

“No Divisions”
1 Corinthians 1:10-17
1/10/21
Message 2

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “No Divisions”

- **Review: Last week we started our study in the book of 1 Corinthians**

- **The Church of Corinth**

- It Was a church that began well –
 - BUT stumbled and fell
- Sadly The church that was filled with many problems
- **The Sin Detailed**
 - 1st Carnal Divisiveness Not Removed - I Corinthians 1:10-4:21
 - 2nd Moral Discernment Not Practiced - I Corinthians 5:1-6:20
 - 3rd Marital Difficulties Not Resolved - I Corinthians 7:1-40
 - 4th Lifestyle Disagreements Not Settled - I Corinthians 8:1-10:33
 - 5th Male / Female Distinctions Not Honored - I Corinthians 11:1-16
 - 6th Spiritual Devotion Not Experienced - I Corinthians 11:17-34
 - 7th Ministry Differences Not Accepted - I Corinthians 12:1-14:40
 - 8th Essential Doctrines Not Believed - I Corinthians 15:1-58
 - 9th Conclusion - I Corinthians 16:1-24
- Wondering - Are they even SAVED?
 - Just a quick look at the letter and we would wonder if they were even saved!!!
 - Yes THEY Are
 - ***Alan Redpath "It is possible for a Christian to live on a carnal level instead of on a spiritual level. It is possible to walk after the flesh even though we are converted to walk in the Spirit. It is possible to***

be saved, but to be saved as by fire: one day to stand before the judgment seat of Christ stripped of everything but our soul's salvation."

- Although this is a CORRECTIVE Letter –
 - It is filled with... GRACE
 - Understanding of our position in CHRIST

• **Now Today Divisions – This Is the First Problem Paul Address with them**

- **The Corinthians church was a Divided Church**
 - They segregated into groups
 - Those Groups begun to war with each other
- **Sadly Many here today have seen this in Churches**
 - They are way too common
 - Many of us have had a BAD church experience
 - Maybe a church split
 - Some sort of quarreling or division going on
 - It's a problem that has existed in the church since New Testament times
 - And Will Exist Until Jesus comes Again
- **What IS at CORE of these Problems – SELF – PRIDE – SIN**
 - Simple it's prlde – sln
 - The Middle letter in both is "I"
 - We see it from the very beginning of Life
 - Babies
 - Are quick to let you know they're unhappy when they are not given something they want or when something they like is taken away
 - Kids

- Cry, fight, and throw tantrums because they can't have their own ways
- Teens
 - Well....
- Adults
 - We are just bigger now
- Summery
 - We argue and fight over
 - A rattle
 - Then a toy
 - Then a football
 - Then a position on the TEAM
 - Then for a position in business
 - Politics and so on...
 - Sadly - In the Church
 - *Stedman; "In every church dispute, you encounter people who feel a sense of proprietorship (pro·pri·e·tor·ship) toward the church—a sense that they have a right to call the shots. These people forget who truly owns the church. They forget who paid for the church in blood. The church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only One with an absolute right to call the shots. When we think of the church as "my church" instead of "His church," we lose sight of what it means to have the mind of Christ.*
 - It's in our nature to do this
- **Solutions**
 - That You All Speak The Same Thing
 - AKA – Get on the SAME PAGE

- Read Together...

Luke 9:23 (NKJV)

23 Then He said to them all, *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- **The NEED for UNITY**

- **Define Unity**

- Unity Based on our common belief (Doctrine) on Who Jesus is
- It is not a warm fuzzy – "Let's all just get along"
- It is based on the essentials of the faith
- *Source Unknown – "In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity"*

- **Mandatory in the Body of Christ**

Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV)

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Romans 15:6 (NKJV)

6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:2 (NKJV)

2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Acts 2:44 (NKJV)

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

- **Paul Gives Us 3 Reminders on Unity**

- The Reaction Of Paul v. 10
- The Reason For Their Disunity vs. 11-13
- The Reminder Of The Priority vs. 14-17

The Reaction Of Paul v. 10

- **First: His Concern v. 10a**

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

○ **1st Paul was an Apostle of Jesus Christ.**

- He had Authority in the church.
- Meaning
 - He had the right
 - The authority
 - To command the Corinthian Christians in these matters.
- Instead...
 - With loving heart, he PLEADS With them – he pleads with them – to be unified as believers.

