

Unity: One Body, One Spirit

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Main idea: The family of God should unite with one another in Christ, refusing to create divisions or to elevate anyone as more important.

Key Verses: "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." **(1:10 ESV)**

Key Principles:

- The church is called to maintain unity because divisions hinder our collective witness for Christ.
- When we stop thinking like Jesus as individuals, then we stop acting like the church which leads to division and even destruction of our mission.
- Our identity and salvation are rooted in Christ, not in human leaders or personalities.
- If we stop following Christ, then we begin to focus our attention on personalities in the church which also leads to division and devastating consequences.
- The power of the gospel, not human eloquence or wisdom, brings salvation and transforms lives.
- Relying on the cross of Christ ensures that faith rests on God's power, not human ability or persuasion.

Discussion:

1. In what ways does division in the church distort the gospel and ruin the church's reputation? How does unity promote the gospel to a lost world?
2. What does it mean to be of the "same mind" and "same judgment"? What would this practically look like in the church? How can we cultivate it?
3. Do Christians downplay or accept quarreling in the church? If so, how? In what ways do Christians attempt to justify their divisive and quarrelsome attitudes?
4. Some Corinthians divided over who baptized them. What issues are Christians currently quarreling and dividing over? Why do quarreling and divisiveness indicate that someone has lost sight of Christ?
5. Does the idea of unity in the church mean there must be complete agreement on every issue? Why or why not?
6. What are the essentials that Christians must be united around? What can we disagree over while still preserving unity? And what can we biblically, yet peacefully, divide over?

Prayer:

- Focus on asking God for humility and a Christ-centered focus in our church.
- Pray:
 - For wisdom in addressing and healing divisions within the body of Christ.
 - Thank God for the power of the gospel that unites believers from all backgrounds.
 - That we would seek unity and promote peace in relationships within the church.

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1 Corinthians 1:10-17

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| I. | Listen to the <u>plea</u> for unity. | 1:10 |
| | 1. Be unified with your <u>words</u> . | |
| | 2. Be unified with your <u>beliefs</u> . | |
| II. | Listen to the <u>purpose</u> of unity. | 1:11-13 |
| | 1. <u>Leaders</u> should <u>point</u> to Christ. | 1:11-12 |
| | 2. The <u>Church</u> should <u>serve</u> Christ. | 1:13 |
| III. | Listen to the <u>problem</u> with unity. | 1:14-17 |
| | 1. <u>Purity</u> is more important than <u>unity</u> . | 1:14-16 |
| | 2. <u>Disunity</u> hinders the spread of the <u>gospel</u> . | 1:17 |

NEXT WEEK:
Christlike: The Mind of Christ
Philippians 2:1-11