

Good morning I would like to invite you to turn first Corinthians chapter 1 as we continue our study.

What a source of hope. An inexhaustible sea of encouragement when we consider the works of our God.

First his mercy. God would have been perfectly just if he had of destroyed Corinth(this most wicked of ancient cities) with fire and brimstone from heaven like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Yet in his great compassion he sent Paul his apostle in order to proclaim good news.

If God is willing to show compassion to Corinthian as an example's of his mercy how much more is he willing to extend mercy to you dear sinner.

Ponder also His power  
that kingdom of God is able to invade the stronghold of satan turning souls from the power of Satan unto God.

Establishing Christ church in the most unlikely places.

*Our God loves to use most Extreme and hopeless situations order that he might reveal his awesome power*

*remember Mount caramel and what Elijah instructed the false prophets bail.*

*He told them to continue to pour water onto the altar. It was so that when the Lord sent fire from heaven there would be no doubt as to who was God and Israel.*

*And yet he did something still more miraculous in Corinth he takes something that is vile and depraved and dead in every sense of the word and creates spiritual life.*

***Two Corinthians 4:6***

**6**For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

If his church could be established in Corinth and thrive it can be established in a city like Dallas or anywhere for that matter.

Our God is willing and able

Our God is willing to show compassion toward lawbreakers  
and he is most surely able to make dead men live

*God is at this very hour, as always, enthroned in heaven.*

*The most high God is not intimidated by the wickedness which surrounds us on every side.*

*He Is not Anxious or fearful as morality crumbles around us.*

*I am convinced that his message is the same for us as it was Paul. Acts 18:9 – 11*

**9**And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, **10**for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." **11**And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Let me just restate one more time these works in view are God's and God's alone.

This is a point which Paul labors to explain in his writings.

We are compared to Clay jars there's nothing special about an ordinary container.

However God has placed treasure within those jars which represent our bodies. He has come to make his home within our heart. And therefore his power and goodness and love live within our weak corruptible flesh.

Paul's letters to the Corinthians are Most **relevant** as our current culture bears striking similarities. We like Corinth are surrounded by luxury, wealth, beauty, and all manner and immorality. In light of all these like obstacles Paul preached one singular message Christ and him cursed.

### **One Corinthians 15:3**

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

Acts 18:8

And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

Let us not go to our text

### first **Corinthians chapter 1 verses 10-17**

As we Come to verse 10 Paul is addressing a problem that is developed in his absence. Divisions have formed separating the church into factions.

devil division

example strongman

remove his members

what if you could get him to fight himself

he works in several different ways we will outline

Division is a subject of great importance among Christians. It is a problem which has plagued the human race throughout history Cain and Abel were divided as to the proper way worship God in the offering of their sacrifices. Abraham and Lot could not maintain unity but had to part ways.

It is one of the fundamental questions which critics bring against Christianity. Why are there so many churches. If Christianity is true why is there so much infighting and factions among professing believers.

Maybe this is question which you struggle with.

In the preceding verses Paul will undertake to answer these often ask questions as well as explain the cause for division.

V1

**I appeal to you brothers**

**this is a term that is used loosely in our culture**

**let's say a brother as a going**

**however when we turn to Scripture**

this word brother is a sacred term and it is not to be used lightly.

Sometimes we are guilty of downplaying the significance of the church

we speak of it in ways that are similar to the way someone would speak of a country club or some sort of social gathering.

We might say something like oh you see those people over there we go to the same church.

The term brothers however expresses a much deeper and true biblical relationship

It refers to the fact that we are now part of the family of God.

