

Perfectly Joined Together

1 Cor 1:9-13

We are spiritually wealthy.

- Sanctified in Christ Jesus
- Called to be saints
- Church of God
- Given Grace by Jesus Christ
- Given peace by Jesus Christ
- Confirmed until Jesus comes
- Given spiritual gifts
- Given utterance
- Given knowledge

Bottom line: live up to potential

1 Corinthians 1:8

Unknown; *He guarantees right up to the end that you will be counted free from all sin and guilt on that day when He returns...when we stand before God, Christ will count us as blameless in Him...not be condemned for our sins because Christ already paid in full the price at Calvary.*

1 Corinthians 1:9

Faithful: consistent, stable, reliable, trustworthy, always true to Word; Always be depended on.

Mac: *We are saved because God wanted us saved, and we stay saved because God does not change His mind about it.*

He chose us, called us...consequently we have nothing to do with staying a child of God for eternity.

Philippians 1:6 Romans 8:38-39

1 Corinthians 1:10

Conflict. Quarrelling. Divisions. Disputing. Disharmony.

When these things in body of Christ--always consequences.

Robs church of real fellowship...joy...outreach...growth.... effectiveness... impact.

God is robbed of glory.

Manifestation of immature Christian--envy and strife (1 Cor 3:1-3).

Root problem of strife? James 4:1-2

When church loses unity--spirit of joy and credibility of ministry go out window.

John 17—church be one. Acts 2:46-47

One of greatest reasons person leave church--conflict in the body.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Beseech: to call upon; summon; admonish; from same word from which get “Comforter” helper

Brethren: not using clout as apostle.

I’m one of you.

By the name: Because of all Jesus represents. Character; reputation

Speak the same thing: Be in agreement about things of God. Be a unit.

Mac: *Nothing is more confusing to new Christians, or to unbelievers who are considering the claims of Christ, than to hear supposedly mature and informed Christians tell conflicting things about the gospel, the Bible, or Christian living. And few things are more devastating to a church than everyone having his own ideas and interpretations about the faith, or of the congregation being divided into various factions, each with its own views. In order for a local church to be spiritually healthy, harmonious, and effective, there must, above all be doctrinal unity*

Divisions: Schismata—to tear or rip; to separate; have difference of opinion; dissension

Romans 16:17

Splits, quarrels; divisions into camps

Perfectly joined together: made complete; to mend (nets, boned, dislocated joints, broken utensils, torn garments) To put back together; In 2 ways: **in the t**

Mind-internally

Judgment-externally

Mac: *in our individual minds and among ourselves we are to be on in beliefs, standards, attitudes, and principles of spiritual living.*

The real type of unity

Mac: *Unity that is not of the same mind and judgment is not true unity. Hypocrites will add to a congregation’s size but they will take away from its effectiveness. A member who strongly disagrees with his church leadership and policy, not to mention doctrine, cannot be happy or productive in His own Christian life or be of any positive service to the congregation.*

Acts 4:31-33 Philippians 2:2-5 Psalm 133:1

Does this mean all agree with everything?

No!

Means-- -in our spirit committed to unity.

Attitude one of most important things

How approach leadership?

With discernment:

Ecclesiastes 8:5 Timing and approach

1 Corinthians 1:11

House of Chloe: family in Ephesus--close to Paul.

Wiersbe: *We commend them for their courage and devotion. They did not try to hide the problems. They were burdened about them; they went to the right person with them; and they were not afraid to be mentioned by Paul. This was not the kind of “cloak and dagger” affair that we often see in church activities that usually make the problem worse and not better*

Contentions: Bitter discussions which degenerate into schisms.

1 Corinthians 1:12

Party spirit: Caught up with different parties, personalities, styles, gifts, approaches.

Wiersbe: *Instead of emphasizing the message of the Word, the Corinthians emphasized the messenger. They got their eyes off the Lord and on the Lord’s servants, and this led to competition.*

Paul—First pastor; Spiritual father.

Apollos—Second pastor; sent by Paul

Cephas—Peter; Jewish Christians from Palestine .

Paul—gift of teaching

Apollos—Prophet

Peter—Exhorter

Paul—laid back; choleric; quieter personality

Apollos—Refined; eloquent; loved to quote scriptures

Peter—flashy; fiery; related well to Jewish mindset.

Each group was vocal in its opinions and had its own slogans, identity, and superiority.

I’ve seen this type of thing through the years.

... **and I of Christ.**

We follow no man but Christ.

Godet: *which claim to spring directly from Christ and Christ alone, without having need of any human intermediary? They had the right name but the wrong spirit. They felt that they had no need for human instructors...they had really outgrown the church. Their preachers, teachers, and other spiritual leaders were really quite shallow in comparison to their own spiritual depth.*

Mac: *spirituality produces humility and unity; carnality produces pride and division.*

Always a bigger picture

1 Corinthians 1:13

Common theme in NT: believers one in Christ.

Therefore, never do anything that disrupts or destroys unity.

Disunity detracts from glory of God.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 Ephesians 4:4-6

Was Paul crucified for you?

Answer obvious.

Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Answer obvious: No,

Matthew 28:19

So What?

Speak the same thing: When we speak...speak things which build up

No divisions among you: no rips, dissensions.

Perfectly joined together: smooth and effective working order.

In the same mind: same goals, aspirations.

In the same judgment: spiritual discernment; same opinion of things.

Christ is not divided!

Greatest thing happen to local church--people get caught up with importance of having same mind, spirit, heart-beat.

Commit: unity of believers