

Message Notes

"Divisions in the Church"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *"Why can't we all just get along?"*

The Ten Problems in Corinth

The Solution – *Agree with one another*
1 Corinthians 1:10a

The Problem – *Chloe's informants narked!*
Schisms in the church at Corinth
1 Corinthians 1:10b-12

Four Groups

Paul
Apollos
Cephas
Christ

Three Big Questions:

1. If God likes unity in the church why are there so many different denominations?
2. Is it always right to just go along with the flow in the name of unity?
Galatians 1:6-9

Colossians 2:18-19

Jude 1:3-4

3. What then, does it mean to be non-divisive?

Paul's passion for them – *to be centered on the gospel and the power of the cross of Jesus*
1 Corinthians 1:17

Romans 1:16

Application – *"Are you a rock star follower, or interested in the incredible power of God?"*

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

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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.

Galatians 1:6-9

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

Colossians 2:18-19

¹⁸Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. ¹⁹He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Jude 1:3-4

³Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. ⁴For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.





Welcome to the
Church in
Corinth:

The Bridezilla
of Christ!

Corinth: The City





Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up



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10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Divisions among the leadership



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10 issues Paul has to bring up

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- A man is having an affair with his stepmother



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Corinth: The People in the church

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- Divisions among the leadership
- A man is having an affair with his stepmother
- There are many in the church who think this is great! “Freedom in Christ” is their montra
- The rich and sophisticated are taking advantage of others, even taking each other to court



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- Some like to visit prostitutes in the pagan temples



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- Others say anything enjoyable is sin, so they abstain from all things pleasurable, even marital sex



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10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Some like to visit prostitutes in the pagan temples
- Others say anything enjoyable is sin, so they abstain from all things pleasurable, even marital sex
- Big debates about how to be involved with their pagan religious background



Corinth: The People in the church

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- Worship was an absolute mess – disorder, cultural issues regarding men and women, and people getting drunk on the communion wine!



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Corinth: The People in the church

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- Worship was an absolute mess – disorder, cultural issues regarding men and women, and people getting drunk on the communion wine!
- The Spiritual Gifts of God are present, but it is charismania and absolute bedlam in their meetings
- Some people in the church do not actually believe that Jesus rose bodily from the dead.

How Paul deals with all of this...

Let 'em have it, Paul!!

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way – in all your speaking and in all your knowledge – ⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

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*Enough with being Mr. Nice Guy!
What ya gonna hit 'em with first, Paul?*

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The Solution – Agree with one another

1 Corinthians 1:10

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The Problem – Chloe’s informants narked! Schisms in the church at Corinth

