

SERIES: LIFE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Today's Message:

"Putting the Unity in Community"

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

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INTRODUCTION:

Corinth was a famous Greek city, rich in resources and commerce, with worship of Aphrodite being prevalent. The city was conquered and razed by the Romans and rebuilt by Julius Caesar.

So great was the natural and historical attributes of the city that it was almost continuously occupied until 1858, when it was destroyed by an earthquake.

Paul brought the gospel to the city during his 2nd missionary trip, and lived there 18 months, preaching, teaching and working as a tent maker.

Later, the church has been infected with division and evil desires and living. After greeting them, Paul "gets down to business" in 1 Corinthians 1:10:

1 Corinthians 1:10-17: I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹²What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? ¹⁴I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember

if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1. Dealing with division

- Paul, an Apostle, appeals to them as a _____ and a _____. (1 Cor. 1:10)
- The fact that there was division in that church is one of the _____ for the letter to them.
- He calls on them to be _____ in _____ and _____.

The Power of Unity

United: to put into order that which is in _____; used elsewhere to describe the mending of a _____ or the setting of a _____.

What unity is not: _____.

Common Examples of Unity: _____, _____, _____, _____.

Truth Matters

"Chloe's people" informed Paul of the fact that there were quarrels among them. Paul names the source, likely well known and respected. (1 Corinthians 1:11)

The words for "quarrels" include _____, _____ and _____ and are found in many of the lists of _____ that Paul names in other passages. (Romans 1:29, 13:13, 2 Corinthians 12:20)

2. Personality Allegiances Divide

- _____: The one that had introduced the gospel to Corinth and to them, many had strong devotion and affection for Paul.
- _____: An Alexandrian Jewish Christian, very bold, polished, and wise. What's not to like?
- _____: The Apostle Peter, leader of the 12, a long term believer, great reputation.
- _____: On the face, a mystery of why Paul doesn't commend this group. After all, shouldn't all followers of Christ have their first allegiance to Jesus?

NOT IF WHAT IS REALLY BEING SAID AND DONE IS:

We have a direct connection to Jesus that other Believers don't.

We TRULY belong to Jesus, we're just not sure about you!

Not only do we belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to us!

Jesus is reduced to just another leader looking for groupies.

3. Paul's Blunt Words (1 Corinthians 1:13)

Is Christ divided? (Been _____ out? Of course not!)

Was Paul crucified for you? (Preposterous!)

Were you baptized into the name of Paul? (Ridiculous! Paul didn't change the nature of a person, he directed them to Jesus, who did the changing.)

4. Paul's Core Mission (1 Cor. 1:17)

- Christ sent Paul to preach the gospel, not _____!
- Paul's method of preaching was _____ and _____, avoiding words of human wisdom.
- To do otherwise would be to _____ the rightful place of the _____ and its power!

FINAL THOUGHTS

Unity is not sameness, we are better together than apart.

God gives us great leaders, but our ultimate allegiance must be Jesus and his church that he has assembled.

The power of the Gospel is the cross of Christ, not our wisdom.

Small Group Questions

- 1.) Do you think that Shadow Mountain Church has a good measure of unity? Where are we good v. need improvement?
- 2.) What are some things that can divide us? Are some legitimate?
- 3.) Read John 13:34 & 35 and comment on what you believe the relationship is between loving other Christians and being in unity with them.
- 4.) What does strong unity in our church say to those outside the church? What about the lack of unity?
- 5.) Are there parallels today to Paul's day when people followed specific personalities? Give some examples.
- 6.) Do you think Paul was flattered that there were those that were of the "Paul party"? Why or why not?
- 7.) When Paul says "Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel...", what does this say about baptism and how it relates to salvation? What is the purpose of baptism?
- 8.) What is so crucial about the "message of the cross"? Why was Paul so adverse to emphasis on human wisdom? How might that have related to the Corinthian culture? To our culture?