

In the Name of Jesus, Get Along!

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (ESV)

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

❖ Recap

➤ Sorry it took so long to get back to 1 Cor.

- But the first two Sermons on the first 9 verses **can stand alone** as a set of sermons.
 - But at the same time, they offer us a **great foundation to stand** on with this book.
- So lets **recap** quickly what we learned in the 1st 9 verses...
 - You can certainly **get a copy** and go back through them, or listen to them for the first time.

➤ In Christ we are;

- **1) Sanctified**
- **2) Saints**
- **3) Receivers of Grace**
- **4) enriched in all Speech and Knowledge**
 - Doesn't make us **all knowing**, but
 - All we need to Speak of God's word, we have been enriched in this area
 - He has given us the **Knowledge of the truth...**
- **5) We do not lack any spiritual gifts... (we are complete...just need to learn to use them)**
 - Example of Heroes...and them learning to use their abilities
- **Will be confirmed guiltless.**
 - The most humbling thing of all.
 - After all we have done...

❖ Introduction

➤ So we know who we are and what we have because we believe on Jesus

➤ Corinth had a very worldly Church...

- A church that was **out of sorts** with where it should be
- And it was maybe no surprise, given the **nature of the culture...**

➤ In Corinth, everything goes...

- They had **every kind of sin** you could name, readily available...
- It was a major **trade** center...
 - So **many** people came through...
- Reminds me a lot of **New Orleans**

➤ And it seems that many in the church were having a hard time leaving their old ways...

- Maybe some believers, had **stumbled** back into sin...
 - Or a number of people within the church were just **never saved...**
- For some reason or another, this church had a **bunch** of problems...

➤ Know this...

- Just because there are problems in churches, or between people, does not mean the other someone is not saved...
- **Paul had some sharp disagreements with a number of godly men...**
 - He had disagreements with Peter, and with Barnabas over John Mark
 - So remember this:
- **The First Problem that Paul addresses is:**
 - **Disunity in the church**
 - **This is significant....**
 - ◆ Because he gets to **so much more...**
 - Like.....deep **sexual sins...**
 - ◆ Yet, He thought it important to start here.
- ❖ **Why are we addressing this?**
 - **Let's be frank...and honest**
 - **Many in here are thinking....**
 - I know why He is preaching on this, I know...
 - It is because of this thing or that thing,
 - Or this person or that person...
 - **Please do not think this way.**
 - If you do, you are going to miss the point of what Paul is intending here...
 - **And What God is Saying to You**
 - And the purpose of the scriptures is to **change you, to conform** you to the Son.
 - If this was for isolated instances, then the best way to handle that is with **personal edification...right?**
 - So, I felt like that needed to be said....so The Word of God **will not be hindered** this morning by **presumptions!**
 - **The Reason: God knows all things**
 - **This was the next set of verses in Cor. (God controls the preaching of His Word here)**
 - These things are important!
 - They are **preventative** medicines.
 - They are **corrective** measures
 - They are **curing** medicines.
 - **All churches should study these verses....**
 - **All individuals should study these verses....**
 - And do so **diligently.**
 - Even the **perfect** church with nothing wrong ever should take the time to study these verses.
 - **These verses...I am SURE...**
 - Apply to **ALL** of us in here this morning...
 - And I can say as well as anyone here probably....
 - That **ALL of US**....need to hear what God is saying through Paul.
 - **Remember....THIS IS GOD's Word... To us...**
 - Let's see **what he intends** by writing these things!
- ❖ **The Report (Gonna start here)**
 - **¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.**
 - They had been **told on, tattled** on.....because something was wrong...
 - I guess it is not always wrong to do a little tattling
 - **Quarrelling**
 - Fighting and arguments...

- **We are not talking fist fights...**
 - Sometimes I wonder if that is a **better** way to handle things...
 - You fight and then it is over after about 2 mins cause you have run out of breath, and you have had all you could take...
- We are talking **disagreements...sharp disagreements in their doctrine**, and how they go about things...and who they follow
 - That is what the word means

❖ The Quarrel

- ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

➤ A Silly quarrel to say the least...

