

1 CORINTHIANS

11 DANGERS FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

Today, we begin a new series through 1 Corinthians called *11 Dangers for Every Christian*. Throughout this study, we will look at several warnings Paul gives that are just as relevant for us today as they were for the church in Corinth. We begin with the danger of division and consider what threatens unity in our own lives and what it looks like to become people who actively pursue peace, reconciliation, and oneness in the church.

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10. What words or phrases show how seriously Paul takes unity in the church?

Paul appeals to “all” of the believers and calls them to have no divisions among them, but instead to be united in mind and judgment. His language shows that unity is not an optional extra for mature Christians; it is part of what God desires for His people. Paul is calling the church to resist anything that unnecessarily tears apart the family of God.

Extra: What kinds of things most commonly create unnecessary division among Christians today?

2. What does Christian unity require—and what does it not require?

Paul’s call to “agree” does not mean that every Christian must have the same preferences, personality, background, or opinion about every issue. Biblical unity is built around the truth of the gospel, the authority of God’s Word, and our shared allegiance to Jesus. We can remain different in many ways while refusing to allow secondary matters to divide us.

Extra: How can we distinguish between an issue worth standing firm on and a preference we should hold loosely?

3. Why can relationships within the church sometimes be difficult even among sincere believers?

The church is a family made up of people who have been saved by grace but are still growing in Christ. That means we will sometimes misunderstand one another, disappoint one another, and even hurt

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one another. Biblical community requires us to expect those moments without allowing them to become excuses for bitterness, isolation, or division.

Extra: How do you normally respond when another Christian disappoints or hurts you?

4. Paul says believers should be “united” in verse 10. What does that picture teach us about broken relationships?

The word Paul uses carries the idea of something being repaired or mended so that it can function properly again. Unity does not mean pretending that nothing happened when a relationship has been damaged; sometimes something genuinely needs to be repaired. Following Jesus means being willing to move toward forgiveness, honest conversation, and reconciliation whenever possible.

Extra: Is there a relationship in your life that may need to be mended rather than simply avoided?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:11–12. What had begun to divide the Corinthian church?

The Corinthians had started identifying themselves around different Christian leaders—Paul, Apollos, Cephas, and even Christ. Their appreciation for particular leaders had turned into competing camps that weakened their unity as one church. A good leader, ministry, style, or preference can become unhealthy when it becomes more important to us than our shared identity in Christ.

Extra: What are some modern ways Christians can fall into the same temptation to divide into camps?

6. Why is our identity in Christ more important than the personalities, ministries, or preferences we are drawn toward?

Paul redirects the Corinthians by asking, “Is Christ divided?” and “Was Paul crucified for you?” No pastor, teacher, ministry, political preference, or Christian personality died for our sins—Jesus did. The more central Christ becomes to our identity, the less power secondary loyalties have to separate us from other believers.

Extra: What secondary identity or preference can become too important in the life of a Christian?

7. What do Paul’s questions in verse 13 reveal about the real foundation of Christian unity?

Every question points the Corinthians away from human leaders and back toward Christ. Jesus was crucified for us, we belong to Him, and the church exists because of what He has done through the gospel. Christian unity ultimately comes from remembering that Jesus—not any individual personality—is at the center.

Extra: How might regularly remembering the cross change the way we handle disagreements with other Christians?

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8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:17. Why does Paul bring the gospel into a discussion about division?

Paul reminds the Corinthians that his primary calling was to preach the gospel rather than build a following around himself. The cross removes our ability to boast in personalities, accomplishments, or status because every believer comes to God the same way—through Jesus. When the gospel remains central, it gives us something far greater to unite around than the issues that might pull us apart.

Extra: What happens to a church when something other than the gospel becomes its primary focus?

9. Read Ephesians 4:1–3. What attitudes help believers “maintain the unity of the Spirit”?

Paul points to humility, gentleness, patience, love, and an eagerness to pursue peace. Unity is something the Holy Spirit has already created among believers, but maintaining it requires ongoing effort from us. The question is not simply whether we value unity, but whether our attitudes and actions actually help preserve it.

Extra: Which of these qualities—humility, gentleness, patience, love, or eagerness for peace—do you most need God to develop in you?

10. What would it look like for you to become someone who actively pursues unity?

Pursuing unity means refusing to feed gossip, camps, unnecessary conflict, or bitterness while being willing to deal honestly with real problems. It may require initiating a conversation, extending forgiveness, admitting that we were wrong, or simply choosing not to make a preference into a dividing issue. Mature believers do not merely avoid causing division; they intentionally work toward peace and reconciliation.

Extra: What is one specific step you could take this week to strengthen unity in your church, family, workplace, or another relationship?

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