

I Corinthians 1: 1-17 (New International Version)

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: ³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹²What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas^[a]"; still another, "I follow Christ."

¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into^[b] the name of Paul? ¹⁴I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Footnotes:

- a. [1 Corinthians 1:12](#) That is, Peter
- b. [1 Corinthians 1:13](#) Or in; also in verse 15

OASIS: *United or Divided?* I Corinthians 1: 1-17 (NIV)

Possible Starter question: What are some of the best aspects of going for a car ride with a group of friends?

Transitional comment: Today, we are going to “drive through” (aka study) a passage about “Unity in Christ”—a topic that can sound very theoretical. But our text is full of insights about both the spiritual reality and the practical challenges.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading (if you haven’t already prayed)
- Now let’s listen/follow along as someone reads our passage aloud.

First paragraph (vs. 1-3):

- O What does Paul want the readers of this letter to know about the senders? (v. 1)
- O What does Paul emphasize about the recipients? (v. 2)
 - I Which of these characteristics are equally applicable to us?
- O In what ways is God involved and active? (vs. 1-3)
- O In what ways (words, phrases and ideas) does Paul begin to build a foundation for the topic of unity? (vs. 1-3)

Second paragraph (vs.4-9):

- O Paul is clearly thankful for the church in Corinth. What are some of things that contribute to his thankfulness?
 - Which reflect God’s presence and activity?
 - Which result from the Corinthians responsiveness and activity?
- I Why do you think Paul writes to them about his prayer life? What might he be hoping that they will better understand?
 - A How can these insights affect our attitude and prayer life together?

Third paragraph (vs.10-12):

- O What is the problem? What do the Corinthians need to eliminate and avoid?
 - I What are similar patterns and problems that sometime occur within churches today? What do you think are some of the costs or damage?
- O What are the correctives or antidotes that Paul provides?

Fourth paragraph (vs.13-17):

O What do we learn about the Corinthian difficulties in this section?

I Why do you think Paul begins with a series of 3 questions?

A What questions do you think Paul might raise with us today?

O For Paul, what is his bottomline?

A Even though we are not apostles in the same way that Paul was, in what ways do we need to reflect a similar priority?

A Conclude by praying that God will speak as directly to you and your LIFE Community when division begins to surface.

Text is on other page or www.Biblegateway.com

- a. BIG idea: **overcoming factionalism and developing in-depth unity**
- b. Key verse: **I Cor. 1:10: “that you might be perfectly united in mind and thought”**
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).
- d.

Advice to study leaders:

- e. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?)
- f. Determine the core questions you’ll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time.
- g. Always reword questions in language/word choice that is comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn’t make sense to you, then discard it.)
- h. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- i. Timing: allocate your time and move forward gently but steadily.
- j. Pace the study—move on—conclude with “difference making” application.
- k. Secondary texts—be very sparing in your usage of other texts, even though they may be relevant. That tends to push you more into the “teaching” role, rather than the role of facilitator. It can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- l. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the IVP one volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21st Century Edition). It is well worth the \$40.