

## 1Corinthians – Week 4

### I. Review:

A. Paul addresses the divisions caused by “*preacher-itis*” within the Church as reported by some of Chloe’s household (1Cor. 1:10-13)

- i. He starts his exhortation with a tender, affectionate appeal rather than a stern command.
- ii. And then proceeds to give the formula for unity:
  1. AGREE (KJV says “speak the same things”)
    - a. Speak as one who speaks the very words of God (cf. 1Peter 4:11a)
  2. NO DIVISIONS (stop the “*preacher-itis*”)
    - a. Be careful not to make men objects of devotion:
      - i. For Christ is not divided
        1. He, alone, is our Head and Leader!
        - ii. Christ was the one crucified!
        - iii. We have been baptized into the name of Christ; by His authority!
  3. HAVE THE SAME MIND AND JUDGMENT
    - a. That is, mend your broken fellowship!
    - b. Note: Does “*same mind*” mean that Christians are to have the same opinions? No.
      - i. Romans chapter 14 addresses the topic of disputable matters.
      - ii. Although Christians may have different convictions regarding disputable matters, they are to be united in terms of what God says on to deal with such matters:
        1. Don’t judge your brother on disputable matters (Romans 14:1)
        2. Do what leads to peace and edification (Romans 14:19)
        3. Keep your opinions to yourself (Romans 14:22)
    - c. Therefore, be united...
      - i. In Bible doctrine
      - ii. In love for one another
      - iii. In carrying out God’s commandments.

B. Divisions in the Church (continuation)

- i. After Paul asks a series of rhetorical questions in verse 13 regarding the wrongness of their divisions and quarreling, he goes on to say...
- ii. 1Cor. 1:14-15 (ESV), “*I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.*”
  1. Sidenotes:
    - a. Crispus was the chief synagogue ruler in Corinth (Acts 18:8)
    - b. Paul stayed at Gaius’ house in Corinth while he wrote the epistle of Romans (cf. Rom. 16:23)
  2. Paul wanted to keep Christ central in his ministry.
  3. He thanked God that he did not baptize these believers so that none of them could say “Hey, I was baptized by Paul! Therefore, I follow him!”
- iii. 1Cor. 1:16 (ESV), “*(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)*”
  - a. The household of Stephanas were Paul’s first converts in Achaia (cf. 1Cor. 15:16)
  - b. Beyond Crispus, Gaius and Stephanas’ household, he couldn’t remember who else he baptized at Corinth.
    - i. I can, personally, relate to Paul: I can’t remember all those whom I baptized. ☺

- iv. 1Cor. 1:17 (ESV), “*For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.*”
1. Some use this passage to say that baptism is not essential to salvation since Paul said he did not come to baptize, but to preach the gospel:
    - a. It is unthinkable that Paul is contradicting Jesus in Mark 16:16
    - b. It is also unthinkable that Paul was contradicting Peter in Acts 2:38, since both men spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
    - c. Let’s look at the context...
      - i. Paul was addressing the problem of “*preacher-itis*” in the Church.
        1. Their attitude reflected a worldly mindset (cf. 1Cor. 3:3-4)
        2. Paul, Apollos and Peter were mere servants whom God used to convey His truth to them (cf. 1Cor. 3:5)
        3. And, therefore, they should stop boasting in men (cf. 1Cor. 3:21)
      - ii. Judging by the rhetorical question that Paul made in verse 13c, “*...Were you baptized into the name of Paul?*” and judging by the statement he just made in verses 14-15...
        1. Some claimed to be disciples of those who personally baptized them.
        2. Therefore, Paul was grateful he had not baptized those in Corinth who were boasting in men.
      - iii. Now, was Paul saying baptism was not essential? Note the following...
        1. According to Acts 18:8...
          - a. Upon Paul’s preaching of the gospel, many of the Corinthians believed and were baptized.
          - b. Therefore, baptism played a significant role in Paul’s preaching (sounds like Mark 16:15-16).
        2. Looking back at 1Corinthians 1:13...
          - a. For a person to call himself after Paul (or any other man), two things are needed:
            - i. Paul would have had to be crucified for that person (cf. 1Cor. 1:13b)
            - ii. That person would have had to be baptized into Paul’s name (cf. 1Cor. 1:13c)
            - iii. Since neither of these two happened, therefore, no man should be calling himself after Paul.
          - b. For a person to call himself after Christ (a Christian), two things are needed:
            - i. Christ would have had to be crucified for that person (which He did).
            - ii. That person would have had to be baptized into the name of Christ.
            - iii. Then, and only then, can a person rightfully say, “I follow Christ. I am a Christian.”
        3. Paul implies in vv. 13-16 that one cannot belong to Christ unless he has been baptized into Christ (cf. Gal. 3:26-27).
  - iv. Lord willing, in the next class, we will continue to look at verse 17 and others.