

***“United We Stand”***  
***1 Corinthians 1:10-16***

**Introduction:**

1. **IE:** Have You Ever Noticed:
  - That Even A Single Part Can Be Very Important!
  - Especially When Working With Motors & Engines!
  - Several Years Ago:
    - After A Long Winter - Spring Finally Arrived - And So Did The Time To Mow The Lawn!
    - Checked The Spark Plug / Filled Up The Tank With Gas / Made Sure The Blade Was Sharp & Securely Attached / Tried To Start It Up - Nothing Happened!
  - Soon Realized I Was Missing An Important Part!
    - The Oil!
    - Didn't Even Check It!
    - In Fact - That Engine Never Started Again!
  - What Can Happen If / When A Single Part:
    - Breaks Down Or Is Missing?
    - It Can Bring You To A Stand-Still!
2. As We Continue Through 1 Corinthians:
  - We Begin Looking At Some Of The Reasons Why Paul, Under The Inspiration Of God, Wrote To This Church In The First Place!
  - And One Of The Major Issues / Problems:
    - Was A Lack Of True Unity!
3. We Will See In 1:10-16:
  - That Unity Within A Church Is Very Important!
    - Read Passage! Pray!
  - Unity Within A Church – Within Our Church – Is Very Important!
    - Why? Because Of What We Learn In These Verses:

**1. *The Request For Unity!***

- **IE:** One Of The Most Important Elements Of Any Sports Team Is Unity! Something The Coach Will Try To Promote (Uniforms / Shoes) / And Then Demand (On The Court)! Remember Something My Old Basketball Coach Said: Noone Likes A Ball Hog! Not About Individuals / But About The Team! He Demanded Unity!
  - Like The True Coach / Pastor He Was, Paul Encourages The Church In Corinth & Every Church To Have True Unity!
- 1:10 - “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment!”
  - God Wants True Unity Within Our Church!
  - And, As A Brother In Christ, Paul Exhorts All Of God's People To True Unity!
- A Unity In Our Message – As A Church!
  - “That Ye All Speak The Same Thing!”
  - What We Teach & What We Say & What We Share:
    - Needs To Be Unified!
    - Lest There Be Confusion Inside & Outside The Church!
    - Gill - We Are To Strive To “Profess The Same Truths, And Express Them In The Same Words!”
  - Is There Unity In Our Message?
    - Have A Statement Of Faith – Do We Hold To It?
- A Unity In Our Manners – As A Church!
  - “And That There Be No Divisions Among You!”
  - “No Divisions” – No Schisms!
  - How We Act & Behave – Especially Towards One Another:
    - Needs To Be Unified!
  - 1 Corinthians 12:25 - “That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another!”
    - The Cure For Divisions Is To Care For One Another!
  - When There Are Differences / Offenses In The Way:
    - Need To Work On Resolving / Removing Them!
    - While Still Keeping The Same True Message!

- Is There Unity In Our Manners?
- A Unity In Our Mode – As A Church! Our Mode Of Operation!
  - “But That Ye Be Perfectly Joined Together In The Same Mind & In The Same Judgment!”
  - How We Operate Within The Church!
    - To Keep This Unity Given To Us By Jesus!
  - We Are To Strive To “Be Perfectly Joined Together!”
    - Means: To Fix / Mend Something Broken / Torn!
    - Like When Jesus Found James & John: “**Mending** Their Nets!” (Matthew 4:21)
  - This Is To Be The Ultimate Goal Of Our Church!
    - If There Is Something Torn / To Mend!
    - If There Is Something Broken / To Fix!
    - Ephesians 4:3 - “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!”
    - How Are We To Do This?
  - In How We Think! “In The Same Mind!”
    - We Need To Strive To Think The Same Way!
    - 2:6 - “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ!”
    - Unity Begins – When We All Strive To Think Like Christ! This Is Our Goal!
  - In What We Think! “And In The Same Judgment!”
    - We Need To Strive To Come To The Same Conclusions / Opinions As Christ Has Through His Word!
    - Remember: None Of Us Are “Independent Contractors” When It Comes To The Truth!
      - When This Happens - Disunity / Disharmony Will Result!
    - When It Comes To God’s Word & God’s Truth:
      - There Is Only One Truth!
    - We Need To Strive For That Truth!
      - Means - We All Need To Keep Growing!
  - And Even If There Is Disagreement:
    - There Does Not Have To Be Disharmony!
    - Because We All Have The Same Goal!
      - To Know / Share The Truth! God’s Truth!
- Unity Within A Church Is Very Important!
  - **Because The Unity Of Our Church Ought To Reflect / Reveal Our Union / Relationship With Christ!**
  - None Of Us Are To Be “Ball Hogs” When It Comes To Unity Within The Church!
  - We Need To Keep Working Towards:
    - Unity! In Our Message / Manners / Mode!