**John 1:12 – 13**

**12**But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13**who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**John 3:3**

**3**Jesus answered him, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again<sup>b</sup> he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

**And elsewhere in the Bible speaks of our adoption into the family of God**

The first reason for unity which Paul presents is that we are family

Verse 10 again

I appeal to you, brothers, **by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**Paul now invokes the name of Jesus**

**in order to say unity will be achieved under the authority and command of Jesus.**

**Paul speaks by the authority of Jesus and this is a command from the Lord that the family of God be one.**

**Also the use of Christ's name here could be understood in the sense of for the sake of Christ.**

**Allow me to illustrate.**

**Two brothers are fighting and someone says stop this Friday the sake of your mother breaking heart. Shame on you**

**If these brothers any sensitivity at this point should reflect upon the consequences of their actions.**

**In the same way when Christ name is mentioned the heart of a true believers should be softened and willing to conform his life to whatever is pleasing to his king.**

**This sense is brought out in Philippians in Paul's appeal for humility**

**It appears that a similar problem is present in Philippi or that Paul acknowledges that they are capable of division and gives them this instruction.**

**Philippians two**

## **Philippians 2**

**1**So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2**complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4**Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>a</sup> **6**who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>b</sup> **7**but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,<sup>c</sup> being born in the likeness of men. **8**And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

### **Paul's answer is to look to Christ**

#### **For Christ sake get along**

##### **verse 11**

**this is the family that informed Paul of the following factions no other information is no about this family.**

##### Verse 12

The first cause for division which Paul mentions is the exultation of man.

That is thinking too highly of man and giving him too much honor and credit which should only be reserved for God.

It is implied that a large portion of this congregation identified themselves as followers of a man rather than Christ.

This is an age-old problem

Exchanging the glory of God for the glory of man

to exalt the creature over the creator  
to give more praise to that which is seen than that which is unseen

I Think about the story in acts where Paul and Barnabas entered Lystra and the people tried to worship them.

To a lesser degree this is the problem in Corinth:

attributing glory to man for things that were accomplished by God himself.

This is a serious blunder and grave sin

Although identifying yourself as a follower of a man is expressly forbidden by the apostle Paul.

Strangely enough There are countless groups in existence today which openly boast that they are followers a man as well as his teaching in direct contradiction to the word of God.

These groups might as well cut first Corinthians chapter 1 out there Bible.

Lutheran Church  
Wesley Calvin  
Church of England

There are also countless teachers who exalt themselves by naming their ministries after themselves. Pastor So-and-so ministries. What a blasphemous statement.

After reviewing this simple Scripture it is clear why there is so much division .

### **Paul's response in verse 13 is simplistic**

#### **Is Christ divided?**

Think about this question is it possible to divide Christ?

Can you cut off his arms  
or his feet  
absolutely not it is absurd.

**Here Paul teaches that just as Christ has one body so we his body the church is one.**

**Verse 13 again was Paul crucified for you?  
Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?**

Paul here begins to point out how foolish it is to confuse the relationship of man and God.

He Points the Corinthian church to Christ who is the author and founder of the church.

This is how unity is achieved lowering man to his proper position and lifting up Christ.

Is Christ alone who was crucified and brought salvation and it is to the name of Jesus Christ Christians are baptized.

In order for there to be unity Christ must be exalted above every other name.

Were Christ is lifted up and given honor and put in his rightful place the church will experience unity.

The following verses say nothing that diminishes the importance of baptism. Paul is simply saying that just as he was not crucified for the Corinthians nor were they baptized into his name.

### **The second cause for division is given in chapter 3**

#### **Immaturity.**

Those that cause division in the church could be considered Christians yet they are immature.

Babes in Christ

Example

me and my brother at restaurants

Boys act one way

men act another way

Carnal

spiritual

Carnal church will have divisions

a spiritual church a mature church will be unified by Christ

### **First Corinthians 11:19**

**18**For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,<sup>e</sup> **19**for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.

Goats and sheep

wheat and tares

Psalm 144:1

### **One last calls for divisions misguided priorities**

churches split over the silliest things

What does this say to outsiders.

husband and wife

911

vision

Talk about controversial issues.

Instruments women's issues

You're concerned about trivial things

gossip

Paul was concerned about.

Philippians 127

if you this morning under the conviction of the Lord

