

RE-VIEW

Weekly Devotionals

"ONE BODY, ONE LORD"

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Situation

You scroll through a church Facebook group and see it: another comment thread spiraling into accusations. Someone's upset about the worship style. Someone else is defending the pastor. A third person brings up an old wound from a business meeting three years ago. By the time you close the app, your stomach is in knots.

Or maybe it's closer to home. You've caught yourself comparing pastors, subtly ranking sermons, feeling a quiet loyalty to "your" preacher over another. You didn't mean for it to become pride. It just crept in.

Two thousand years ago, the church in Corinth was tearing itself apart over exactly this kind of thing. Not doctrine. Not sin patterns. Personalities. "I follow Paul." "I follow Apollos." "I follow Peter." They'd turned spiritual leaders into rival fan clubs, and in doing so, **they'd lost sight of the only One who actually mattered.**

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus didn't pray for His own safety. He prayed for His church—for unity, for oneness, for a love so visible that the world would know God sent Him. That prayer still echoes today. And it asks something hard of us: are we living as one body, or are we fracturing over things Jesus never asked us to fight about?

Scripture

ReVisit - **1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (NLT):**

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

11 For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. 12 Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ."

13 Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!

14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. 16 (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don't remember baptizing anyone else.)

17 For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

Additional Scriptures to Look Up This Week:

- **Philippians 2:2-5** – Having the same mind and attitude as Christ.
- **Matthew 22:37-39** – The two greatest commandments.
- **Colossians 1:18** – Christ as head of the church.
- **Galatians 6:14** – Boasting only in the cross.
- **Ephesians 4:4-6** – One body, one Spirit, one Lord.
- **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** – The gospel as first importance.
- **Romans 6:3-4** – Baptism as union with Christ's death and resurrection.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** – The command to baptize and make disciples.
- **John 17:11, 20-23, 26** – Jesus' prayer for unity among believers.

Truth

Division in the church almost always starts the same way: we stop thinking like Jesus, we fight the wrong enemy, we idolize personalities, and we let secondary things eclipse the gospel. Unity isn't achieved by everyone agreeing on preferences. It's restored by everyone fixing their eyes back on Christ.

Paul doesn't open his letter to a fractured church with a lecture. He opens it with an appeal—"dear brothers and sisters"—because before he's their corrector, he's their family. And the standard he calls them to isn't his own opinion. It's the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not a personality. Not a preference. Not a brand. The Lord.

○ We Stop Thinking Like Jesus

Paul's first diagnosis is subtle but devastating: the Corinthians had stopped thinking like Jesus. He calls them to **"be of one mind, united in thought and purpose"**—literally, in the Greek, knit together with the same mind and judgment. This isn't about uniformity of personality or preference. It's about a shared posture of humility, the same posture Paul later describes to the Philippians: "Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."

When a church loses the mind of Christ, it doesn't become neutral—it becomes worldly. It starts fighting like the world fights: defending territory, protecting ego, keeping score. As one pastor has said, the church is at its best on the battlefield, fighting sin and darkness. She's at her worst in the barracks, fighting her own.

○ We Fight the Wrong Enemy

Paul heard about the Corinthians' quarrels from "Chloe's people"—a phrase that tells us gossip about church conflict had already spread beyond the church walls. The Greek word for "quarrels" here is used 9 times in the New Testament, always in Paul's letters, always describing contentious rivalry that fractures fellowship.

This isn't just an ancient problem. Today, our fights are quieter but no less damaging—email threads, comment sections, group texts. We say things online we'd never say face-to-face. And every time we do, the world watches. Not impressed. Not drawn in. Just confirmed in its suspicion that the church is no different from anywhere else.

A family fighting like this isn't a family reunion—it's a funeral. And a church fighting like this isn't revival. It's a funeral for its witness.

○ We Buy Into the "Cult of Personality"

The Corinthians had split into fan clubs: Team Paul, Team Apollos, Team Peter, even—strangely—Team "I follow only Christ," as if that were a superior faction rather than the obvious answer for everyone. Paul, the plain-spoken tentmaker. Apollos, the polished orator. Peter, the original apostle. Three very different men, each gifted, each faithful—and each utterly beside the point compared to Jesus.

