

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1:10-17

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD” – PART 1

HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Salvation, Righteousness, Walk, Encouragement

ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. :11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's *household*, that there are contentions among you. :12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of 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 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. :16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. :17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to **preach the gospel**, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

The Church at Corinth, Greece

The Church Serves Itself and Will, Against All Odds.

Matthew 16:13-18

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" :14 So they said, "Some say John the

Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” :15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” :16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” :17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. :18 And I also say to you that you are **Peter**, (*Pe÷troß Petros*, pet'-ros; a piece of a rock) and on this **rock** (*pe÷tra Petra*, pet'-ra; a mass of rock or great rock) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

“ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD”

WHAT GOD CAN DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE UNITE IN TRUTH!

1.) A united church – will have the same Lord

v.10

1a.) We're united in obedience

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

“Now I plead with you”

plead *parakale÷w parakaleo*, *par-ak-al-eh'-o*;
to **call** you near, to **invite** you over to where he's standing.

(a title describing the person and work of the Holy Spirit)

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the **Comforter** *parakale÷w parakaleo*, will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

The “Discipleship” Ministry of the Holy Spirit = Comforter - Advocate

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** *parakale÷w parakaleo*, with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**Paul is Saying - - Join Me, United - Under the Authority
of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Notice: He calls them... "brethren"

This is an amazing example of both Christian love and a Spiritual Maturity on Paul's part to have them see the body of Christ "Bigger & Better" than Themselves.

A UNITED CHURCH WILL HAVE THE SAME LORD

1b.) We're united by fellowship

(1) that you all speak **the same thing**, and (2) that there be no **divisions** among you, but that you (3) be **perfectly joined together**...

What is the "thing"?

1 Corinthians 1:4-5

I thank my God always concerning you for the **thing** grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, :5 that you were **thing** enriched in everything by Him in all **thing** utterance and all **thing** knowledge,

Psalm 133:1

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Divisions

Grk: sci÷sma schisma, *skhis'-mah*;

a split or gap ("schism") to rip or tear apart. To break the bone or to cut the fabric. (*a united humanity in and under the will of God*)

James 4:1-3

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members? :2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. :3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

together

Grk: **perfectly joined together** katarti÷zw katartizo, *kat-ar-tid'-zo*;

to complete thoroughly, to bond or to frame, mend, restore.

(*a united humanity in and by the will of God*)

This is the great overlooked secret of Christianity.

Personal growth and development only comes through public (body) service.

Christianity is the only faith in the world that is devocated to "others"

The church is a human mosaic, a jigsaw puzzle of people united in Christ.

Colossians 2:2,19

that their hearts may be encouraged, being **knit** together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ... **:19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and **knit** together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

Knit - “a medical term - to cause the bones to heal back together”

The personal ministry of every believer

is to do all that is within your power to mend, heal, repair others in the body

Galatians 5:14-16

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **:15** But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! **:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

A UNITED CHURCH WILL HAVE THE SAME LORD

1c.) We’re united on mission

...(4) in **the same mind** and (5) in **the same judgment**.

Mind

Grk: the same mind *nouvß nous, nooce*;
a united intellect, to think, feel and be in harmony of thought and mind to have an understanding. (*a united humanity in and through the will of God*)

Romans 12:16

Be of the same mind toward one another.

Philippians 2:4-5

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Judgment

Grk: the same judgment *gnwðmh gnome, gno´-may*; the same answer, the same opinion, the same counsel, the same advice, the same judgment, the same purpose.

“ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD”

WHAT GOD CAN DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE UNITE IN TRUTH!

2.) A united church – will share the same vision

v.11-13

2a.) Our vision is united for Him

11 For it has been **declared** to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, (*not a few*) that there are **contentions** among you.

Declared

Grk: dhlo/w deloo, *day-lo'-o*;

Presented, signify, discovered. It's the repeated facts by eyewitnesses (*this is no rumor*)

Contentions

Grk: eῤῥισ eris, *er'-is*;

To be in a state of a quarrelling. To wrangle, argue, debate, strive.

The church is a living, breathing organism
made up of people from every walk of life...

James 4:6-8a

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*” :7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

:8a Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

A UNITED CHURCH WILL SHARE THE SAME VISION

2b.) Our vision is united around Him

12 Now I say this, that each of you say, “**I am of Paul,**” or “**I am of Apollos,**”
Or “**I am of Cephas,**” or “**I am of Christ.**”

These dangers are still with us today

A litany of personality cults

It is sinful and wrong for any man or woman

to insert themselves or to promote themselves to a place of being an authority or a leader over others because they seek such a place.

Hebrews 5:4

No one takes this honor upon himself;
he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.

“If God hasn’t called you – then who has?”

“and if God hasn’t called you – then you haven’t the call”

Self-appointed men **give birth to cult-like** actions or even cults themselves.

Beware of any man that “has to be in the ministry”

(I can’t find “spiritual ambition” anywhere in the scripture that’s in a good light)

The danger is, there’s always a self-ordained leader looking for an audience, while at the same time, there’s always an audience looking for someone.”

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

“**I am of Paul,**” / “**I am of Apollos,**” / “**I am of Cephas,**” / “**I am of Christ.**”

It’s a sad truth – the church today has its **stars and superstars.**

“the funny thing is – I know some of them and they are shocked, & surprised at what they hear about themselves.

But It’s A Corinthian Carnality That Creates This:

“star-status” is created by carnally minded people. They want to have religious icons and Christian celebrities. Its carnal, worldly, and idolatry.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

“I am of Paul,” you would be saying that you are of the **world**
“I am of Apollos, you’re saying that you are of the **intellectuals**
“I am of Cephas, you are of the jews, the **legalists**
“I am of Christ. you are of a group of elites, the **best of the best**

each of us must stop and ask ourselves down deep inside if we are for real

“Am I a real, authentic Christian?”

Does The Power of Christ’s

crucifixion and resurrection show in your life and lifestyle?

Without the Power of the Cross in Your Life:

You’ll keep visiting those sites that generate immorality

Without the Power of the Cross in Your Life:

You’ll keep driving by and pulling in to that bar to get a drink.

Without the Power of the Cross in Your Life:

You’ll keep yielding to that untamed temper and pride.

Without the Power of the Cross in Your Life:

You’ll never be able to end that ungodly relationship that pulls you down.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

A UNITED CHURCH WILL SHARE THE SAME VISION

2c.) Our vision is united by Him

13 Is Christ **divided**? Was Paul crucified for you?
Or were you **baptized in the name of Paul**?

This **is actually the baptism into** the name of...

This is not water baptism, but rather the work of the Holy Spirit of immersing, placing into, putting the believer into Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

A WARNING HERE BY PAUL

The futility of following a man or man-made system.

Galatians 3:26-29

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **:29** And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

I have friends who are **Calvinist** - they're following the interpretation of Scripture by John Calvin

I have friends who are **Wesleyan** - they're following the interpretation of scripture by John Wesley

I have friends who are **Baptist** - they're following the interpretation of scripture by John the Baptist (*joking*)

What I love about being the pastor of this church is that all of you "types" are here – look around you!

The Invitation & Challenge

This is our Homework.

1. We're to Stop Being Divided and Competitive.
2. We're to Unite in Humble Obedience to God
3. With Eager Submission, do what the Bible Says to do – Period.

**WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE AND GET TO
A CITY THAT WANTS TO SEE LOVE IN ACTION !**

End of Study