

Is Christ Divided? 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Explained

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; 15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. 16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. 17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

Introduction — The Book of 1 Corinthians

The book of 1 Corinthians is written to a church that has serious problems. This is not a perfect church—it is a divided church. There is pride, confusion, sin, and disorder, and Paul is writing to correct it.

Right at the beginning, he addresses division. Before he deals with sin, before he deals with spiritual gifts, he deals with this issue. That tells you how serious it is. When people start dividing themselves into groups and attaching themselves to men, everything else begins to fall apart.

What Happened Before This? (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

Before this, Paul introduces himself and reminds them that they are sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be saints. He acknowledges the grace of God given to them and confirms that they are enriched in Christ.

This matters because he is not writing to lost people. He is writing to believers who are already saved. That means what he is about to rebuke is happening inside a saved church, not outside.

Speak the Same Thing — No Divisions

1 Corinthians 1:10

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

Paul is pleading with them. He is urging them strongly in the name of Jesus Christ. "Now, I BESEECH you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." That's very strong.

“That ye all speak the same thing.” That means unity in doctrine. Not everyone saying whatever they want, not everyone forming their own opinions. The truth is one, and they are supposed to align with it.

“And that there be no divisions among you.” Division is not acceptable. It is not normal. It is not something to tolerate. We stick to the word of God, and we have no divisions. Divisions form when someone leaves the word of God and wants to go with their own opinions.

“But that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” That means restored, aligned, fitted together again. The goal is unity in mind and judgment, not confusion, not divided, not debating, not arguing. PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER.

Contentions — Real Conflict in the Church

1 Corinthians 1:11

For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

Paul didn't make this up. This came from “the house of Chloe.” That means people connected to Chloe—her household, those around her—reported what was going on in the church at Corinth.

So this is confirmed information. Not rumors, not assumptions. People who were there saw the problem and brought it to Paul.

“There are contentions among you.” That's strife, arguing, and division. Not small differences. This is conflict that is affecting the church. And notice this—it didn't stay inside Corinth. It got out. People heard about it, and it was serious enough to be reported back to Paul. That's what division does. It spreads, and it brings reproach or shame.

For example, we have had issues with people who come here who aren't here for the right reasons. This causes division. This causes arguments. This causes all kinds of problems.

Divided by Men — The Root Problem

1 Corinthians 1:12

Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

This is the core issue. They are dividing themselves based on men. Some follow Paul. Some follow Apollos. Some follow Cephas. And even some say “I am of Christ” in a way that separates themselves from others.

This is not unity. This is factionalism. This is people grouping themselves and elevating leaders instead of focusing on Christ. This same problem exists today in churches. People attach themselves to preachers, movements, or labels instead of simply standing on the truth.

Is Christ Divided? – The Core Question

1 Corinthians 1:13

Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Paul asks direct questions. “Is Christ divided?” The answer is obvious. No. Christ is one. So why are you dividing yourselves? “Was Paul crucified for you?” No. Paul did not die for their sins. “Were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” No. They were not.

This destroys their entire argument. Their loyalty to men is misplaced because none of those men saved them. All loyalty goes to Jesus Christ. All glory goes to Jesus Christ. All praise goes to Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Salvation is in Jesus Christ, not in any man.

Paul Minimizes Himself

1 Corinthians 1:14-16

I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; 15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. 16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

Paul actually thanks God that he did not baptize many of them. Why? Because people were already dividing themselves based on who baptized them. If Paul had baptized many, they would use that as a reason to elevate him.

This shows Paul’s mindset. He is not trying to build a following. He is trying to point people away from himself and toward Christ. John the Baptist did the same thing. True disciples of Jesus Christ know that it's not about them, but it's about the ONE they are following who is Jesus Christ.

We will decrease. As we live our life, we realize that we are decreasing. Our bodies are taking us straight to death. We get weaker and weaker and weaker. We aren't increasing. So we point to Jesus Christ.

The Gospel — Not Human Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:17

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

This is critical. “Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel.” The primary mission is preaching the gospel. That is the focus. The Gospel of Jesus Christ saves. Getting baptized in water does not save. So the focus is on the preaching of the Gospel.

Now look at the next part. “Not with wisdom of words.” That means not with human philosophy, not with impressive speech, not with intellectual performance. The Scriptures have the power. Our words do not have the power.

“Lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.” If you start relying on human wisdom, you take away from the power of the cross. God's message has all the power required. We don't have to add other things to God's message. So, when we preach the Gospel, we focus in on His message.

The gospel does not need to be dressed up. It does not need to be improved. It is already the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Think about the power of God. The Gospel is the power of God.

What This Means in the Bigger Picture of the Bible

This issue goes all the way back. In the Old Testament, people repeatedly turned away from God and followed men, idols, and systems instead of truth. That pattern continues here. But the New Testament makes it clear—there is one foundation.

1 Corinthians 3:11

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Everything must be built on Him, not on personalities, not on men and women, NOT ON US. We build everything on Him.

Practical Applications

1. **Do not attach yourself to men.** No preacher, teacher, or leader died for your sins. Your faith is in Jesus Christ alone.

2. **Division in doctrine is not acceptable.** Truth is not multiple choice. The Bible defines truth, and believers are to align with it.
3. **The gospel is the main mission.** Everything else must stay secondary to preaching the gospel.
4. **Do not rely on human wisdom to make the gospel effective.** The power is already in the message of the cross.

Conclusion: Is Christ Divided?

The church at Corinth was dividing itself based on men, and Paul rebukes it directly.

Christ is not divided. No man was crucified for you except Jesus Christ. The gospel is the power of God, and it does not need human improvement.

The question is simple. Are you following Christ, or are you attaching yourself to men? Because those are not the same thing. We **MUST** preach Jesus Christ. And don't ever forget that. It's all about Him. It's not about us.

Let's pray.