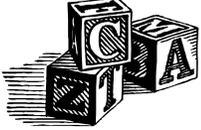


Acts 2:12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another,

"What does this mean?"

Response Questions for 1 Corinthians 16:5-9



Basic Ideas from 1 Corinthians 16:5-9

1. There is to be a real and vital relationship between the mission of the church and the local church.
2. Our planning and God's purpose are part of a singular idea.
3. We must see ministry as an enormous opportunity for explosive kingdom work. We must reach people who do not know love without condition. We must reach people who do not know acceptance without requirement. We must reach people who do not know forgiveness without limit. And we must reach people who do not know service without reward. All they know is that unless they measure up, they will only experience rejection. We must have an intentional approach to reaching sinners and not just making saints comfortable.
4. We are the body of Christ to this community, let us be that body to one another and to those outside this fellowship.
5. We must understand that the work has many adversaries. Friend, how tragic it would be if you and I were the obstacles to the great opportunity that sits before us to our local, national, and global community.
6. "There is one simply lesson, above all others, to be learned from Paul's experience: the presence of opposition does not mean that we have moved out of the will of God." (David Prior, The Message of 1 Corinthians, IVP, 1985, 282).
7. God is doing a great work. I want to be a part of this work and I surrender myself to it.

Making it Personal

There are five simple questions that will guide us as to what we need to do next.

1. How do we strengthen the tie between the mission of the church and the local church?
2. What does it mean and look like to say "If it be the will of God?"
3. How do we call the sinners and not the righteous to repentance in our community? Where do we have to go? What opportunities are available in our community for the advancement of His kingdom through the church?
4. What would have to be adjusted in a church to bring the church into the community? In what ways can your spiritual gifting be used in and through the church for the advancement of His kingdom into your community?
5. How should we handle internal and external adversity to ministry opportunity?
6. How can we persevere in the face of adversity?
7. Are you involved in kingdom work in and through the local church?