

REAL CHARISMATICS OF PACIFIC PALISADES

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

1 Corinthians 12:31-14:40

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

October 30, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

BRAVO ... REALITY SHOW ... Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. Have you had your weekly dose of drama? Reveals the true character those who live in a modern, successful, wealthy community. Shocking. ***Do housewives really live like that?***

Reality shows ... very popular in the 21st Century; yet not at all a new idea. From the 21st Century rewind to the 1st Century ... early church. Lots of drama in Corinth. Weekly does of drama? Just come on Sunday mornings @ 8:30 & 10:30 ... ***Do people, CHRISTIANS, really live like that?***

Shocking behavior that does not befit a spirit-filled church or spiritually graced Christians.

Paul writes to dispel the drama share what a Spirit-filled church and a spiritually gifted person look like.

Please open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 12-14. **Page 813.**

Letter reads like the script of a reality TV show featuring dysfunctional church.

Church was a mess, divisions, sexual immorality, lawsuits, devaluing of marriage, equating morality with legality (anything goes). Corinthians had all the gifts, every one of them, lacking nothing; however, they were using them for personal glory rather than God's glory.

Ch 12-14 address misuse of spiritual gifts. **READ 12:27-31**

While I want to attempt to explain my title (dispel the drama), while I plan to address the obvious questions some of you have been asking (thanks for patience). TWO GOALS THIS MORNING ...

1st GOAL ... I want to reclaim the word

charis Eph 2:8 ... for it is by grace you have been saved. God's divine GRACE, unmerited FAVOR, KIND charisma – ATTRACTION ... Flavor, Character, drawn to those with charisma.

charismata ... Demonstration of grace, the manifestation of grace, gifts of the Spirit.

CHARISMATIC is a Biblical word, a wonderful word, polarizing word.

Been one of the most divisive issues in the modern church, second only to musical style.

Chaotic, wild eyed, overly emotional, spiritual nutters who over spiritualize everything. Just a bit too religious or spiritual for your taste.

The true church is a charismatic church, graced with all the gifts, used in love to strengthen Christ's body.

Tongues ... What are they? What purpose(s) do they serve? **1 Cor 13:1**

Acts 2:11 earthly languages uttering wonders of God, sign for unbelievers **tongues of men**

Ill. Louie LaRue. Sounds like a circus performers name. **Missionary to China.**

Clearly earthly languages, unlearned, unstudied. **1 Cor 14:22** Not for believers but unbelievers **and of angels ...** heavenly prayer language (ecstatic) or earthly language you do not understand;

1 Cor 14:14-17 Glory to God. Worship. Not REVELATION, not INTERCESSION ... ADORATION

We have individuals in our community who have the gift, and use it as a prayer language. Use it privately to give praise to God. **1 Cor 14:39 Do not forbid speaking in tongues ...** never want to take away or diminish the experience of someone just because I haven't had the same experience.

I do not have the gift of speaking in tongues ... others do, and use it to glorify God.

SO WHAT? If you have received the Holy Spirit, you have received God's grace (charis) in the form of spiritual gifts (charismata) and you are a CHARISMATIC in the purest sense of the term.

1st Goal ... reclaim the word, we are the true church because we have charismata.

2nd GOAL ... I want to describe what a real charismatic looks like. Corinthians were confused.

REAL CHARISMATICS ... Use the gifts God gives to demonstrate love.

12:31 "And now I will show you THE most excellent way". Without love, gifts are worthless. Chapter 13
Last year 2010 ... Fall study on **1 Co 13:4-8a READ** What it is and what it is not.

Gal 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE" ... Transforming work of the Holy Spirit produces fruit.

Ill. The Enormous Exception, Earl Palmer ... pre-med undergrad at Cal Berkley who became a Christian after a long journey through doubts and questions. bout of the flu that kept him out of school for 10 days. During that critical absence from his organic chemistry class, a classmate who happened to be a Christian carefully collected all his missed lectures and assignments. Then the Christian friend took time from his own studies to help his friend catch up to the rest of the class.

Years later, the pre-med student, now a committed Christian, told Palmer, "*You know that this just isn't done, and I probably wouldn't have done it, but he gave that help to me without any fanfare or complaints. I wanted to know what made this friend of mine act the way he did; I found myself asking him if I could go to church with him.*"

REAL CHARISMATICS ... full of grace, gracious and kind. Charisma = attraction. Quality of life, character of love offered in humility ... fulfilling JESUS COMMAND to love one another.

REAL CHARISMATICS ... Use the gifts God gives to strengthen the church. 14:26

Use the gifts God gives for the common good. 12:7 Not to promote self. Strengthen the body.

2009 two years ago ... HUMILITY. Phil 2. In humility, love others by using your gifts to strengthen.

Ill. 2 times this week had opportunities to encourage/strengthen; satisfying. This is what I was made for.

Every one of you who is going out of your way to notice others and connect with them; to pursue and engage ... to initiate and connect. One reached out to me; the other I reached out to. REAL CHARISM

Ill. What Women Want ... insensitive chauvinistic Advertising executive, Nick Marshall, scene where gets electrocuted in bathtub and ends up being able to read the minds of women. Passes a mail clerk in his office, ignored, hears her thinking suicidal thoughts, reaches out. Can't read someone's mind ...

REAL CHARISMATICS follow promptings and reach out, do not disregard. Write a note, make a call.

vv. 26-40 are all about coming to church (Sun 8:30/10:30).

14:26 everyone needs to be prepared, bring something to offer. **14:26**

REAL CHARISMATICS ... Come to church prepared to use the gifts God gives.

I would never think of coming unprepared ... Ill. Kent Hughes ... reminded me of the priority of preparation when I was a kid. Sat ... shined shoes.

While the Spirit sometimes works in a spontaneous way, apart from planning. I believe that the Spirit also does great work through planning and preparation.

14:33 God is not a god of disorder but peace. Ill. Preparation. God unfolding plan. He is a planning God.

14:40 Everything done in a fitting and orderly way. I would never think of not preparing, encourage you to do the same.

SO WHAT? How do you prepare? ill. Susie and me in college. Front row, back row. Every day she prepares. When Sunday comes, she is usually better prepared than I am. So inspiring.

Rush in, late ... haven't really spoken to God all week, haven't read the Word to hear from Him. Sit down exhausted, then get up and wonder why Spirit didn't show. PREPARE HEART, HAVE PLAN

PLAN ... connect with two people, new people or those God put on heart. Forgotten God? Attitude about serving in the nursery, welcome center, ushering. Prepared; confessing sin. Minister not spectator.

Conclusion:

What does a REAL CHARISMATIC look like? Looks a lot like you, when you use your gifts to strengthen the body. When you produce the fruit that only comes as a result of God's transforming power. When you prepare your heart and life. Growing. We are the Real Charismatics of Pacific Palisades.

REAL CHARISMATICS are growing in grace.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)