- What are they doing bickering about this...
- Even those that were **saying they follow Christ** were right in on the bickering it seems.
 - Just saying I am **of Christ**, does not make a person right does it?

❖ The Appeal: Be United (look Back)

- ¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

➤ Appeal

- **It means...Exhort** and comes from the Greek *parakaleō*,
 - The basic meaning is that of **coming alongside someone in order to help**.
 - Paul wanted to **come alongside** his Corinthian brothers and sisters in order to help correct them
- **It has another sense of meaning in the word...**
 - To **plead** with earnestly...
 - To **beg**...
- **PICTURE:**
 - Paul...literally down on his knees, with His hands together...
 - Begging them to do this thing He is asking...
- **Me TOO:** I feel his compassion and desire. It hurts the heart to see churches in fighting.

➤ Brothers

- **He addresses them as brothers...**
- And this is an **affectionate** term....
 - Not just one He is compelled to call them because of their relationship with Christ, but because He **considered** them such.
- **ILLUSTRATION....Me and Dean**
 - And One thing about brothers....
 - ◆ They should **love and respect** each other...
 - ◆ I know **sometimes** this doesn't happen...
 - **But I can say, as someone who has the greatest of relationships with a brother...**
 - ◆ It should be so that each of you know **how much** the other cares.
 - ◆ If I am in the wrong, my brother could tell me...I could tell him...
 - ◆ We are going to be there to **pick each** other up when needed...

➤ Name of the Lord Jesus Christ

- So, He says...I **appeal to you**....(I am trying to help you) **Brothers**
- **In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ**

- Christ's **name** represents all that He is, His character and His will.
- **He goes right to the highest of all authorities on this one...**
- **Example:**
 - In Movies... You see these government agencies that can not get a long, and who is in charge, etc....
 - And then someone steps in and says...
 - **"By the authority of the President of the United States"**
 - ◆ And everyone gets out of the way....
 - ◆ That is our greatest human authority....
- **Remember Paul's Love for the churches...**
 - Don't you see it here.
 - **Remember what He says...**
 - Talks about all the terrible things that has happened to him, and then he says...
 - **Besides all that, there is the anxiety on me for all the churches...**
 - What a man!
- **All Agree**
 - In the Greek, **that you all agree** is literally, **"that you all speak the same thing,"**
 - Nothing more confusing to new Christians, and unbelievers to **hear conflicting** things about the **Bible and Christian living.**
 - Few things more **devastating** to a church than everyone having his **own ideas and interpretations** about the faith,
 - Or of the congregation being **divided** into various **factions**, each with its own views.
- **There be No Divisions among you**
 - The word **divisions** translates the Greek *schismata*, from which we get *schism*.
 - Literally it means **"to tear or rip,"** that is, to separate,
 - Figuratively it means to have a difference **of opinion, a division of judgment, a dissension.**
 - There were these **schisms** in Jesus day over **who He was...**
 - ◆ And we still see this today...even in the church
 - ◆ **Paul warns us..."Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them" (Rom. 16:17).**
 - **What kind of Divisions are we talking about here?**
 - **1) Decisions in the Church the Bible does not specifically give us the answer to.**
 - ◆ Like...Tile or no tile in the bathroom.
 - ◆ Pews, or chairs
 - ◆ Buying or selling of land.
 - This is why the church sets aside **Leaders** in certain areas within the church.
 - And, all these decisions come through Prayer...
 - And we are to be united in these things...
 - ◆ **John MacArther wrote: "Obviously the key to unity in doctrine and decisions is having godly leaders who are united themselves in the will of the Spirit. Men who are not close to the Lord and well-taught in His Word cannot possibly recognize or agree on sound doctrine or make sound decisions.**
 - ◆ **"We request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work" (1 Thess. 5:12-13)**
 - ◆ **Remember The old saying Know what hills are worth dying on!**
 - ◆ **What we do not want to do.**

