

3 Questions 1 Corinthians 1.10-25

Today we are going to look at a very unpopular topic: Division. This word is perhaps the biggest reason people of all ages are leaving the church. Yet it is not new. Paul dealt with this, and this morning, we are going to look at the advice he gives. How can we stop division? Paul asked 3 central questions that answer our question this morning. READ TEXT

1. Is Christ divided?

a. Focused on the Messenger

Paul begins by addressing the reports he has heard. The reports are basically that people are not so much following Jesus as they are focused on leaders.

b. Focus on Christ

Paul reminds them of how they are to be united. He calls them brothers, that they are one family. That we be of one mind, one focus, one message, much that has not been seen since Acts 4.32. He reminds us that we have been united with the same understanding and conviction.

2. Were you baptized into Paul?

a. Focused on pet projects

The Corinthians placed heavy emphasis on mode and location of baptism, which comes out when Paul states who each is following, and then moves right into who he didn't baptize. As I studied this, we can lose our focus. Is baptism essential for salvation? You bet. Yet for the Church of Corinth, they forgot the part prior to baptism, hearing the Word, preaching the message.

b. Focus on the Message

Everything a church does should be worship of God, so that we can love one another, and shine into the world.

3. Was Paul crucified for you?

a. Focused on Human Wisdom

Too often we feel need to understand, control, and yet, Christianity is such a different religion, human wisdom fails.

b. Focus on the Power

Power of God approaches us in a way only God would think up.

Division is. And yet, thanks to the power of God, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit within us by God's grace, we are able to overcome division. We overcome by focusing first on the Savior. He has come to save the world, all who would accept him. Then we focus on that message. God has chosen us to be His ambassadors. Then we focus on the power of God, or allow the power of God to work through us. We don't know if the church of Corinth ever did come together. History is silent. But we know with God's help, we can be the church God intended us to be.