

# Studies in 1 Corinthians

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## ▶ LESSON III: Division, Disaster

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

10 I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. 11 For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. 12 Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter,<sup>[b]</sup>" or "I follow only Christ."

13 Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. 16 (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don't remember baptizing anyone else.) 17 For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

Footnotes:

a. 1 Corinthians 1:10 Greek *brothers*; also in 1:11, 26.

b. 1 Corinthians 1:12 Greek *Cephas*.

## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. What goal should all Christians work towards (verse 10)?
  - a. How do we accomplish this? (see Eph. 4:1-2)

2. One translation gives this very strong rendition of verse 10: “that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”
  - a. How realistic is it to expect that any two people will agree on everything?
  - b. Are there matters that we can “agree to disagree” on? (see Romans 14)
  - c. What does he call us to be united upon? (cf. vv 13-17; Ephesians 4:4-6).
3. Today, there are thousands upon thousands of denominations—religious division—among those who claim the name of Christ. Within the churches of Christ, there is (sadly) also division.
  - a. What are a few of the primary reasons for division, according to verses 11 & 12?
  - b. Note: Does it indicate that these divisions were over the opinions of men or the word of God?
  - c. Now, brainstorm a list of things that divide Christians today. Indicate whether or not these issues stem from clearly revealed scriptural truth or matters of opinion.
  - d. What has been the net impact of division in the church of Christ today?
4. According to verse 13, is division healthy for the cause of Christ?
  - a. Should we unite around the teachings of a particular man or woman and call ourselves after his/her teachings?
  - b. Who should we all be loyal to and united under?
  - c. Does God call us to be Christians only or the only Christians?