

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1:10-17

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **“ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD” – PART 1**

*HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Salvation, Righteousness, Walk, Encouragement**

## ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD

### **1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

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

### **The Church at Corinth, Greece**

**The Church Serves Itself and Will, Against All Odds.**

### **Matthew 16:13-18**

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" **:14** So they said, "Some say John the

Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” :15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” :16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” :17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. :18 And I also say to you that you are **Peter**, ( *Pe÷troß Petros*, pet'-ros; a piece of a rock ) and on this **rock** (*pe÷tra Petra*, pet'-ra; a mass of rock or great rock) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

## “ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD”

*WHAT GOD CAN DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE UNITE IN TRUTH!*

**1.) A united church – will have the same Lord**

**v.10**

**1a.) We're united in obedience**

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

“Now I plead with you”

**plead** *parakale÷w parakaleo*, *par-ak-al-eh'-o*;  
to **call** you near, to **invite** you over to where he's standing.

**(a title describing the person and work of the Holy Spirit)**

**John 16:7**

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the **Comforter** *parakale÷w parakaleo*, will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

**The “Discipleship” Ministry of the Holy Spirit = Comforter - Advocate**

**1 John 2:1**

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** *parakale÷w parakaleo*, with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**Paul is Saying - - Join Me, United - Under the Authority  
of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

## Notice: He calls them... "brethren"

This is an amazing example of both Christian love and a Spiritual Maturity on Paul's part to have them see the body of Christ "Bigger & Better" than Themselves.

## A UNITED CHURCH WILL HAVE THE SAME LORD

### 1b.) We're united by fellowship

(1) that you all speak **the same thing**, and (2) that there be no **divisions** among you, but that you (3) be **perfectly joined together**...

### What is the "thing"?

#### 1 Corinthians 1:4-5

I thank my God always concerning you for the **thing** grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, :5 that you were **thing** enriched in everything by Him in all **thing** utterance and all **thing** knowledge,

#### Psalm 133:1

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

#### Divisions

Grk: sci÷sma schisma, *skhis'-mah*;

a split or gap ("schism") to rip or tear apart. To break the bone or to cut the fabric. (*a united humanity in and under the will of God*)

#### James 4:1-3

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. :3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

#### together

Grk: **perfectly joined together** katarti÷zw katartizo, *kat-ar-tid'-zo*;

to complete thoroughly, to bond or to frame, mend, restore.

(*a united humanity in and by the will of God*)

## This is the great overlooked secret of Christianity.

*Personal growth and development only comes through public (body) service.*

*Christianity is the only faith in the world that is devocated to "others"*

The church is a human mosaic, a jigsaw puzzle of people united in Christ.

**Colossians 2:2,19**

that their hearts may be encouraged, being **knit** together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ... **:19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and **knit** together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

**Knit** - “a medical term - to cause the bones to heal back together”

**The personal ministry of every believer**

is to do all that is within your power to mend, heal, repair others in the body

**Galatians 5:14-16**

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **:15** But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! **:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

**A UNITED CHURCH WILL HAVE THE SAME LORD**

**1c.) We’re united on mission**

...(4) in **the same mind** and (5) in **the same judgment**.

**Mind**

Grk: the same mind *nouvß nous, nooce*;  
a united intellect, to think, feel and be in harmony of thought and mind to have an understanding. (*a united humanity in and through the will of God*)

**Romans 12:16**

Be of the same mind toward one another.

**Philippians 2:4-5**

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

**Judgment**

Grk: the same judgment *gnwðmh gnome, gno´-may*; the same answer, the same opinion, the same counsel, the same advice, the same judgment, the same purpose.

# “ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD”

WHAT GOD CAN DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE UNITE IN TRUTH!

## 2.) A united church – will share the same vision

v.11-13

### 2a.) Our vision is united for Him

11 For it has been **declared** to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, (*not a few*) that there are **contentions** among you.

