



Supernatural – Corinthian Culture Pastor Dave Patterson 08.20.2023

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[1 Corinthians 2:1-3, AMP]

¹ And when I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming to you the testimony of God concerning salvation through Christ, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom [no lofty words of eloquence or of philosophy as a Greek orator might do]; ² for I made the decision to know nothing [that is, to forego philosophical or theological discussions, inconsequential things and opinions) while among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified [and the meaning of His redemptive, substitutionary death and His resurrection]. ³ I came to you in [a state of] weakness and fear and great trembling.

[1 Corinthians 2:4-5, KJV]

⁴ And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God

Thesis:

God's antidote for a corrupt and godless culture is an empowered Church that moves in supernatural power.

[1 Corinthians 1:1-3, NIV]

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

How do we live in a Corinthian Culture?

1. We are in it, but not of it

[John 15:19, NLT]

The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

[Romans 12:2, NLT]

² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world (kosmos = behaviors, values and operating systems of a fallen planet) but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

2. You are the primary "light source" shining into the darkness of culture

[Matthew 5:13-15, NLT]

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."

[Acts 18:1, 9-11, NLT]

¹ Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth... ⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, "Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me." ¹¹ So Paul stayed there for the next year and a half, teaching the word of God.

[Romans 10:14-15, NLT]

¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? ¹⁵ And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

3. Embrace your weakness and lean into God's power

[1 Corinthians 2:3-4, AMP]

³ I came to you in a state of weakness and fear and great trembling. ⁴ And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom

[1 Corinthians 1:26-29, NLT]

²⁶ Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. ²⁷ Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. ²⁸ God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. ²⁹ As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

Key Points:

How do we live in a Corinthian Culture?

1. We are in it, but not of it
2. You are the primary "light source" shining into the darkness of culture
3. Embrace your weakness and lean into God's power

Applications for the Week:

This week, pray for elementary, middle-school, and high school students). As culture moves further away from righteousness, let's pray that the students will draw closer to God, be bold and courageous in their faith, and that revival will break out on campuses across California.

Discussion Questions

1. What cultural characteristics surround you in your day-to-day?
2. What is God calling the church to in this day? What does it mean to be holy (sanctified and set apart to God)?
3. What is God's antidote for our culture and nation today?
4. What kind of power does God want to put in your life? How does it differ from natural force, power, or strength?
5. Pastor Dave said, "Whatever name you come under becomes your spiritual reality." What do you think this means, and how have you seen that?
6. How can we embrace our weakness and lean into God's power?
7. Who in your life has modeled supernatural empowerment? How has that impacted you?
8. How are we the primary light source in the darkness of culture?