

1 Corinthians

Divisions in the Church—1 Corinthians 1:10–17

Open It

1. Over what matters do families often argue?
2. When was a time you helped two people settle a dispute?

1 Corinthians 1:10–17 (ESV)

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.

¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

¹⁷For 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.

Explore It

3. Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to agree with one another? (1:10)
4. What specific problem were the Corinthian Christians having? (1:11–12)
5. How was Paul a part of the Corinthians' problems? (1:13–17)
6. How did baptism cause division in the Corinthian church? (1:13–17)
7. What can result from preaching the gospel with "words of human wisdom"? (1:17)
8. What danger is there in dividing a church? (1:17)

Get It

9. What does it mean for Christians to be "perfectly united in mind and thought"?
10. What church divisions have you known or heard about?
11. What has been the outcome in church splits of which you are aware?
12. What social and cultural forces present the greatest threat to the unity of Christ's church today?

Apply It

13. What is the first step you could take to heal a damaged relationship with another Christian?