

Sermon Guide – Jan. 22, 2023

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-18.

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, 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," 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.

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

Paul is writing to the church at Corinth with concern about the divisions which are occurring within the community of faith.

Our society is challenged by divisions. Which divisions concern you most? How are those divisions hurting our sense of unity?

Have you experienced divisions within your community of faith? What was the issue? How did the conflict begin? How was it resolved?

Paul writes that we must be united in one Lord, Jesus Christ. Is it possible to be unified in Jesus Christ and still disagree about issues within the church?