Paul's response comes as three rhetorical questions, each with an obvious answer:

- Has Christ been divided? No.
- Was Paul crucified for them? No.
- Were they baptized in Paul's name? Of course not. Only Christ was crucified for sin. Only Jesus is the name we're baptized into.

To elevate any human leader above Jesus isn't just poor judgment—it's blasphemy.

This still happens. We follow certain authors, speakers, worship leaders with a devotion that quietly rivals our devotion to Christ. Paul's own testimony cuts through that temptation: **"God forbid that I should boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

○ We Forget What Matters Most

Finally, Paul addresses something almost comedic in its honesty. The Corinthians had apparently divided over who baptized whom—as if the identity of the baptizer mattered more than the baptism itself. Paul, thinking back, can barely remember who he baptized. “Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don’t remember baptizing anyone else.”

His point isn’t that baptism doesn’t matter. Scripture is clear that it does—Jesus commands it in Matthew 28, and Paul explains its meaning beautifully in Romans 6: **we’re joined with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection**. But baptism is meant to point to the gospel, not compete with it. “Christ didn’t send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.”

The gospel is enough. It doesn’t need a smoke show or a celebrity messenger. It needs to be preached clearly, and it needs a church that refuses to let secondary things—traditions, styles, personalities—crowd out the primary thing: Christ crucified, buried, and risen.

Application

This week, let this truth reshape how you engage with your church, your relationships, and your own heart.

1. Examine where pride keeps you from unity. Ask yourself honestly: where am I allowing my pride, preferences, hurt, or need to be right to keep me from pursuing peace with a brother or sister in Christ? Name it specifically. Bring it to God before you bring it to anyone else.

2. Guard your words about church conflict. If you’ve participated in gossip, online arguments, or finger-pointing about church matters, take an honest inventory. Is there a message you need to delete before sending? A conversation you need to have offline instead of in a comment thread? Choose to be a peacemaker this week, not a participant in division.

3. Check your loyalties. When you hear a preacher or leader you don't naturally prefer, ask: do I still come hungry to hear God's Word, or do I let my preference for a personality get in the way? Practice listening for Christ in unfamiliar voices this week—a podcast, a guest speaker, a different worship style than you're used to.

4. Identify what's crowded out the gospel. What's become more important in your Christian life than the gospel itself? A tradition? A leader? A worship style? A theological hobby horse? Write it down. Then ask God to help you re-center on Christ crucified, buried, and risen—the thing of first importance.

5. Pursue one act of reconciliation. Is there a relationship in your church family that's been strained by division, pride, or misunderstanding? Reach out this week. Not to win an argument, but to reflect the one mind Paul calls us to—the mind of Christ, who took the form of a servant and humbled Himself for the sake of others.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that Jesus prayed for us before He ever went to the cross—that we would be one, just as He and You are one. Forgive us for the ways we've fractured what You've called us to unite. Forgive us for fighting each other instead of fighting the real enemy. Forgive us for elevating personalities, preferences, and traditions above the gospel itself.

Lord Jesus, help us to have Your mind again—humble, others-focused, unified in purpose. When pride rises up in us, when we want to be right more than we want to be reconciled, soften our hearts. Remind us that we are brothers and sisters, not rivals. Remind us that You are the head of the church, and we are simply members of one body.

Holy Spirit, convict us gently but clearly of any division we've caused or fed—in person or online. Give us courage to reach out,

to apologize, to let go of old grievances. Help us to guard our tongues and our keyboards, knowing that a watching world judges the gospel by how we treat each other.

Father, forgive us for the times we've followed a leader more closely than we've followed You. Forgive us for turning church into a popularity contest instead of a place where Christ alone is exalted. Help us to boast in nothing except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And Lord, show us clearly what has crept in and taken the place that only the gospel should hold—whether it's a tradition, a style, a personal preference, or a person. Strip away everything that competes with Christ crucified, buried, and risen. Let that be enough for us. Let that be everything.

Make us one, Father, as You and the Son are one, so that the world may know You sent Him and that You love us just as You love Jesus.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.