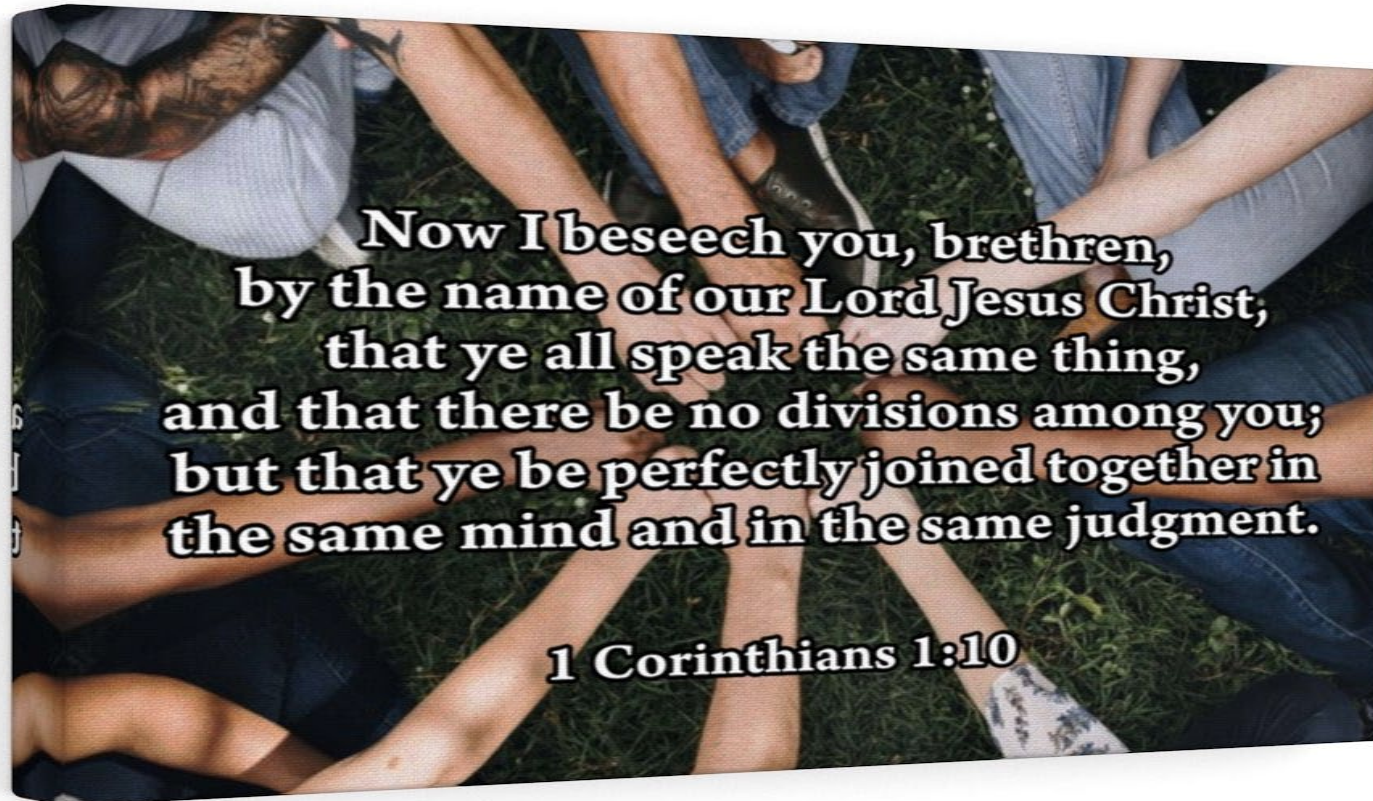


Corinthians: Walking in God's Relational Design During the Challenging Seasons of Church Life



**Now I beseech you, brethren,
by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that ye all speak the same thing,
and that there be no divisions among you;
but that ye be perfectly joined together in
the same mind and in the same judgment.**

1 Corinthians 1:10

PROBLEMS AT CORINTH (RELATIONSHIPS)

- **I Corinthians 1:9-31**
- **What Corinthians clearly shows us:** “Just because God’s people gather together on a regular basis in a building doesn’t mean they are walking in God’s design.”
- **"To dwell above with the saints in love, Oh what bliss and glory; but to dwell below with the saints I know, that is an entirely different story."**

IMPORTANT THINGS WE MUST EMBRACE AND PURSUE

- **I. Understand that walking in relational unity with God and His people is His design and how He builds (Matthew 16:13-19, John 17:1-26, Ephesians 4:1-32)**
- *Matthew 16:13-19* Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"...(16) Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (17) And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (18) "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (19) "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

IMPORTANT THINGS WE MUST EMBRACE AND PURSUE



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- *John 17:1-26* Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,... I I)...Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, **that they may be one even as We are...**(20) "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; (21) **that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.** (22) "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, **that they may be one, just as We are one;** (23) **I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.**

IMPORTANT THINGS WE MUST EMBRACE AND PURSUE

- **2. Avoid the two extreme errors when conflicts/differences arise.**
- Never address questions or touchy areas to avoid conflict
- You address questions or touchy areas in an inappropriate way
- **3. Pursue and Obey God's Calling to Continual Forgiveness as you confront issues (*Mat 18:15-32, Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:32*).**
- **For a church family, continual forgiveness is not optional.**
- **4. Memorize and walk in God's definition of love (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)**

IMPORTANT THINGS WE MUST EMBRACE AND PURSUE

- **5. Avoid slander and gossip like the destructive plague it is.**
- *2 Corinthians 12:20-21 For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances; (21) I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.*
- **Slander, Gossip. Slander** “defamation, evil speaking.” **Gossip** “secret slandering.” (Proverbs 16:28, 26:20, 18:8)