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Editors' Notes

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Editors' Notes

D'ESTA AND STUART LOVE

The Pepperdine University Lectures for the year 2001 were devoted to 1 Corinthians, a letter that provides marvelous insights into the pastoral work of the apostle Paul. The Leaven symposium carried forward the theme of Paul as mentor to a highly diverse church. For example, included among its members were Prisca and Aquila (16:19; Acts 18:2; Rom 16:3–4), Achaicus, Fortunatas, and Stephanas (16:17), Crispus and Gaius (1:14), Phoebe (Rom 16:1), and perhaps Chloe (1:11). Further, predominantly a gentile church (12:2), some of its members held considerable social prominence (note Erastus, Rom 16:23), while most were probably persons with little economic power or social standing (1:26). The epistle is a response to a letter Paul had received seeking his views on a number of controversies (7:1) and oral reports (1:11) that directed his attention to serious internal problems within the church. There were potential divisions (1:11; 5:1; 11:18), competition of rival groups for control (1:10–17), indifference to the practice of open immorality (5:1–13), disregard for those not knowledgeable about how Christians should behave (8:1–11:1), and neglect and disrespect for those less privileged (11:17–34; 12:20–26). Also at stake was Paul's apostolic authority (1:12; 3:1–4:5; ch. 9). Needed most to achieve the unity of the body of Christ was the practice of love as the embracing power of a unified community life (8:1–3; ch. 13; 16:14).

This issue makes no claim to cover all the bases of 1 Corinthians. The four articles of the Pepperdine University Leaven symposium address ministerial challenges in chapters 5–10. **Mark A. Matson** explores the context of sexual sin in 1 Cor 5 as a demonstration of congregational disunity. **Beth Phillips** wrestles with a theology of singleness (and marriage) in 1 Cor 7. **Eddie Sharp** utilizes chapter 8 to help us face the issues of faith, freedom, and fellowship in the planting of a new church. And **Jennifer S. Green** sees in Paul's statement "Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other" (10:24) an important principle which guides his ministry and by which he hopes his readers will make decisions about their conduct.

A special feature of this issue is the treatment of two problem passages, 11:2–16 and 14:34. In each instance, two people write on the texts providing first a description of the passage's interpretive issues followed by a practical pastoral response. For 11:2–16, **Ken Cukroski** describes the interpretive issues and **Shelley Neilson** considers what this might mean for a church. For 14:34, **Krystin D. Higgins** surveys interpretive alternatives and **Paul Watson** responds with a pastoral reflection. Beyond these articles **Tim Kelley** furnishes a sermon on the Lord's table and the Lord's people (11:17–34) and **Markus H. McDowell** provides an excellent resource reading guide. Also in this issue is a restoration biography as well as a number of book reviews.

We close with some significant developments for Leaven. First, Leonard Wymore, a member of our editorial board, has successfully proposed to the board of directors of Cornerstone Christian Foundation that the readers of Leaven and the Stone-Campbell Journal have an opportunity to become acquainted with both journals. Our choice is to send the Stone-Campbell readers a future issue on Conflict Resolution in the church, C. Robert Wetzel, Guest Editor. This should take place in December 2001 (9/4).

Second, the editorial board approved a new operating arrangement between Leaven and the Religion Division of Pepperdine University. Leaven's purpose will remain the same: to help fellow Christians think

together about the challenges that face them in ministry. The new agreement is that the Religion Division shall have the primary oversight responsibility of the publication of Leaven. A publication oversight board has been established composed of the general editors (D'Esta and Stuart Love) and the chairperson of the Religion Division (Rick Marrs). The editorial board will continue to have primary responsibility for (a) approving themes, (b) selecting guest editors, (c) promulgating content guidelines, and (d) establishing policy. We believe this decision provides greater stability and credibility for the journal.

Third, since your general editors will be in Heidelberg, Germany, next school year, it was decided to appoint Markus H. McDowell as managing editor. He will work with the layout of issues and provide oversight of the daily functions. We are hopeful that this will develop into a permanent role. We are most grateful for the layout work Mark Love has done up until now! Mark remains a member of the editorial board.

Fourth, we are saddened to announce that for personal reasons Carol Shoun can no longer serve as copy editor. All of us are most thankful for her excellent and faithful voluntary work. The journal simply could not have moved forward without Carol's capable editing. Carol and John will continue to serve on the editorial board. We are pleased to announce that Krystin D. Higgins, our subscription manager, has taken on Carol's responsibility.

Fifth, we are also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Gary Holloway to our advisory board! Dr. Holloway is dean of the College of Bible and Ministry at Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Finally, and of utmost importance, we are very grateful for your continued support and prayers!