## 2. **The Requirement For Unity!**

- **IE:** In The Ancient Book “The Art Of War” - Written By Chinese General Sun Tzu - About 500 BC - “The art of using troops is this: When ten to the enemy's one, surround him; When five times his strength, attack him; If double his strength, divide him!”
  - From This, We Get The Phrase: “Divide & Conquer!”
  - Whenever An Enemy Senses Weakness, Dividing & Then Conquering Can Lead To Easy Success!
  - Jesus Said Much The Same Thing - Matthew 12:25 - “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand!”
  - The Same Applies To Our Church!
    - United We Stand! Divided We Fall!
    - Because, If We Are Divided, It Is A Good Time For Our Enemy To Attack! What’s The Problem?
  - 1:11-12 - “For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. / Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ!”
    - When There Is Division Within A Church, There Are Some Real Problems!
- A Problem With Your Reputation!
  - “For It Hath Been Declared Unto Me Of You!”
  - Word About Their Divisions Got To Paul!
    - Probably Didn’t Stop There!
  - What About Their Reputation:
    - In Their City / Community / Rest Of The Churches!

- Every Church Has A Reputation!
  - What Is Ours? Good Or Bad? Positive / Negative?
  - Christ- Honoring / Worldly?
- As A Part Of This Church – This Is Your Reputation!
  - What Are You Doing / Being / Saying To Contribute To This Reputation?
- How Can It Be Changed? If Negative? One Of Division?
  - Go Back To 1:10!
- A Problem With Your Reflection!
  - “That There Are Contentions Among You!”
  - These Contentions / Strife:
    - Did Not Reflect Their Relationship To Christ!
    - But Their Relationship With This World!
  - Strife / Contention Is A Sign Of The World!
    - 3:3 - “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”
  - When There Is Division / Disunity / Disharmony:
    - Stop Reflecting The Spirit Of This World!
    - Start Reflecting The Spirit Of The Lord!
- A Problem With Your Regard!
  - Of Others Within The Church!
  - 1:12 - Paul Lists 4 Different Divisions / Groups Within This Local Church! Not Dealing Primarily With Doctrinal Matters Here, But With Personalities / With Leaders!
  - What Is He Describing?
    - A Church Filled With Pride!
    - Each Group Felt They Were *Superior* / Better Than The Other Group For Some Reason!
  - “I Am Of Paul!” - An Institutional Pride!
    - Thought They Were Superior Members!
    - They Might Have Been The Earliest Christians & Members Of The Church That Paul Established There! Older / Thought More Mature! Puffed Up!
  - “And I Of Apollos!” - An Intellectual Pride!
    - Thought They Had Superior Minds!
    - Apollos - An Eloquent & Intelligent Man - Came After Paul - They Might Have Taken Pride In How They Could Understand The Meat & Milk Of God’s Word! Still Puffed Up!
  - “And I Of Cephas!” - A Historical Pride!
    - Thought They Had Superior Meaning!
    - Might Have Been Jews Who Came To Christ & Felt That As Jews, They Were Part Of The Fuller / Truer Church - Peter Was Closer To The Lord! Puffed Up!
  - “And I Of Christ!” - A Spiritual Pride!
    - Thought They Had The Superior Master!
    - These Might Not Have Had Connections With These Other Leaders, So They Tried To Take The Spiritual High Road! Paul Still Implies That They Are Puffed Up!
  - And How They Regarded One Another:
    - Was A Serious Problem To Their Unity In Christ!
    - Proverbs 13:10 - “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom!”
- We Need To Think About What Disunity / Disharmony In Our Church Reveals To Others!
  - It Becomes A Good Time For Our Enemies To Strike!
  - “Divide & Conquer!” Need To Beware!
  - The Unity Of Our Church Ought To Reflect / Reveal Our Union / Relationship With Christ!

### 3. *The Reason For Unity!*

- **IE:** When Working As A Stock-Broker For Charles Schwab & Company - Often Got Different Messages / Goals From Managers - Sometimes It Helped For A Live Meeting With The Founder / President Of The Company Himself - Chuck Schwab! He Would Help Get Us Back On The Same Page! To Be Unified Again!
  - This Is What Paul Does Through 3 Questions In 1:13!
- 1:13 - “Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”
  - In Other Words: Why Are There Divisions In Your Church?
  - You Need To Get Back On The Same Page!
    - As The Founder & Shepherd Of Your Church!

