

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17.

This week you will find the scripture text on the last page of your handout.

Note: You will learn more about Apollos in the Additional Reading. Cephas is the Aramaic name for Peter, one of the original Twelve disciples and a key leader in the churches.

1. What is Paul's appeal? (see verse 10)
2. What authority does Paul use to justify his appeal? (see verse 10)
 - a. What gives Paul the right to appeal 'by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ'?
3. What is the relationship between mind and judgment?
4. How did Paul hear about their divisions and quarreling? (see verse 11) (Note: The Scriptures make no other mention of Chloe or her people.)
5. What was the content of the divisions and quarreling? (see verse 12)

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6. How does Paul challenge their divisions and quarreling? (see verse 13)
 - a. How should the question “Is Christ divided?” cause the Corinthians to reevaluate their quarreling?

7. According to Paul’s arguments here, what is the basis of our greater loyalty to Christ over any man of God? (see verse 13)

8. According to verse 17, what was Paul’s primary mission?
 - a. What was not Paul’s primary mission?

 - b. Does this mean that Paul did not value baptism? Explain.

 - c. What do you think Paul might have meant by saying “Christ did not send me to baptize”?

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❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 again.

9. In one or two sentences, summarize Paul's goal for the Corinthian Christians in these verses.

10. Do you think it is significant that Paul makes an appeal to them rather than issues a command?

a. How might the content of their quarreling influence your answer?

11. What do you think it means to appeal 'by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ'?

a. Can we also appeal 'by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ' to correct an erring Christian brother or sister?

12. Do you think Paul would be content with a superficial unity (for the vocal quarreling to stop but their hearts to be still holding the same preferential biases)?

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- a. From where in the text do you derive your answer?

13. What reasons do you think the Corinthians might have had for choosing one man over another? For claiming to follow any teacher other than Christ?

14. How might 'words of eloquent wisdom' diminish the power of the cross?

- a. Does this mean that we should be sloppy in our preparations and/or delivery in witnessing to people?
- b. What are some characteristics of a gospel presentation that navigates a good path between grand eloquence and sloppy unpreparedness?
- c. How should Paul's words encourage you in sharing the gospel with people?

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➤ Additional Reading:

To learn more about Apollos, read Acts 18:24-28. (You read about Priscilla and Aquila in Acts 18 a few weeks ago. Also remember from the background information in the introductory week that Corinth was a prominent city in the province of Achaia and that it was known as a venue for skilled orators.)

15. Does anything in Acts 18 add to your thoughts on the quarreling among the Corinthians and why some preferred one man over another?

Read Ephesians 4:1-6 for more words from Paul on Christian unity.

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 again.

16. How does Paul point people away from himself and toward Christ? (see verse 13)

17. Paul's words in verse 15 "so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name" could suggest that some of the Corinthians were wrongly attaching a special significance to the person who baptized them. Are there any ways that people today might make similar wrong presumptions in their own lives?

18. What did Paul expect his original audience to think, feel, and/or do after hearing his words?

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- a. What should we think, feel, and/or do as a result of our hearing his words?

19. Do you see any similar “I follow so-and-so” divisions in the church today? According to this passage, how should we address such divisions when they arise?

- a. How can we keep our differing personal preferences from resulting in divisions and quarrels?

20. Have you been quarreling with others in Christ’s body over anything? (If not openly quarreling, have you been harboring any division in your heart?)

- a. If so, what do you need to do in order to be unified in the same mind and judgment with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for unity within our church body. Pray that none of us would place any allegiance higher than our allegiance to Christ. Pray that we will not let personal preferences hinder our fellowship together in Christ.

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I. Appeal
for Unity

1:10 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.

II. Report of
Division

11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people
that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

12 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.”

III.
Correctives

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

14 I thank God
that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,
15 so that no one may say
that you were baptized in my name.

16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas.
Beyond that, I do not know
whether I baptized anyone else.)

IV. Paul's
Purpose
and
Method

17 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.