**Declared** Grk: dhlo/w deloo, *day-lo'-o*;  
Presented, signify, discovered. It's the repeated facts by eyewitnesses (*this is no rumor*)

**Contentions** Grk: eῤῥισ eris, *er'-is*;  
To be in a state of a quarrelling. To wrangle, argue, debate, strive.

The church is a living, breathing organism  
made up of people from every walk of life...

#### James 4:6-8a

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*” :7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

:8a Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

## A UNITED CHURCH WILL SHARE THE SAME VISION

### 2b.) Our vision is united around Him

12 Now I say this, that each of you say, “**I am of Paul,**” or “**I am of Apollos,**”  
Or “**I am of Cephas,**” or “**I am of Christ.**”

**These dangers are still with us today**

*A litany of personality cults*

## **It is sinful and wrong for any man or woman**

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to insert themselves or to promote themselves to a place of being an authority or a leader over others because they seek such a place.

### **Hebrews 5:4**

No one takes this honor upon himself;  
he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.

“If God hasn’t called you – then who has?”

“and if God hasn’t called you – then you haven’t the call”

Self-appointed men **give birth to cult-like** actions or even cults themselves.

Beware of any man that “has to be in the ministry”

(I can’t find “spiritual ambition” anywhere in the scripture that’s in a good light)

**The danger is, there’s always a self-ordained leader looking for an audience, while at the same time, there’s always an audience looking for someone.”**

### **2 Timothy 4:3**

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

“**I am of Paul,**” / “**I am of Apollos,**” / “**I am of Cephas,**” / “**I am of Christ.**”

**It’s a sad truth** – the church today has its **stars and superstars.**

“the funny thing is – I know some of them and they are shocked, & surprised at what they hear about themselves.

### **But It’s A Corinthian Carnality That Creates This:**

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“star-status” is created by carnally minded people. They want to have religious icons and Christian celebrities. Its carnal, worldly, and idolatry.

### **Galatians 2:20**

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.

“I am of Paul,”                    you would be saying that you are of the **world**  
“I am of Apollos, you’re saying that you are of the **intellectuals**  
“I am of Cephas, you are of the jews, the **legalists**  
“I am of Christ.                    you are of a group of elites, the **best of the best**

each of us must stop and ask ourselves down deep inside if we are for real

**“Am I a real, authentic Christian?”**

**Does The Power of Christ’s**

crucifixion and resurrection show in your life and lifestyle?

**Without the Power of the Cross in Your Life:**

You’ll keep visiting those sites that generate immorality

**Without the Power of the Cross in Your Life:**

You’ll keep driving by and pulling in to that bar to get a drink.

**Without the Power of the Cross in Your Life:**

You’ll keep yielding to that untamed temper and pride.

**Without the Power of the Cross in Your Life:**

You’ll never be able to end that ungodly relationship that pulls you down.

**2 Corinthians 7:1**

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**A UNITED CHURCH WILL SHARE THE SAME VISION**

**2c.) Our vision is united by Him**

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

This **is actually the baptism into** the name of...

This is not water baptism, but rather the work of the Holy Spirit of immersing, placing into, putting the believer into Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:13**

For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

**A WARNING HERE BY PAUL**

**The futility of following a man or man-made system.**

**Galatians 3:26-29**

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **:29** And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

I have friends who are **Calvinist** - they're following the interpretation of Scripture by John Calvin

I have friends who are **Wesleyan** - they're following the interpretation of scripture by John Wesley

I have friends who are **Baptist** - they're following the interpretation of scripture by John the Baptist (*joking*)

What I love about being the pastor of this church is that all of you "types" are here – look around you!

**The Invitation & Challenge**

**This is our Homework.**

1. We're to Stop Being Divided and Competitive.
2. We're to Unite in Humble Obedience to God
3. With Eager Submission, do what the Bible Says to do – Period.

**WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE AND GET TO  
A CITY THAT WANTS TO SEE LOVE IN ACTION !**

*End of Study*