

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Unity is the Goal – Division Destroys

Reading of Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16

1 Corinthians 1:10-11 – Same Conviction

"Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction." For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by members of Chloe's people, that there is rivalry among you.

In verse 10, we see that we should have unity of understanding and conviction. Not only should we be united in these things...God commands, desires and equips us to be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.

νοῦ - CSB understanding: mental capacity to exercise reflective thinking.

γνώμη - CSB conviction: a *personal opinion or judgment formed in (by) an active relationship, the result of direct ("first-hand") knowledge*.

There are many enemies to unity, but in verse 11, God chose to use the word rivalry.

ἔριδες - CSB Rivalry: literally quarrel, strife; having a readiness to quarrel (having a *contentious spirit*), *affection for dispute*.

This particular word translated rivalry is the opposite of the words for understanding and conviction. When you set aside "reflective thinking" and "sound judgement" you get strife.

1 Corinthians 1:12-16 – United in Christ

¹²What I am saying is this: One of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in Paul’s name? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶I did, in fact, baptize the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t recall if I baptized anyone else.

Christ unites us.

Paul wasn’t interested in having followers...he was interested in having people follow Jesus. We don’t need people to follow “our guy” or “our systems” ...we need people to follow Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:17 – Preach the Gospel

¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied of its effect.

When we add to or subtract from the gospel...the implications from verse 17 is that we can empty the cross of Christ of its effect.

Galatians 1:6-9 (CSB): ⁶I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! ⁹As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him!

Romans 1:6 (CSB): For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.