- We come to a decision on something as Leaders, and then as a church...
- And we have some who decide they are **going to bad mouth the decision**, and those who made the decisions...
 - They make it seem nice, **but they say negative things** about the decision....
 - THAT IS A CANCER...Not worth fighting...
 - It **causes divisions**.... Right!
- **2) Teachings of the Bible**
 - ◆ **Two areas:**
 - 1) Core things the Bible is very clear on..
 - 2) Things that we are not smart enough to figure out.
 - ◆ **1 Core things....we must come to ONE accord on these things...**
 - **This Church is a Christian Church....**
 - And **we believe**...
 - In Certain things...list them!
 - If a person can not go along with these things....then they are not in agreement with what the **Bible teaches**, and what we as a **Church Confirm**.
 - ◆ **2 Mystery in the Bible.**
 - Predestination...and our Responsibility as People.
 - Is Jesus coming back before, or after the Rapture...?
 - Is there even going to be a Rapture?
 - What about the Tribulation to come?
- **3) Who to follow**
 - ◆ Who should we follow in the church
 - Or side with in the church.
 - Normally we go with whoever we like best.
 - ◆ So we choose sides over things....
 - And it causes great division.
- **Philippians 1:27, Paul exhorts believers to stand “firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”**
- **Is it Ok to disagree?**
 - There is no danger in these schisms when it comes to **non essential things**...
 - ◆ Non essential means the things that are not essential, **like our core beliefs**...
 - **There is no danger in not agreeing...**
 - ◆ **Except** that they **can lead** to Sharp disagreements...
 - Because of our **intellectual conceits**...
 - We think we are the smart ones...
 - **So they lead to arguments....**
 - ◆ And that is the danger...
 - **So, when you and a brother do not have the same understanding of something in the Bible or life that is non essential...**
 - ◆ You must learn to **live with it, and Love in it**...
 - ◆ They should never end in **contentions and factions!**
- **But, that you be United in Same Mind and Judgment**
 - Same Mind and Judgment:
 - **Our Mind and Judgment does not dwell in earthly mean!**
 - ◆ Our Unison comes in **Jesus Christ**....
 - ◆ And He is not divided...
 - ◆ If there is division....Be sure, it is not because Christ is divided!

- When differences of understanding and interpretation arose, the first order of business was to reconcile those differences. Ego had no place, only the will of God.
 - “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity” (Ps. 133:1).
 - Acts 4.32 “the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul”

❖ The Question and Reasoning

- **13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?**
- **Paul reasons with them in his way**
 - He can be sarcastic at times...
 - But he is always on point....
 - Because the things He is addressing, should not be so...
- **He is like....What has man done for us?**
 - **I am glad I did not baptize many of you**
 - He is trying to point out, even baptizing a person does not compare to the **Lordship of Christ**
 - Why would we side with man.
 - Paul **does not even mention the other men...** just himself...
 - He wanted to go ahead and put it out there, that He **had nothing to do** with their salvation,
 - Other than proclaiming it.....And That is a **good lesson** for us!

❖ The Question

- **13 Is Christ divided?**
- This should Hit us in the Heart!
- **We should fall in on the side of Christ....Always!!**
 - IN ALL THINGS WE ARE TO SEEK THE WILL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!
- **If He is not divided**
 - Then why would we be divided in the church?
 - Why?.....Something is not right....right?
- **It starts with the individual evaluating himself...not someone else...**

❖ The Desired Result (The Preaching of the Gospel)!!!

❖ Why does He write this?

- **Why is He down on his knees begging and pleading with them in His letter.**
- **Why is pleading with them as Brothers**
- **Why is He pleading with them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...**
- **Because He knows what is at stake...**
 - **It is the preaching of the gospel...**
 - **It is the salvation of souls...**
 - **Look at what He says...**
 - **17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.**
- **No telling**
 - How many people have failed to have been reached, because of the bickering, and fighting, and quarreling that goes on in the church...
 - I know of a church right now that is **looking for a Pastor...**
 - And the Search team cannot get on the same page...Fighting, etc...
- **17 For Christ did not send me to baptize**
 - That **other stuff** they are fighting over is not important he says.....**Rather...**
- **but to preach the gospel**
 - The preaching of the gospel is what is important
 - Why?

❖ Invitation

