

Having considered Paul's opening greeting to the church at Corinth, Paul now begins to address the sin problems that had arisen in the church:

As we will see in chapter 1, there were divisions and schisms in the church; groups of believers within the body of Christ who were at odds with groups in the church.

In a moment, we will see what the actual point of contention was:

"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" (V10):

Paul began his rebuke of church by invoking the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am speaking to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ; I am representing the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom:

"I beseech you brethren, by the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

These are the Words and commands of Christ; therefore, you ought to give earnest heed to what I am about to say: This is how we ought to receive any command from the Word of God; as if spoken/penned to us personally by the Lord Himself!

These are not the words of a dead letter, but commands of the living Christ!

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Next, Paul tells them: You should all be speaking the same thing; there should be no divisions among you, (or in the midst of you as a church);

What does he mean, to speak the same thing? I believe Paul was speaking of unity within the church body. We ought to be a people who are walking together in agreement. Our conversation ought to be very similar; we ought to (more than anything else) speak of the things of God and the Kingdom of Christ! If in our hearts we are united to Christ, it stands to reason that we should all speak the same thing!

If we are of the same Spirit; (if we are believers in Christ) we MUST possess the Spirit of God; if that be true of us we should most certainly be a "one-spirited" people.

When visitors come into our gathering @ GFBC; and as they socialize and listen within the body of Christ here, what do they hear? They should "hear" us speaking about the things of God, they detect that we are of One Spirit! They should experience a oneness within the body of Christ here. We should look like a spiritual "family"; the family of God! Sons and daughters of God! The lost and the saved alike should see Christ in you! Let me clarify: we ARE all very different humanly speaking, we have different likes and dislikes; and yet, in Christ, we ought to all be very much the same.

Philippians 1:27: "Only let your conversation be the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel"

Jeremiah 32:39, John 17:20-21, Acts 2:46, 4:32, Romans 12:4-5

There should be no divisions among us!

Is that even possible? Humanly speaking no; but in Christ, all things are possible to those that believe!

Matthew 19:28: "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible".

Genesis 18:14: "Is anything too hard for the LORD? Jeremiah 32:27

If God gives us a command; we must obey His Word by faith, ask God in prayer for help, but also, trust Him to grant us the ability to do what He commands us.

And to nail the point even further, Paul writes, you should be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"

Outside of Christ, we are full of sin, envy, and strife; (we are naturally contentious); but when God saved us, He gave us a new heart and a new Spirit: NOW, in Christ, we should be "perfectly joined together" spiritually; which literally means repaired, mended,

put back in joint.

Whereas before we were like a torn garment and damaged; now we have been made right by God; “perfectly joined together”. When God added you to the church, He fitted you into the body of Christ. Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:11-16:

1 Kings 6:7: “And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone MADE READY (at the quarry) before it was brought to the temple site to be fitted into it; so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built”. 1 Corinthians 3:16

Same Mind/Same Judgment

Your opinions and sentiments (with your brothers and sisters in Christ) I believe will also be very similar. Like I said before, you will differ in things that have no spiritual significance; but spiritually, your hearts will be knit together by the Spirit of God.

Amos 3:3: “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

In (V11): Paul tells the church that he has been informed by the house of Chloe about contentions within the body:

Who was Chloe? Unknown; but she is believed to be a woman who was a member of the church at Corinth. Paul writes, that he was inform by THEM who are of the house of Chloe. The fact that Paul trusted her/them enough to bring this accusation to the church, even using her name tells us that they were a reputable source.

Contentions and quarrels existed within the body: Proverbs 13:10

These were the contentions: (V12-16)

Our faith/trust must never be toward mortal men; but in Christ alone:

I am of Paul, Apollos, Cephas, Christ. First of all, Paul, Apollos, and Cephas are not worthy to put into a position of equality with the Lord Jesus Christ! EVERYONE in the church at Corinth should have been saying, I am of Christ!

“Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords”

This is something that Christians do today; they exalt their preachers rather than Christ; they put their faith/trust in men rather than Christ; and that is why there are so many professing Christians in churches that can't tell you WHAT they believe.

YES, listen to your preacher; but go home, and study the scriptures for yourself!

Be a Berean!