

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

### Lesson 2

A gifted church full of contentions. How does this happen? In this section of 1 Corinthians Paul begins his loving exhortation and correction to the church he planted in Corinth. The problems in Corinth are not limited to these early believers, but are prominent in the church today. May we learn from their mistakes and faithfully begin to apply the instructions Paul had for them and has for us today.

#### **DAYS ONE and TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 has been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

**Verses 10-12**

**Verses 13-17**

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lesson: *God, Jesus, Paul*, and words referring to the recipients of the letter

New to this lesson: *divisions/divided* and *wisdom*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, and Paul*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to Paul - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Now, using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, record what these verses in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 reveal about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems** and **Commands**.

a. Review your markings (Observation Worksheets) of references to the author and the recipients. Summarize Paul's concern.

**DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-11**

1. Moving on from the *grace* and *enrichment* of the church in Corinth *which lacked no spiritual gift* (NIV) into 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 is somewhat disconcerting. One would assume that with all this divine supply the church would function in peace and harmony. Identify the problem Paul now must confront in his letter by completing these phrases from verse 10 and 11:
  - a. verse 10 ... and that there be no \_\_\_\_\_ among you...
  - b. verse 11 ... that there are \_\_\_\_\_ among you.
  
2. It must have been disheartening to Paul to hear that these believers were quarrelling among themselves about who was the greatest minister. List the three things he pleaded with them to do from 1 Corinthians 1:10:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  
3. Division and disunity in the church was a direct contradiction of that *fellowship* into which the Corinthian believers were called by God (verse 9). We need to seriously consider this verse. Think about division, contentions, and disunity in the light of the following exhortations. Write what they say in the left-hand column and what they say to you in the right-hand column. Ask yourself: What is my responsibility in maintaining unity among the believers?

What They Say	What They Say To Me
Ephesians 4:1-3	
Philippians 2:1-5, 14-15	
Colossians 3:12-15	

4. How did Paul find out about this problem?

Challenge: Define the word *contentions*.

- a. Chloe is a woman's name. It is to the credit of her house that this problem was reported to Paul and was one of the reasons for his writing of this letter. Under what circumstances would you feel compelled to alert your pastor or leader to a problem in the church?

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
For brethren to dwell together in unity!*

- Psalm 133:1

#### **DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 1:12-16**

1. According to 1 Corinthians 1:12 what were these believers saying?
  - a. How could this statement be similar to problems in the church today?
2. By three piercing questions of 1 Corinthians 1:13, Paul is pointing out the ridiculousness of their contentious spirit which was causing division in the church. What is the answer to each of these questions?
  - a. What is the significance of Paul's questions and commentary on baptism in his (Paul's) name? (1 Corinthians 1:13-16)

*Paul is not making little of baptism; he is simply glad that no act of his  
could be misconstrued as annexing men for himself and not for Christ.*

-Barclay

3. Unfortunately, this partisan rivalry is not alien to the church today. How will these verses help you avoid this contentious attitude?

## DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 1:17

1. Paul only baptized a few people. Why did he *thank God* for that? Verses 14,15
  
2. *Christ did not send me to baptize but to evangelize* is one Bible scholar's paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 1:17a. Paul's next statement begins to expose the root of the division in this Corinthian church. The phrase *wisdom of words* refers to influencing or dazzling people by eloquent oratory – embellishing the gospel with rhetoric and cleverness – and leads to people being impressed more with the speaker than the message. What affect would this have on the *cross of Christ* (the simple doctrine that Christ died to save sinners)? Verse 17b
  - a. Write the answer to the above question in your own words.

*A dazzling display of rhetoric might impress the intellect  
but it would not lead the conscience to appropriate a divine salvation.  
- Vincent*

3. Paul in this verse is not putting down those who carefully prepare their message and speak well. He is speaking against those who seek to impress and influence others with their brilliance or ability. The Greeks highly valued words of human wisdom. Observe this in Paul's encounter with the Athenians in Acts 17:15-21. What do you see?
  - a. Contrast these empty philosophies of man's wisdom with Paul's clear, direct presentation of the gospel by reading 1 Corinthians 2:4,5. Write these verses phrase by phrase. Use other versions if you like.
    - 1.) In light of these verses what is important for all preachers of the gospel?
  
4. Today there are many speakers espousing their own religious philosophy. Some are very polished orators, smooth and enticing. How can we detect these phonies?
  
5. God's calling on Paul is recorded in Acts 26:17,18. What was Paul called to do?

*Forbid it Lord that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God.  
All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to His blood.  
- Isaac Watts*

## DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

1. Report the problem in the Corinthian church as you might if you were from Chloe's household.

Challenge: What is meant by the phrase *Is Christ divided* as it pertains to division in the church?

2. Think about the meaning of the word *fellowship*. In what way is disunity a contradiction of the *fellowship* we are supposed to have with Christ and other believers? See 1 John 1:3

- a. According to 1 John 1:7 what is essential to the maintenance of *fellowship*?

3. How can Christians avoid becoming distracted by petty disagreements?

4. What practices can help us be more united with other Christians?

5. What is wrong with preaching the gospel with words of human wisdom?

6. How will you apply the exhortation of this lesson in your own life?

*One by one we're drawn together, one by one to Jesus' side.  
One in Him, we'll live forever, strangers He has reconciled.*

*In His love no walls between us. In His love, a common ground.  
Kneeling at the cross of Jesus, all our pride comes tumbling down.*

*Let the walls fall down.  
By His love let the walls fall down.*

*- Batstone/Barbour*

## Scripture References - Lesson 2

### DAY THREE

**Ephes. 4:1-3** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Philip. 2:1-5** Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup>fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

**Philip. 2:14-15** Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup>that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

**Col. 3:12-14** Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. <sup>14</sup>But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

### DAY FOUR

**Matthew 28:19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

### DAY FIVE

**Acts 17:15-21** So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command from Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed. <sup>16</sup>Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbling man want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? <sup>20</sup>For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." <sup>21</sup>For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

**1 Cor. 2:4-5** And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

**Acts 26:17-18** I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

### DAY SIX

**1 John 1:3** that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.