

A PLEA FOR UNITY

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Introduction:

John 17:21 that **they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, **so that the world may believe** that you have sent me.

I. The Plea For Unity (10)

A. Agree In Christ

*10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you **agree**,*

B. Harmonize In Fellowship — and that there be **no divisions** among you,

C. Unite In Truth

- Unity In Action - *but that you be united*
- Unity In Thought - *in the same mind*
- Unity In Discernment - *and the same judgment.*

II. The Problem Of Division (11-17)

A. Conflict: When Tempted To Quarrel, Choose Peace (11)

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

B. Cliques: When Personalities Clash, Choose Christ (12)

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

C. Conceit: When Seeking Religious Prestige, Realize Grace (13-17)

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so 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.) 17 For 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.

Conclusion:

1. Guard against the flesh (1 Cor 3:3)
2. Avoid trivial disputes (Rom 14:1-2)
3. Seek to serve not split (3 Jn 9-10 vs. 1 Cor 9:19; Mk 10:45)