


1 Corinthians 1:10-17


Division In The Name of
Wisdom

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April 11, 2010



Outline

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 - 1. Division in the name of wisdom 1:10-17
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Paul Rebukes Corinthian Divisions

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **agree** and that **there be no divisions** among you, but that you **be made complete** in the same mind and in the same judgment.

2 Thess 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life...

agree – better rendered “speak the same thing” (I egw)

- A. You all say the same thing Anticipates vs 13
- B. there be no divisions “has Christ been divided?”
- A. You be of the same mind


 **The Nature of the Divisions**

divisions = schismata – It does not mean party or faction as much as it means to tear/rent.

Mark 2:21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; otherwise the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear results.

John 9:16 Therefore the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.


"Thus Paul does not refer to distinctly formed groups here, but to divided opinions over their various leaders" (Fee, NICNT).

 **"Be Knit Together"**

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

be made complete = kat ar tizw - "to knit together"

Mark 1:19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.

 **Chloe's Household's Report**

1 Cor 1:11-12 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cehpas," and "I of Christ."

upo twn Cl ohV= "by those of Chloe" – workers not the family. Family would have kept the father's name even if deceased (Fee).

egw = furnishes proof that these were not parties or factions. The church as a whole was filled with people who exalted their own "sophia" and cited different teachers to set themselves apart.

The Corinthian Problem

1. The Corinthian love and zeal for wisdom led people to "attach themselves" to different teachers they felt would set them apart. (Paul did not fault the other teachers!)

1 Cor 16:12 But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren...

2. The Corinthians rejected Paul and were in jeopardy of turning from his gospel because of its simplicity.

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption

Paul's Rhetorical Response

1 Cor 1:13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

~~never~~ ist ai o CristoV = "the Christ divided!" "(You have) divided Christ!" – Brings us back to divisions of verse 10!

Rhetorical questions force the Corinthians to admit the obvious.

Romans 6:2-3 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Baptism In Christ – Not Paul


Note: The Corinthians may have had a magical view of baptism:

1 Cor 15:29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?

Baptism


1. Symbolizes death with Christ and therefore resurrection with Him. (Rom 6:3-5; Col 2:12-13)

2. Identity: We are with (or in) Christ!

 **Baptism In Christ – Not Paul**

1 Cor 1:14-16 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one would say you were baptized in my name. Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.


Crispus = Synagogue leader Acts 18:8
 Gaius = (wealthy) Romans 16:23
 Stephanas = first converts in Achaia 1 Cor 16:15-17
 The Corinthians could not claim their identity was Paul – it was in Christ!

 **Paul Was Sent To Preach The Gospel**

1 Cor 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

apostel l w = the verbal counterpart to apostle
 sof ia l ogou = “wisdom of word”
 kenow = “be made empty”

For Paul, God’s wisdom was bound up in the promises of God in Christ and His cross – not in the mode of presentation by mere humans.

 **Summary**

“It is easy to see the urgency of a paragraph like this for the contemporary church, which not only often experiences quarrels such as these at the local level, but also is deeply fragmented at every other level...This fragmentation is both a shame on our house and a cause for deep repentance. If there is a way forward, it probably lies less in structures and more in our readiness to recapture Paul’s focus here – on the preaching of the cross as the great divine contradiction to our merely human ways of doing things” (Fee, NICNT).
