

# Studies in 1 Corinthians

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## ► LESSON IV: United or Divided? The Choice is Ours

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. Today, there are thousands upon thousands of religious denominations. 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. Brainstorm a list of things that divide Christians today. Do these issues stem from clearly revealed Scriptural truth or matters of opinion? How many are salvation issues?

- c. What has been the net impact of Christian division in world today?
  
2. According to verses 13-14, should Christians unite around the teachings of a particular man or woman and call ourselves after that person's teachings?
  - a. Who should we all be loyal to and united under?
  
  - b. Does God call us to be Christians only or the only Christians?
  
3. Some argue that Paul, in verse 17, is differentiating baptism as separate and distinct from the Gospel. Does this view make sense, given the context of the discussion?
  - a. What is Paul really trying to say?
  
  - b. How does Romans 6 help to shed light on the meaning of baptism, in relation to the Good News of Jesus.