

Leaving a Legacy in Your Church

Part 3 — Testimony

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Unity in the Church

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-11

Devotional:

The apostle Paul urges the Corinthian church to maintain unity, emphasizing that there should be no divisions among them. His plea reflects the heart of God's desire for His people – to live in harmony and unity, reflecting the communal love shared within the Trinity. Paul equates divisions with weakened testimony; thus, aligning in judgment and purpose is imperative for the church's growth and effectiveness in the community. Quarrels and factions do not just reflect poorly on the church but also mar the message of the Gospel.

Application:

Consider the areas in your church where unity can be strengthened. **Reflect** on your role within your church: Are there any divisions you can help mend or avoid? **Pray** for a spirit of unity and for opportunities to foster reconciliation and understanding within your community. Aim to be a peacemaker, seeking to understand different perspectives and promoting harmony in your actions and speech.

Day 2: Avoiding Favoritism

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:12-15, Romans 2:11

Devotional:

Favoritism contradicts the very nature of Christ's mission on Earth. Paul's correction to the Corinthians about aligning themselves with different church leaders highlights how easily human nature can skew the meaning of faithfulness. God's impartiality reminds us that true love is not contingent on status, wealth, or influence. Our tendency to show favoritism can inadvertently create divisions and resentments within the body of Christ that are contrary to God's equitable love.

Application:

Reflect on your interactions and relationships within your church and community. Are there any biases or preferences that you need to confront and address? **Practice showing equal kindness and respect to those around you**, regardless of their status or what they can offer you.

Day 3: Representing Christ

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10, Matthew 5:13-16

Devotional:

Representing Jesus in every interaction is a calling for every believer. Paul's charge to the Corinthians to have no division among them extends to how they live as testimonies of Christ's work. As salt and light, Christians are called to enhance and illuminate the world around them, standing out not for personal glory but for the glory of God. Our lives should spark curiosity and reflect the love and truth that is found in Jesus.

Application:

Examine how you represent Christ in your daily life. Are your actions and words drawing others to or away from Jesus? **Consider** your influence at work, home, and church; find ways to more clearly reflect Christ's love, patience, and truth. Choose one area of your life where you can be more intentional in being salt and light this week.

Day 4: The Power of Love

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Devotional:

The famous passage from 1 Corinthians 13 provides the clearest depiction of God's definition of love – patient, kind, not envious, nor boastful. This love is not just meant for our family or friends but for our enemies and those we find difficult to love. Love serves as a foundation for maintaining a church's unity and reputation. In embodying this divine love, believers demonstrate the redemptive power of God's work in their lives.

Application:

Identify someone in your life who you find difficult to love and choose one action you can take to show them love this week. **Reflect** on your relationships, asking God to reveal any areas where your love might have grown cold. **Pray** for the strength and wisdom to embody the characteristics of love described in 1 Corinthians 13 more fully.

Day 5: Investing in Your Church

Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Devotional:

Investing in the church means more than just financial contributions; it involves dedicating time, talents, and prayers to further the kingdom of God. Paul instructed the Corinthians to set aside their gifts systematically, showing that thoughtful planning and commitment are part of a generous spirit. Being generous is part of expressing the Gospel tangibly, impacting both the local congregation and the wider community.

Application:

Consider how you currently invest in your church's mission. What resources, talents, or time can you offer to further God's work through your local body?

Reflect on how you can contribute consistently and with purpose. Set aside a specific time this week to pray about new ways you can invest in your church community and follow through with concrete actions.