

## 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Divisions In The Church

In verses 1-10 of chapter one Paul reminded the Corinthians of their standing or position in Christ. They are saints because they have been sanctified in Christ. They stand blameless because of God's faithfulness. They are also called into fellowship (verse 9) and this is the area where they are experiencing problems.

### Verse 10

*By the name of our Lord Jesus Christ* – This is the tenth reference to Jesus in the first ten verses. Paul is focusing their attention on Christ and His authority. Bad theology usually lies behind bad behavior.

*Agree* – Literally – speak the same thing

*Divisions* – What is rent or split. See 1 Cor. 11:18, 12:25, Matthew 9:16, John 9:16

*Made complete* – In Mark 1:19 this word describes the mending of nets. In Galatians 6:1 it is translated 'restore'.

*Same mind and...judgment* – They needed to view things correctly and have the idea of what they needed to do.

### Verse 11

*Chloe's people* – Chloe is only mentioned here. Someone within her household had traveled to Corinth and returned to Ephesus with reports of the condition of the church.

*Quarrels* – Also translated strife in 3:3 and is included as a work of the flesh in Galatians 5:20.

### Verse 12

*Now I mean this* – Paul now gives the area where they are 'walking in the flesh'. They were elevating their teachers and boasting about their wisdom so that they could elevate themselves.

*I am of Paul* – Paul founded the church and spent 18 months there.

*I of Apollos* – Acts 18:24-19:1. Apollos had followed Paul at Corinth and was a gifted speaker and apologist.

*I of Cephas* – Cephas means 'rock' and is another name for Peter (John 1:42). He was considered the leading apostle to the Jews.

*I of Christ* – This group regarded themselves as the most spiritual element in the church. They were spiritually elite and stood above the other believers.

### Verse 13

*Has Christ been divided?* – Elevating men or even making Christ the leader of an elite group in the church was in effect dividing the body of Christ.

*Paul...crucified for you* – The cross is foundational to Paul's theology. The cross glorifies Christ, not men.

*Baptized in the name of Paul?* – Baptism is about identifying with Christ and showing our allegiance to Him. How absurd to show allegiance to men over Jesus.

### Verses 14-15

*I baptized none of you except...* – If water baptism is a requirement for eternal life it is very odd that Paul puts such little emphasis on it in verses 13-17.

*Crispus* – The ruler of the synagogue in Corinth (Acts 18:8).

*Gaius* – This may be another name for Titius Justis (Acts 18:7).

*Baptized in my name* – Paul deliberately did not baptize his converts so there would be no question as to whose disciples they were.

### Verse 16

*Household of Stephanas* – Paul's first converts in the Roman province of Achaia (1 Cor. 16:5).

*Beyond that I do not know* – I was unimportant to Paul whom he personally baptized; he was not keeping score. He understood that baptism was a picture of our new life in Christ but it had nothing to do with receiving eternal life.

### Verse 17

*Preach the gospel* – Preaching the gospel is more important than baptizing. Paul would not have said this if he thought baptism was a necessary part of the gospel presentation for eternal life.

*Not in cleverness of speech* – Literally 'wisdom of speech'.

*Cross of Christ...void* – The message of the cross is the focus, not the manner of presentation (1 Cor. 2:1-5).