○ **2nd His Response – I PLEAD with you**

- AKA – BEGS them
 - You see in his heart
 - He had their highest interest in mind
- Paul's Desire
 - Change your behavior – NOT because I am telling you
 - BUT because you know it's the right thing to do

○ **3rd Brethren**

- Again NEVER forget your position in CHRIST
- In The BODY of CHRIST

○ **4th By the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**

- We're reminded of the authority of Paul's instruction
- This is from the Lord

- It's in His name that we work for unity!!!

- **Second: His Challenge v. 10b**

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

- **1st That you all speak the Same Thing**

- This Doesn't Mean we are ROBOTS
 - Drives me crazy when I visit a church and everyone sound the same
 - Be different – Be who God Created you to be
- It Means - There should be doctrinal unity
 - The Essentials of the FAITH
 - Virgin Birth
 - The deity of Christ
 - Salvation by grace
 - Salvation through Jesus Christ alone
 - The resurrection of Christ
 - The gospel
 - The Holy Trinity
 - Etc...
 - The teaching of the church should not be a buffet from which members can pick and choose

- **2nd That there be no divisions among you**

- **The word divisions**
 - Means: It means to tear or to rip - speaks of something being out of joint
 - A bone that is out of joint can be very painful
 - Same is true in the body of Christ –
 - When Division occurs it is painful
- **Cause for Divisions**
 - Simple – Again...

- It's pride - sin
- Selfishness & Immaturity

James 4:1–2 (NKJV)

- 1** *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?*
- 2** *You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*

- Basically what James is saying there is the cause for all conflicts, quarrels, and fighting is selfish desire

- **It is VERY Serious - If Someone is CREATING Division**

Romans 16:17 (NKJV)

- 17** *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*

- **3rd But that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**
 - Attitude is essential...and unity must be genuine
 - A person who strongly disagrees with his church leadership and policy not to mention doctrine
 - Isn't going to be happy or productive in His own Christian life or be of any positive service to the congregation
 - We MUST be on the SAME PAGE
 - In regard to Christian doctrine, standards, and basic life-style

The Reason For Their Disunity vs. 11-13

- **First: Those of Chloe's Household v. 11**

1 Corinthians 1:11 (NKJV)

- 11** *For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.*

- **1st This sister in Christ, Chloe, had written to Paul**
 - **Chloe**
 - A woman whose business interests caused her representatives (those of her household) to travel between Ephesus and Corinth.

- Paul writes this letter from Ephesus
- Where these people from Chloe's household visited and told him about the condition of the Corinthian church.
- **She was upset that cliques had formed**
 - Cliques don't belong in the Body Of Christ
 - Our emphasis should always be to bring people in, not keep people out
 - Problems occur when people polarize
 - One group thinks they're better than the others – or more spiritual
 - Suddenly, the family of God becomes a family feud - a war zone of friction
 - Certainly –
 - There are issues worth fighting for - and on those issues I'll lead the charge
 - NOTE:
 - It's okay to have a circle of friends at church, as long as that circle isn't closed
- **2nd Lesson**
 - But all too often churches end up majoring on the minors and minoring on the majors
 - People divide and fight over petty, picky stuff...
 - Illustrations
 - Christians divide
 - Over baptism - do you dunk or sprinkle...
 - Communion every week or once a quarter...
 - King James or a newer translation...
 - Hymns or praise songs...

