

Activating Our Position in Christ

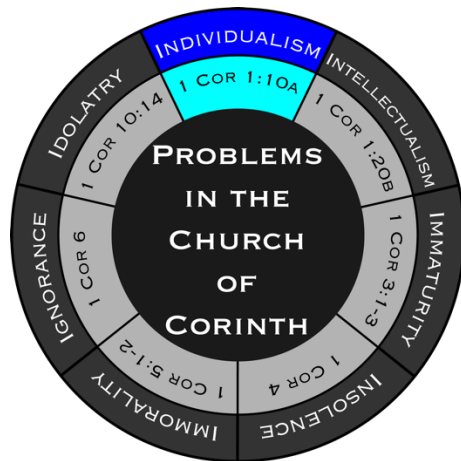
1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Refusing Divisions in the Church

We began our study of First Corinthians by looking at the overall focus of the Letter...

We saw where there were several problems in the church that were causing serious issues...

Today we are looking at the first of these “problems”



Let's read our passage for today and then see what the Lord would say to us...

1 Corinthians 1:10–17 (ESV) — I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos,"

or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

***"In necessariis unitas,
in dubiis libertas,
in omnibus caritas"***

- **In 1618 a religious conflict rose from sharp disagreements into full-scale war.**
- **Protestants and Catholics engaged in, what is considered by many to be the bloodiest war in Europe**
- **It became known as the Thirty Year War and ran 1618-1638...**
- **Death estimates from the war, including both soldiers and civilians, range from 4.5 to 8 million people...**
- **Germany was hit hardest with estimates of over 60% of the people perished in many German towns...**
- **In the midst of this horrific war that began due to religious differences but then shifted into a war for power and control...**
- **In 1626, under the pseudonym Rupertus Meldenius (1582-1651), a Lutheran minister wrote a paper entitled...**

- “A Reminder for Peace at the Church of the Augsburg Confession of Theologians”
- The reason for him writing the paper was that during times of great conflict and unrest, believers begin to divide among themselves over secondary matters
- In the paper he wrote the following statement...

***“In necessariis unitas,
in dubiis libertas,
in omnibus caritas”***

Translated it means...

***“In Essentials UNITY,
In Non-essentials LIBERTY,
In All things CHARITY”***

In our passage we are studying today this famous statement is the perfect outline!

1. In ESSENTIALS we must FIGHT for UNITY!

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV) — I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

“I appeal to you...”

- To ask for something earnestly and with propriety

- To plead for...

Ephesians 4:1–3 (ESV) — I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

In this passage, Paul uses the same word he used in 1 Cor. 1:10...

- “I appeal...” → “I urge...”

“I appeal to you, brothers BY the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

The word translated here, “BY” means...

- Because of, on account of, by means of, through...

In this, Paul is claiming his appeal to true followers of Christ!

In essence, he is saying...

“Through the Lord Jesus Christ I make this appeal to you believers...”

Now, what is the earnest appeal?

1 Corinthians 1:10b (ESV) — ... that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

The earnest appeal is for the believers to do **THREE THINGS...**

→ ***that all of you agree...***

→ ***that there be no divisions among you...***

→ ***that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment***

1. In ESSENTIALS we must FIGHT for UNITY!

2. In NON-ESSENTIALS we must FREELY give LIBERTY!

1 Corinthians 1:11–16 (ESV) — For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

In Corinth, they were beginning to divide, not necessarily theologically, but socially...

They were dividing into social "tribes" based on their own personal preferences

➤ ***We must not allow our personal PREFERENCES to separate us in our personal RELATIONSHIPS***

➤ ***We must not allow our SOCIAL MEDIA TRIBES to divide us as the BODY OF CHRIST***

Matthew 12:25 (ESV) — Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.

1. In ESSENTIALS we must FIGHT for UNITY!

2. In NON-ESSENTIALS we must FREELY give LIBERTY!

3. In EVERYTHING we must FAITHFULLY show CHARITY!

1 Corinthians 1:17 (ESV) — For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Paul recalls the lesson he learned in Athens on preaching the gospel...

In three paragraphs he will clarify his approach to preaching the gospel in Corinth...

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (ESV) — And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Paul had learned an important lesson in Athens...

- **Becoming SIDETRACKED on LESSER things turns the believer's FOCUS away from the CROSS OF CHRIST**
- **A believer will SHOW the LOVE of Jesus to the extent they are FOCUSED on the CROSS of Jesus!**

John 13:34–35 (ESV) — A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 17:20–21 (ESV) — “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just 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 have sent me.

**Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 1:10-17
Refusing Divisions in the Church**

“In Essentials _____, in Non-essentials _____, in All things _____”

1. In _____ we must _____ for _____!

2. In _____ we must _____ give _____!

➤ **We must not allow our personal _____ to separate us in our personal _____**

➤ **We must not allow our _____ to divide us as the _____**

3. In _____ we must _____ show _____!

➤ **Becoming _____ on _____ things turns the believer's _____ away from the _____**

➤ **A believer will _____ the _____ of Jesus to the extent they are _____ on the _____ of Jesus!**