

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and the word "judgment" speaks to the forming of an \_\_\_\_\_.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ factions. (*Titus 3:2*)

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

- Do not confuse \_\_\_\_\_ with division. (*Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:12*)
- Do not forget that Christian teachers merely proclaim what Christ has already \_\_\_\_\_. (*1 Cor. 1:23; 2:2*)
- Do not substitute \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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?