

A close-up photograph of two vibrant green leaves. The leaf in the foreground is slightly out of focus, while the one behind it is sharper. A single, clear water droplet is perched on the surface of the front leaf, reflecting light. The background is a dark, blurred brown.

First
Corinthians
growing pains

“Divided & Conquered” | Gordon Tsai | May 25, 2025



1 Corinthians 1:10-17

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.



1 Corinthians 1:10-17

¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?



1 Corinthians 1:10-17

¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.)



1 Corinthians 1:10-17

¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.





1 Corinthians 1:10

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly *united* in mind and thought.



1 Corinthians 1:11-12

¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow **Paul**"; another, "I follow **Apollos**"; another, "I follow **Cephas**"; still another, "I follow **Christ**."



1 Corinthians 1:13

¹³ Is Christ *divided*? Was Paul *crucified* for you? Were you *baptized* in the name of Paul?



1 Corinthians 1:14-17

¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.)



1 Corinthians 1:14-17

¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.



The Pride Effect

- Pride has been leading to **division**.



The Pride Effect

- Pride has been leading to **division**.
- Pride has been **hindering** their relationship with God.



The Pride Effect

- Pride has been leading to **division**.
- Pride has been **hindering** their relationship with God.
- Pride has been **blocking** learning & growth.



How To Spot Pride

- You **look down** at people's preferences.



How To Spot Pride

- You **look down** at people's preferences.
- You believe your wisdom is **superior**.



1 Corinthians 1:18-20

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

²⁰ **Where** is the wise person? **Where** is the teacher of the law? **Where** is the philosopher of this age? Has not God **made foolish** the wisdom of the world?



How To Spot Pride

- You **look down** at people's preferences.
- You believe your wisdom is **superior**.
- You are **highly critical** and **judgmental** of others.



How To Fight Pride

- **Acknowledge** that all good comes from God.



1 Corinthians 1:30-31

³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts **boast in the Lord.**”



How To Fight Pride

- **Acknowledge** that all good comes from God.
- Cultivate **unity** over division.



How To Fight Pride

- **Acknowledge** that all good comes from God.
- Cultivate **unity** over division.
- Recognize human wisdom is **limited**.



1 Corinthians 1:26-29

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ But God chose the **foolish things** of the world to shame the wise; God chose the **weak things** of the world to shame the strong.



1 Corinthians 1:26-29

²⁸ God chose the **lowly things** of this world and the **despised things**—and the things that **are not**—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.



How To Fight Pride

- **Acknowledge** that all good comes from God.
- Cultivate **unity** over division.
- Recognize human wisdom is **limited**.
- Be **teachable**.



Application

1. Reflect on how God saved you this week.



Application

1. Reflect on how God saved you this week.
2. Pray for unity within the church.



Application

1. Reflect on how God saved you this week.
2. Pray for unity within the church.
3. Live out unity within the church.



