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And of course, you can join us on Sundays for our Worship Gatherings at 9:15am or 11:00am.

Questions?...Email connect@threadschurch.org or call the office at 269.327.0445.

AMERICAN IDOL SPIRITUALITY—JULY 22, 2007

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 & 3:1-9

- ◆ In this book, Paul is writing a letter to the people of Corinth, responding to some issues of which he was made aware. What are the conflicts to which Paul is responding, and what is causing them?
- ◆ How were the people of Corinth approaching their journey following Christ? Were they following Christ? If not, who were they following?
- ◆ Why do you suppose that the people of Corinth became misguided in their practice of following? What does that say about our human need to have something or someone tangible to follow?
- ◆ How does our culture make us inclined to become misguide in our journey in the way the Corinthians had become misguided in Paul's day?
- ◆ As you think about our lives chasing after this Jesus, we are fortunate to have leaders to guide us toward Him. Although having these leaders is a good thing, can you see a way in which followers of Christ could become followers of something else? Describe what that would look like.
- ◆ Think about the analogy Christ gives us for His church. He is the head, we are the body, all of us regardless of how we give of ourselves in serving be it in a leadership role or any other kind of role. What happens to this picture when parts of the body choose not to follow the Head? It's almost comical, isn't it? How would making the mistake of following a particular leader instead of "*THE*" Leader affect the body of Threads? What might this look like?

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.-- Colossians 4:2

Take some time to reflect on the passage from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9. Read it over carefully a few times and then take some time in prayer.

- ◆ Pray for God to give us the hearts to follow Him.
- ◆ Pray for those who are planting the seeds in our hearts and those who are watering them to be united with the Grower, our Father God.
- ◆ Pray that the body of Threads Church does not become misguided, chasing after any part of the Body, other than *THE* Head.

SPIRITUALITY & WISDOM—JULY 29, 2007

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 & 2:1-16

- ◆ Who are the individuals valued in our culture? What determines their value?
- ◆ What does Paul say about those who are valued in our culture?
- ◆ Why is it important that God chose those who are weak on their own to share his message?
- ◆ Where does Paul's message come from?
- ◆ What does Paul say about our and others' understanding of the message he is sharing?
- ◆ How does what Paul say about sharing God's message shape the way we spend our time as a community group? And how will we be most effective in what we are sharing?

- ◆ As we live out our lives as the body of Christ, how do Paul's words shape what we do and how we do it?

- ◆ Paul brings to us his wisdom. Where does that wisdom come from? Why is the source of an individual's wisdom critical to how we take it in?

- ◆ As we attempt to share God with others, why is the source of what we are sharing so important? How can we be confident that what we are sharing is from God and not our own opinions or views?

- ◆ Paul says that the world will regard God's wisdom as foolish. What must come first if we are to understand the wisdom God has to share with us?

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. —James 1:5-6

Take some time to reflect on this passage from James.

- ◆ Pray for loyalty in your own heart and in the hearts of those who are the body of Threads.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom in the hearts of those who lead another.
- ◆ Pray for understanding of God's truth.