

## **Understanding the Seriousness of Dividing the Bride of Christ**

### **1Corinthians 1:10-17**

#### **Introduction**

##### **1. Summary of 1:1-9**

By the will and grace of God in Christ Jesus (1:1,4); the chosen/elect (1:1,9) from every nation (1:2) are made part of the church, through our being justified (which is based on Christ's atonement) (1:2).

The church is called by her Lord/sovereign/supreme King (1:2) to be holy (1:2) and the individual members are gifted for service by the Spirit (1:4-7).

The elect are continually thankful (1:4), because God's covenant faithfulness (1:9) will enable them to persevere to the end and they will be found guiltless on the 'Day of Judgment' (1:8)

#### **1. The transition from the introduction (1:1-9) to (1:10-17)**

#### **2. The nature of the divided Bride (1Cor.1:11-12)**

##### **1. The origin of the division (1:12)**

##### **2. The nature of the division (1:11; Gal.5:20; 2Cor.12:20)**

##### **3. The subject of the division: Division around personalities (1Cor.1:12)**

###### **1. Paul (1:12)**

###### **2. Apollos-A Jew from Alexandria (1:12; Acts 18:24-25,28; 19:1)**

###### **3. Cephas (Peter's name in Aramaic) (1:12; Mk.9:2-8)**

###### **4. Christ (1:12; 1Cor.14:36; 10:7)**

##### **4. The context of the division (1:14-17)**

#### **3. Paul's appeal (1Cor.1:10)**

##### **1. The "appeal" (1:10)**

##### **2. The appeal: Made in the name of Jesus (1Cor.1:10)**

###### **1. That agreement be had on the essentials (1:10, 1-9)**

###### **2. That divisive attitudes are unacceptable in the church (1:10)**

###### **3. That the unity of the Christian family be restored immediately (1:10)**

###### **1. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23)**

###### **2. Unity in truth (1:10)**

#### **4. Justification for the appeal (1:13-17)**

##### **1. Is the Body of Christ divided? (1:13; 1Cor.12:12-13; Eph.4:3-6)**

###### **1. Who is part of the Body of Christ and who accomplished this miracle? (1Cor.12:12-13)**

1. Notice the diversity of ethnic groups

2. Notice that the church is created through the miraculous working of the Spirit

3. Notice the repeated references to "oneness."

2. How should we conduct ourselves, and why? (Eph.4:3-6)

1. God made a diverse group of people into one Bride of Christ

2. God's action in making the "Bride", is the sacrificial work of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

3. How terrifying it should then be, to oppose the Trinity by being involved in ruining the unity of the Body of Christ—the "Bride"

2. Who but Christ can save us!

3. Into whose body are we baptised? (1:13)

5. Paul's principle focus (1:17)

1. Paul: His practice (1:14,16)

Note 1

Note 2

2. Paul's calling: Not principally to baptise but to promote the Gospel (1:17)

1. Paul: On Baptism

1. An erroneous view of baptism and salvation (Acts 10:44,47; Jn.3:16)

1. Water baptism (the sign) points to the Baptism in the Spirit (the reality)

2. Communion (the sign) points us to the cross (the reality)

2. The truth about baptism and salvation (1Cor.1:2)

2. Paul does not denigrate/belittle baptism

Conclusion

1. Pride

2. Putting things in perspective

3. Are secondary theological truths of no value?