- Piano or guitar...
- Pants or shorts...
- A fiberglass pulpit or one made out of wood...
- Pews or Medal chairs...
- So much trivial stuff
- All too often this happens in the church
- God brings hurting people into a church
 - BUT when they Arrive all they see is arguing
 - The Same they see every place else
 - God HELP US

• **Second: The Contentions v. 12**

1 Corinthians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

- **1st The church had divided around personalities**
 - They had gravitated toward their favorite teacher
 - Paul –
 - Some people were Paul Followers
 - After all he was the one who started the church in Corinth.
 - Apollos –
 - Apollos was a young preacher who had come from Alexandria (Acts 18:24-28)
 - Apollos was an exciting preacher and had been used in a mighty way.
 - Apollos had been in Ephesus while Paul was originally planting the church in Corinth.

- After Paul left Corinth to go to Ephesus, Apollos had gone from Ephesus to Corinth.
- NOTE: Apparently Apollos didn't have all of his theology straight in the beginning.
 - It took Paul's friends Priscilla and Aquila to take him aside and fill in the gaps of what this guy was preaching.
- Cephas –
 - This is Peter's Hebrew name.
 - There were some in Corinth who felt that true Christianity only came through the first pope ... (according to Roman Catholicism)
 - NOTE - We have no record of Peter being in Corinth.
- Christ –
 - These were the super spiritual people who didn't follow after any of the preachers, but only followed Jesus.
- **2nd Lesson -**
 - **1st Division is Ungodly**
 - We Must NOT divide
 - Break into groups and think we are the right ones
 - **2nd Making distinctions between churches and ministers is not ungodly**
 - Illustration
 - Love Jim Wells New Hope Fellowship – We have different end times eschatology –
 - It okay to talk about – not bid deal
 - We love each other and are on the same page with Christ
 - **3rd NOTE – God Uses Different types of Pastors – Different Callings**
 - Illustrations
 - The Disciples – completely different personalities

- John The Baptist
- Paul – Passionate
- John – Gentle
- All MUST be RESPECTED
- Sadly Today – a Division that has formed in the Church
 - Those who have a personality like John – Mad at those who have a personality like Paul
 - And the Other way around
 - Illustration – I tend to be more like Paul
 - Criticize by those who are like John as...
 - Unloving –
 - Putting Walls Up –
 - To Harsh –
 - Stop Talking about Politics – Honestly I not even sure what that means... Explain
 - Its critical we take the current issues of our day and look at them from the Biblical world view
 - My response back is Would you have condone by Silence SLAVERY – Or would you spoken out against it
- The JOB of the Church – Pastor
 - Make Disciples Matt. 28
 - Equip the Saints – for the work of the ministry Eph. 4
 - It takes all personalities
 - All MUST BE RESPECTED
- My Calling – is all of this
 - Part of equipping is WARING

○ **I Like how Tozer said it**

- A prophet is one who knows his times and what God is trying to say to the people of his times.
- What God says to His Church at any given period depends altogether upon her moral and spiritual condition and upon the spiritual need of the hour. Religious leaders who continue mechanically to expound the Scriptures without regard to the current religious situation are no better than the scribes and lawyers of Jesus' day who faithfully parroted the Law without the remotest notion of what was going on around them spiritually. They fed the same diet to all and seemed wholly unaware that there was such a thing as meat in due season. The prophets never made that mistake nor wasted their efforts in that manner. They invariably spoke to the condition of the people of their times.
- Today we need prophetic preachers; not preachers of prophecy merely, but preachers with a gift of prophecy. The word of wisdom is missing. We need the gift of discernment again in our pulpits. It is not ability to predict that we need, but the anointed eye, the power of spiritual penetration and interpretation, the ability to appraise the religious scene as viewed from God's position, and to tell us what is actually going on.
- A. W. Tozer Sermon: Spiritual Appraisers

