

## *“Is Christ Divided?”*

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

### *Celebrating the Centrality of Christ in the Local Assembly*

There are many profound and penetrating statements made through the revelation of God. One of the most penetrating in today’s individualized, autonomous culture is the question, “Is Christ divided?”

It is in this opening paragraph that the apostle addresses the problem that will surface if a local assembly fails to embrace the centrality of Christ. If there is division in a local assembly, ultimately it will be traced back to a failure in seeing the supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things.

#### I. The body of Christ should not be divided (v. 10a)

##### A. No divisions among you (v. 10)

The word "division" is "schism." It speaks of a split or gap. It is used literally for a rent in a garment (Matt. 9:16, Mark 2:21). Paul uses the word only three times in all of his letters and it is only used in 1 Corinthians (1:10, 11:18 and 12:25).

##### B. There are quarrels among you (v. 11)

The word quarrelling is used only 9 times in the New Testament. The idea is that of debate and of strife. “The word points to quarrels and is the hot dispute, the emotional flame that ignites whenever rivalry becomes intolerable.”

##### C. Has Christ been divided (v. 13)

This same word is used in Matthew 12:25 and 26.

Perhaps the greatest picture of heaven on earth is body unity and the greatest picture of hell on earth is its division.

#### II. The body of Christ is to be united (v. 10b)

Instead of being divided into quarreling cliques, Christians should be perfectly joined together. Notice with me the word in verse 10. Its usage in the New Testament is graphic.

- It speaks of mending fishing nets (Matthew 4:21).
- It speaks of a student following their teacher (Luke 6:40).
- It speaks of one who has fallen and is being restored (Gal. 6:1).

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### III. The reason for unity over division (vv. 11-17)

Verse 13 gives us three rhetorical questions. Each answer provides a reason for unity over division.

- A. The Wholeness of Christ - When have individual members become more important than the whole body? (vv. 11, 12)
- B. The Cross of Christ - Who died for your sins? (v. 13a)
- C. The Lordship of Christ - In whose name were you baptized? (vv. 13b-17a)

Division negates the purpose of His cross-work (v. 17b). It is through the cross-work preached that divisions are healed and unification of the body is possible.

There can be no unity where there is no Christ.

Division happens when people put their own personal preferences and positions over the collective "needs" of the body.

Friend, when the church is unified, she is a powerful tool for God in the advancement and fulfillment of His mission. May God help us to be unified around Him.