- Remember The Founder Of Your Church!
  - Paul Asks: “Is Christ Divided?”
    - The Implied Answer Is: Absolutely Not!
  - The Founder Of Your Church:
    - Is Jesus Christ Alone!
  - And He Did Not Come To:
    - Divide His People – But To Unify His People!
    - This Was His Purpose For His Church!
  - Ephesians 4:3-6 - “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. / There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; / One Lord, one faith, one baptism, / One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all!”
  - Jesus Is Your Reason For Unity!
- Remember The Foundation Of Your Church!
  - Paul Asks: “Was Paul Crucified For You?”
    - The Implied Answer: Absolutely Not!
  - The Foundation Of Your Church:
    - Is Jesus Christ Alone!
    - Not Paul / Apollos / Cephas - Peter! But Christ!
  - Only Jesus Was Crucified For You!
    - Never Forget This!
    - Titus 2:14 - “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works!”
  - Jesus Is Your Reason For Unity!
- Remember The Fellowship Of Your Church!
  - Paul Asks: “Or Were Ye Baptized In The Name Of Paul?”
    - The Implied Answer Again: Absolutely Not!
  - The Fellowship Of Your Church:
    - Comes Through Jesus Christ Alone!
    - Biblical / Water Baptism Is How One Enters Into The Fellowship Of A Local Church - But Even Though You Are Baptized By A Person / The Church Still Belongs To Jesus! Not Paul’s Church, But Christ’s!
  - Jesus Is Your Reason For Unity!
- Without Jesus, There Would Be No Church! Just Another Club!
  - Have We Forgotten Why We Are A Part Of This Church?
    - Ultimately, It Is Because Of Jesus!
  - Jesus Alone:
    - Is Our Founder / Foundation / Fellowship!
  - And Whenever There Is Disunity / Disharmony:
    - We Need To Get Back On The Same Page!
  - Because The Unity Of Our Church Needs To Reflect Our Union With Christ!

#### 4. ***The Reinforcement Of Unity!***

- **IE:** We Do Not Live Within Range Of Hurricanes - But We’ve Seen Them On TV - Always Fascinated With The Preparation - Homes & Businesses Are Boarded Up & Reinforced To Withstand The Hurricane! To Keep The Buildings Structural Unity & Integrity! They Want To Have A Home / Business To Come Back To!
  - Paul Is An Example To Us Of Someone Who Wants To Keep Unity Within The Church!
- 1:14-16 - “I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; / Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. / And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other!”
  - To Reinforce Unity Within The Church, You Need To Stop Being A Part Of The Problem & Start Being Part Of The Solution!
  - Paul’s Point - Noone Could Blame Him For The Divisions In Their Church! Even Though His Name Was Being Used!
    - He Was Not A Part Of The Problem!
    - He Was Always Trying To Be A Part Of The Solution! How?
- Through Honor!
  - To God! “I Thank God That I Baptized None Of You, But Crispus And Gaius!” (1:14)
  - Even Though Paul Spent Over 1½ Years With Them In Corinth, He Only Personally Baptized A Few Of

- Them!
- God Was Certainly Involved In This!
  - To Prevent Any Accusations!
  - And To Prepare Paul To Help!
  - Hodge - "A Matter Of Providential Direction!"
- To Reinforce Unity - Be A Part Of The Solution:
  - Need To Focus On Honoring God!
  - Completely! Wholeheartedly!
- Through Humility!
  - To Others! "Lest Any Should Say That I Had Baptized In Mine Own Name!" (1:15)
  - For Paul – The Establishment Of This Church In Corinth:
    - Was Not About Him!
    - It Was About The Lord Jesus Christ!
      - And His Name!
  - Reflects What John The Baptist Said:
    - John 3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease!"
  - To Reinforce Unity - Be A Part Of The Solution:
    - Need To Focus On Humility!
    - As A Servant, And Not As Superior!
- Through Hunger!
  - For The Truth! "And I Baptized Also The Household Of Stephanas: Besides, I Know Not Whether I Baptized Any Other!" (1:16)
  - Paul Was Also Focused On The Truth!
    - He Did Not Want To Lead Them Astray - And This Is Shown Even In The Small Details - Like How Many People He Actually Did Baptize In Corinth!
  - When It Comes To Unity In Our Church:
    - The Truth Matters!
    - And We Need A Hunger For The Truth!
    - Which Will Lead To A Continual Growth!
- To Reinforce Unity - Be A Part Of The Solution!
  - And Not A Part Of The Problem!
  - When The Hurricane Of Division & Conflict Swirls In:
    - Reinforce Unity – By Focusing On God / Others / The Truth!

**Conclusion:**

1. Is There A Problem Of Disunity / Disharmony?
  - In Our Church?
    - What Is The Cause?
    - Similar To Corinth – A Party Spirit?
    - Different Than Corinth? Many Causes!
2. Whatever The Reason / Cause:
  - Our Responsibility Is The Same!
  - 1:10 - "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment!"
    - We Need To Strive For / Work For This Kind Of Unity!
3. Because:
  - The Unity Of Our Church Needs To Reflect Our Union With Christ!
  - United We Stand! Divided We Fall!

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