• **Third: Is Christ Divided v. 13**

1 Corinthians 1:13 (NKJV)

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

- **1st Is Christ Divided?**
 - Jesus does not belong to any one “party”
 - These cliques ignore the truth of unity
 - These people were guilty of focusing on the messenger not the message or the one who sent it!
 - We can be guilty of the same thing
 - Lesson - Spiritual elitism is terrible, no matter whose name it is practiced in.
 - Illustration
 - There was an old, contentious Quaker who went from one meeting to another, never finding the “true” church. Someone

once said to him, “Well, what church are you in now?” He said, “I am in the true church at last.” “How many belong to it?” “Just my wife and myself, and I am not sure about her sometimes.”

- It's normal to have your favorite teachers
 - But when a person gets held into such esteem that we can't receive from anyone else – that's trouble
 - In my walk I have had the privilege of being able to sit under the teaching and ministries of several great pastors
 - Blessed by the different commentators
 - But when we think that any one person has all the answers or we can only learn and grow by this person - we limit God
- Paul says is Christ divided?
 - The Answer is NO –
 - Paul, Peter and Apollos all had the same goal –
 - To see people grow in Christ – and pointed to Christ
 - I am sure the attitude in Corinth grieved Peter and Apollos the same way it grieved Paul
 - In their hearts they didn't want to see anyone following after them or any other man - but Christ
- **2nd Paul goes on to say I wasn't crucified for you - and were you baptized in the name of Paul**
 - In other words what Paul was saying was I didn't seek to point anyone to me and I didn't do anything to save you
 - The Crux of their Problem / root of every problem...they took their eyes off Jesus / off of the Cross
 - Lesson
 - Watch out for this Pastors who are seeking a following!!!!!!!
 - RUN FORM THEM AS FAST AS YOU CAN

Reminder Of The Priority vs. 14-17

- **First: His Purpose Was Involved vs. 14-16**

1 Corinthians 1:14–16 (NKJV)

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.

16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

- **1st Context**

- Apparently - Some of the Corinthian Christians (probably those of the “Paul Party”)
- Made a big deal of the fact that they had been baptized by Paul.
- Paul was therefore grateful that he had not baptized very many in Corinth (lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name).
- Of course, Paul did baptize a few in Corinth. Crispus is likely mentioned in Acts 18:8, Gaius in Romans 16:23.

- **2nd I thank God... Christ did not send me to baptize:**

- Paul is SAYING
 - Baptism is important
 - But the Gospel being preached is MORE important
 - Preaching was more important than baptizing, though he was certainly not opposed to baptism.
- Paul confesses he couldn’t remember who he’d baptized...He’d lost track...I do too
 - Paul is reminding them that he was called to preach the Gospel and establish the church
 - And basically, he and Peter and Apollos were just servants of Jesus...keep focused on the Lord

- **3rd Now these verses aren’t saying that baptism isn’t important in the church**

- Paul is Saying Preaching the Gospel is the most important things
- Baptism is important after that –
- But Keep the focus

- You are saved by grace through faith, plus nothing!
- Baptism is a beautiful representation of salvation:

- **Second: His Presentation Wasn't The Key v. 17**

1 Corinthians 1:17 (NKJV)

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

- **1st "Not with wisdom of words" v. 17b**
 - It was the message and not the messenger that was important
 - Paul did not get in the way of the Gospel being preached
 - Faithful teaching puts the emphasis on the Person and work of Jesus

- **Third: His Power Was In The Message Of The Cross v. 17c**

- Lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect
 - NIV - "emptied of its power"
 - NASB - "made void"
 - How can the Gospel "be made of no effect?"
 - It means you should never attribute the success of the message to any particular way of delivering it
 - Today, there's a lot of emphasis on delivery
 - Is the guy smooth, funny, relevant?
 - Not bad things in themselves...but not the main thing

Closing

- What Paul was/IS saying could be summarized as "Meet Me at the Cross"
 - We are all Equal at the foot of the Cross
 - Put away Divisions –