

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "Fractured Church"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Pastor Stephen Schultze / Sunday, September 6, 2020

Introduction:

The potential for division is all around, but true unity is found in the fellowship believers share in Christ. (*Psalm 133; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 10:17; 12:12*)

1. Paul emphatically appealed for unity. (v. 10)

- Being "of the same mind" speaks to the power of **observation** and the word "judgment" speaks to the forming of an **opinion**.

Is division ever necessary? (*1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 11:19; Titus 3:10; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14*)

2. Paul clearly identified the disunity. (v. 11-12)

- The report to Paul was not gossip for he had cause, concern and **authority** to address the problem. (*1 Corinthians 1:1; 2 Corinthians 11:28*)
- In their *observations* of Paul, Apollos, and Cephas, the believers in Corinth formed differing *opinions*, resulting in **quarreling** factions. (*Titus 3:2*)

3. Paul thoroughly undermined the disunity. (v. 13-16)

- Do not confuse **diversity** with division. (*Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:12*)
- Do not forget that Christian teachers merely proclaim what Christ has already **purchased**. (*1 Cor. 1:23; 2:2*)
- Do not substitute **allegiance** to Christ (and His church) with loyalty to people. (*Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 19:5*)

Conclusion: (v. 17)

Only the cross of Christ provides the **power** to save and unify the church. (v. 18)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

- Why was the report to Paul from Chloe's people not gossip?
- How is Paul's appeal to be of one mind and judgment different from demanding conformity?
- How can diversity be used to cause division within the church?
- In what ways do we exalt teachers over the work of Christ?
- Why do we tend towards allegiance to people rather than Jesus?