

1Corinthians – Week 3

I. Hand out and go over Review Quiz #1

II. Divisions in the Church

A. 1Cor. 1:10 (ESV), “*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*”

- i. Paul’s starts his exhortation with a tender, affectionate appeal rather than a stern command.
- ii. This exhortation is done out of reverence for Christ and His authority.
- iii. In fact, this is the tenth time Paul mentions “Christ”
 1. By doing so, he is focusing the Corinthians’ attention on Christ, who, alone, deserves the preeminence.
 2. They were to regard what he was about to say as coming from the Lord Himself.
- iv. The formula for unity:
 1. That all of you agree
 - a. That is, agree with the things the Holy Spirit was about to communicate to them through Paul.
 - b. KJV says “*speak the same things*”
 - i. That is, speak the things the Holy Spirit was about to communicate to them through Paul.
 - c. In other words, he wants them to hold to the same doctrines.
 - i. 1Peter 4:11a (ESV), “*whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God*”
 1. The word “oracles” means something spoken or uttered.
 2. That there be no divisions
 - a. The body of Christ has been marred by broken fellowship caused by loyalty to men over loyalty to Christ.
 3. That you be united in the same mind and judgment
 - a. The Greek word for united is “*katartizo*” which denotes a repairing or mending, like mending a net. (cf. Mark 1:19)
 - b. In context, Paul is telling them to “mend” their broken unity back together.
 - i. He is imploring the Corinthians to have the same mind and judgment in what he is about to tell them in this epistle!

B. 1Cor. 1:11-17 (ESV), “*For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, ‘I follow Paul,’ or ‘I follow Apollos,’ or ‘I follow Cephas,’ or ‘I follow Christ.’*”

- i. We don’t know who Chloe was but members of her household informed Paul of the problems going on at Corinth.
- ii. It is normal for people to have a deeper appreciation for others:
 1. Paul:
 - a. He planted the Corinthian church and taught them for 18 months (Acts 18:8, 11)
 - b. He was their gospel father (cf. 1Cor. 4:15)
 2. Apollos:
 - a. He was a gifted speaker and knowledgeable in Scripture and was effective in refuting the Jews, proving that Jesus was the Messiah. (Acts 18:24-19:1)

3. Cephias (Greek translation of Peter):
 - a. John 1:42 (ESV), *“He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephias” (which means Peter).”*
 - b. Since Peter was a leading apostle to the Jews, it is understandable that many early Christians, especially Jewish believers, would have deep respect for him.
- iii. The problem:
1. The members were appreciating their leaders way too much, causing quarrels and divisions within the congregation.
 2. They started boasting in their teachers instead of boasting in Christ and His gospel!
 - a. Some would say: “I follow Paul, the father of this congregation!”
 - b. While others say, “Well, I follow Apollos, the great apologist!”
 - c. Still others say, “Well, I follow Cephias! He was with Jesus from the beginning and planted the first congregation in Jerusalem!”
 - d. While others say, “Well, I’m merely a follower of Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior of my soul!”
 - e. What we read here is exactly how denominationalism started:
 - i. Martin Luther started the Lutheran denomination
 - ii. John Calvin started the Presbyterian denomination
 - iii. Today, these denominations, along with many others, are divided among themselves!
 3. All divisions stand contrary to the will of Christ
 - a. Paul calls factions and dissensions works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-20)
 - b. He exposes and corrects their sin by asking three rhetorical questions...
 - i. By the way, rhetorical questions have obvious answers....
- C. 1Cor. 1:13a (ESV), *“Is Christ divided?”*
- i. No! Christ is the one and only Head!
 - ii. So why are you divided?
- D. 1Cor. 1:13b (ESV), *“Was Paul crucified for you?”*
- i. No! Christ was crucified for our sins!
 - ii. Paul, Apollos and Cephias are mere men, sinners, whom, by God’s grace and the sanctification that comes through Jesus Christ, have become saints, like you!
 - iii. So why are you divided?
- E. 1Cor. 1:13c (ESV), *“Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”*
- i. No! It is by Christ’s authority we are baptized into His death, burial and resurrection (cf. Romans 6:3-4) for the forgiveness of sins! (cf. Acts 2:38)
 - ii. So why are you divided?
 - iii. Therefore, let stop boasting in men and mend the broken unity by being united in word, thought and judgment, recognizing that it is Christ, alone, whom we follow!