

First

CORINTHIANS

CHRIST ALONE: TOGETHER

EAST ELEVATION

Be United

Paul's typical general epistle organization -

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1st half – theology of the gospel

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2nd half – practical expression

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1 Corinthians – Paul responds to specific issues in Corinthian church.

1:10-17 Issue Paul addresses – Unhealthy division in the body.

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“Stop it. Be united.”

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

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The Problem - Division

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**Corinthians division is not rooted in doctrine or theology.
Making more of the instruments of Jesus' love than
they should.**

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Solution – Be United

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Jesus – “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another just as I have loved you, you are to love one another. **By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.**” John 13:34-35

The Solution – Be United

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Paul – “To me, though I am the very least of all the saints this grace was given to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things so that **through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known** to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 3:8-10

The Solution – Be United

Why?

- God has designed the church to display Jesus' love, the glory of God.
- **Division within the church is a contradiction of who Jesus is.**

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

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 - ...Jesus to sustain us.
 - **...righteousness.**

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 - **...a perfect future hope.**

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 - ...righteousness.
 - ...a perfect future hope.

...fellowship with Jesus.

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What does Paul encourage?

- **Keep focused on Jesus.**
 - 1) 1:1-9 (11 references to Jesus)
 - 2) God's grace showered on us in Jesus...
 - 3) **1:13 Jesus is not divided. Jesus was crucified.**
We are baptized in Jesus.

The Solution – Be United

What does Paul encourage?

- Keep focused on Jesus.
- **Don't act in ways that draw unnecessary attention to ourselves.**

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Gentleness, grace and love.**

Possible Division Today:

- Divisions over essential theology are healthy.
Gentleness, grace and love.
- **Unhealthy divisions over non-essential issues are extraordinarily destructive.**

Ingredients of unhealthy division:

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1. Making something more important than it should be.
2. **Passionately promoting personal preference, perspective with less consideration for others.**

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 - **Masks**

How do we promote unity:

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- **Focus on Jesus.**

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- Focus on Jesus.
- **In Jesus' love, thoughtfully consider the perspectives of others.**