



1867



1899



1905



1950



1974



2009

"The Evolution of Our Church Buildings"

First Baptist church

{Established 1826. Now into 184 Years Of Continuous Service To God}

TOWNSEND-SMITH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A CARING CLASS

MARCH STUDY THEME: "CHURCH GONE WRONG"

March 7, 2010: "When Members Won't Get Along"

Scripture Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:10-15, 26-29; 3:1-4

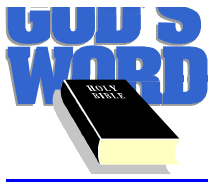
Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. {1 Corinthians 1:10}

In years past for different reasons many churches have had divisions in them that are often **the result of pride and selfishness** in some individual or individuals within a church. Some persons within a church have said and done things that have been so disruptive to the membership that the church totally split apart, resulting in one group moving out of the church and starting another church. **When this happens, the Devil is made very happy and God is very displeased.**

There are many causes for a church to experience a division in their fellowship. Paul addressed some of these in our Sunday school lesson for today. The church in Corinth had become a divided church and there was constant bickering and infighting among the membership. Though they had many reasons for unity because of the faith they shared, they choose to divide themselves over issues such as personalities, preferences, and practices. Paul was the founder of the church in Corinth and it grieved him no end that the people he had led to Christ had become divided over issues **that had their origins in the selfish desires and feelings of the members.**

To bring this closer to home, our church has had, at different times, and to varying degrees, serious disruptions and a breach of fellowship among our members. When this has occurred in the past, some members have left the church, some members have said some things about some of our pastors and other members **that I know for certain were not true.** Some times some things were said in the heat of the moment that have caused a breach of relationship between members that, years later, have never healed and in some cases, will never be healed.

Opportunities for witnessing and soul winning have been lost forever because a divisive spirit within a church does not attract prospective members.



["Your Word is Truth" \(John 17:17\)](#)

MISPLACED LOYALTIES [1 Corinthians 1:10-15]

Divisions at Corinth

¹⁰ Now I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all say the same thing, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers, by members of Chloe's household, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I am saying is this: each of you says, "I'm with Paul," or "I'm with Apollos," or "I'm with Cephas," or "I'm with Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was it Paul who was crucified for you? Or were you baptized in Paul's name? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say you had been baptized in my name.

HUMAN PRIDE [1 Corinthians 1:26-29]

Boasting Only in the Lord

²⁶ Brothers, consider your calling: not many are wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. ²⁷ Instead, God has chosen the world's foolish things to shame the wise, and God has chosen the world's weak things to shame the strong. ²⁸ God has chosen the world's insignificant and despised things—the things viewed as nothing—so He might bring to nothing the things that are viewed as something, ²⁹ so that no one can boast in His presence.

SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY [1 Corinthians 3:1-4]

The Problem of Immaturity

¹ Brothers, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. ² I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were not yet able to receive it. In fact, you are still not able, ³ because you are still fleshly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and living like ordinary people? ⁴ For whenever someone says, "I'm with Paul," and another, "I'm with Apollos," are you not [typical] men?