians 1.
2. What does this passage reveal about what the Corinthians were treating as *most important*?
3. Using Paul’s emphasis in 1 Corinthians 1:14–18, discuss how would you explain the difference between core gospel tenets, important teachings, and personal tastes? Why is it dangerous when tastes or secondary teachings are elevated to the level of the gospel?
4. Why do you think “Christ crucified” was offensive or foolish to both Jews and Greeks? What does this tell us about the non-negotiable center of the Christian faith? (1 Corinthians 1:22-24)
5. How does keeping the big gospel story (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration) help preserve unity? What practices help a church stay united without compromising truth?
6. Pastor Ron mentioned the Oswald Chambers quote, “*Faith is doing everything you honestly and ethically can and trusting God to do the rest.*” How does this definition of faith push back against spiritual laziness or immaturity?
7. Where might God be calling you to greater personal maturity and responsibility in your walk with Christ?
8. Paul’s goal was never to build loyalty to personalities or preferences but to point people to Jesus. What are practical ways we may unintentionally point people to methods, styles, or leaders instead of Christ? How can we intentionally re-center our small group conversations and daily rhythms on Jesus?

For further application and next steps:

- Individually or as a group, do what Pastor Ron asked and begin reading 1 Corinthians daily this week (10–12 verses per day) and throughout this sermon series.
- Begin each day with a few moments of silence and solitude. Conclude with prayer and asking: “*Lord, what is truly paramount in Your kingdom, to bring your glory and for Your purposes today?*”
- Send a text, card, note or word of encouragement to someone you are thankful for, using 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 as a guide or prompt.