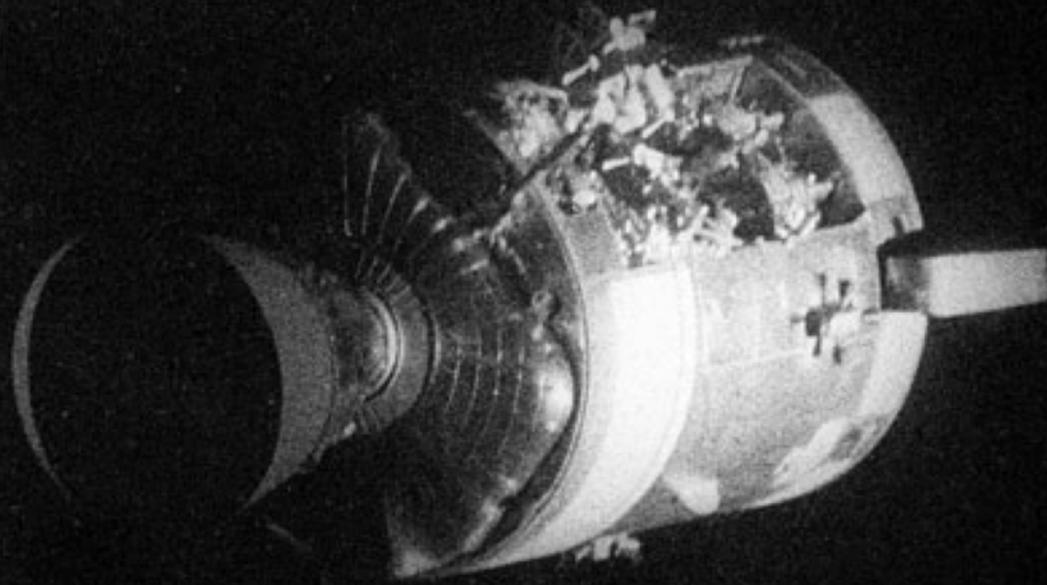
1 Corinthians 1:11-12

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I follow Paul!!



I'm an Apollos man!!



Cephas was mentioned in Matt. 16:18!!

Ok, let's forget about 5 verses later...



*“Oh Yeah! We’ll I’m better than all of
you. I follow Christ!”*


HOLIER
↑ THAN ↑ THOU


**This party spirit is a *really* good idea –
The dripping sarcasm of Paul**

1 Corinthians 1:13-16

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Three Big Questions

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1. If the Bible teaches that unity is very important, why are there so many Christian Denominations?

The Early Church Drifts...

The age of Christendom begins

Constantine – Edict of Milan 313 A.D.

Leadership/Church Organization

Doctrine of Baptism

Creeds, Liturgy, Church Calendar,
Sacramentalism

Sacerdotalism/Priesthood - The Lord's
Supper becomes a sacrifice

Martin Luther 1483-1546

Augustinian Monk

95 Theses in Wittenburg

Studied Romans

Faith Only

Scripture Only

Predestination

Book of James a “book of
straw.”

Kept much of Catholic
worship practices



John Calvin 1509-1564

Influenced most strongly by Zwingli

Strongly influenced by theology of Augustine

Most influential theologian of the Reformation

Emphasized Historical/Covenantal Theology

Wrote *Institutes of Christian Religion*

Established an autocratic theocracy in Geneva

Best known for his emphasis on Predestination

TULIP



Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)

Swiss Reformer

More radical than Luther

Rejected almost all Catholic forms of
worship.

Differed on the Lord's Supper

His influence led to the Anabaptists,
yet he persecuted them

Principle influence on John Calvin





Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)

Statue of Zwingli in Zurich, Switzerland

The Anabaptist Movement (1530's and later)

The Radical Reformation

Menno Simmons 1496-1561



Christendom is a danger

Infant Baptism is not baptism into the faith

Personal Faith is the only thing that matters,
not family or state faith

The Roman Catholic Church is to be
departed from because of its apostasy



King Ferdinand, Holy Roman Emperor 1558-
1564

King Ferdinand declared drowning
(called the third baptism)

“the best antidote to Anabaptism.”

THE QUOTE OF THE TIMES:

“16th century man who did not drink
to excess, curse, or abuse his
workmen or family could be
suspected of being an Anabaptist and
thus persecuted.”

“The Protestant Reformation challenged neither the Christendom framework nor the demise of mission. But their church-planting contemporaries, the Anabaptist, rejected Christendom as a delusion, engaged in serious ecclesiological reflection, and designated Europe as a mission field. To the Reformers, as to their Catholic opponents, this was an affront, and dangerous to both church and society. On of the few subjects on which Catholics and Protestants agreed in this era that Anabaptism was subversive and needed to be eradicated. The Catholics tended to burn them; the Protestants normally beheaded them; but both operated on similar Christendom assumptions and applied similar Christendom methods.”

~ Stuart Murry, *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*





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2. Is it always right to go along with the flow in the name of unity?

Galatians 1:6-9

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Three Big Questions

3. What then does it mean to be non-divisive?

Ephesians 4:2-4

2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

Romans 14:17-20

17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. 19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.

Romans 12:18

If it is possible,
as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone.

**Paul's Passion for them –
To be deeply Gospel Centered people**

1 Corinthians 1:13-16

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