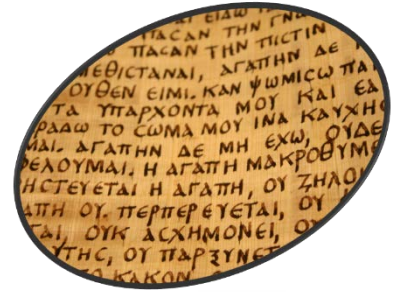


1 Corinthians – “Unity in Christ”

Lesson #2



I. Greetings & Kind Words

a. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

- b. Paul was not one of the original 12 Apostles with Jesus, why can he claim to be an apostle? (vs 1)
- c. Who was Sosthenes from Acts 18:17? (vs 1)
- d. What does sanctified mean? (vs 2)
- e. Note how Paul begins with an emphasis on unity. (vs 2)
- f. Speech and knowledge were a point of pride for the Corinthians. Where does Paul give credit for their gifts? (vs 5)

II. Houston, we have a problem!

a. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

- b. Paul words, “torn apart” and “mended,” for division and unity (vs 10) give us a visual of what happens with strife, conflict and rivalries.
- c. Why does Paul use Chloe’s name? (vs 11)
- d. Who do you follow? (vs 12) Does it matter who baptized you?
- e. Why would Paul say he wasn’t sent to baptize (vs 17), when the Great Commission is for God’s people to baptize and teach? (Matthew 28:19-20)
- f. Have you experienced a weak or poor sermon that God still worked through to bring people to faith? (vs 17) See (2 Cor 10:10; 11:6)
- g. Why do we have so many Christian denominations when Paul seems to be saying we should be unified?

III. Want answers? You find them in the cross.

a. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

- b. What about the cross foolish to the world? (vs 18)
- c. Is the cross offensive to us, or is it just jewelry and art?
- d. It seems the Corinthians were interested in wisdom, knowledge and power. How does the cross factor into these personal traits?
- e. Can humans know God by their own wisdom and power? (vs 21)
 - i. See Romans 1:19-20 (natural knowledge / revealed knowledge)
- f. Why do Jews look for signs and Greeks look for wisdom? (vss 22-25)

IV. The strange choices of God

a. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

- b. How does Paul describe the members of the Corinthian church? (vs 26)
- c. Sometimes we brag about our upbringing, or family, or our accomplishments. What is Paul saying in these verses about boasting?
- d. Give an example of a person or situation that seemed beyond help (lack of resources, intelligence, etc.) yet God worked through the person or situation to bring blessings and the Gospel.
- e. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24 – If we boast, where do we direct it?