

## THREE KEYS TO UNITY

I Corinthians 1:4-17

### Introduction:

- A. God is not a God of d\_\_\_\_\_
1. Jesus came to bring us into h\_\_\_\_\_ with God
  2. Jesus came to bring believers in harmony with one another.
- B. What did God do for the believers in Corinth?
1. V. 4 - He gave them g\_\_\_\_\_ (salvation in Jesus Christ).
  2. Vv. 5-7 – He enriched them with every kind of spiritual g\_\_\_\_\_.
  3. V. 9 – He called them into f\_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.
- C. Paul rebukes the Corinthian church for having divisions among them
1. Churches contain people with all kinds of d\_\_\_\_\_ – opinions, traditions, philosophies, personalities, etc.
  2. God wants to w\_\_\_\_\_ through churches as a united body.
  3. How can we keep unified?

### We Must All Agree in Friendship (10a)

- A. The command is that believers are to ALL a\_\_\_\_\_
1. NLT translates as live in harmony.
  2. KJV has the most literal translation – all speak the same thing
  3. The Greek phrase is common in secular literature where it means to have f\_\_\_\_\_ relations.
    - a. This does NOT mean that we are to agree on e\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. This DOES mean that we are to maintain friendship in the face of differences.
- B. Examples
1. End time theology – there is general agreement on the v\_\_\_\_\_ return of Jesus (Matt 24:42). There is broad disagreement over the details (don't let that affect your fellowship).
  2. Politics – there are many different political philosophies among Christians (the Bible does not address this). But we must all agree to live as g\_\_\_\_\_ citizens (Rom 13:6,7; I Pet 2:13-17; I Tim 2:1,2).
  3. Music – We need not have the same preferences when it comes to music. But we must worship God as a body through music by choosing music that all can t\_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 5:19).
  4. Theology, politics, music do not divide. S\_\_\_\_\_ divides.

### **We Must All Alienate Divisiveness (10b)**

- A. Paul points out the existence of divisions among the church
1. People were lining up behind certain leaders (vv. 11,12).
    - a. Paul – he p\_\_\_\_\_ the church at Corinth.
    - b. Apollos – was the current p\_\_\_\_\_ of the church.
    - c. Peter – there were a few J\_\_\_\_\_ Christians in the church.
    - d. Christ – those in this group were probably very \_\_\_\_\_.Is Christ divided? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. The local church is considered Christ's b\_\_\_\_\_ but the Corinthian Christians were emphasizing \_\_\_\_\_ (see Lk 9:23).
- B. How do we deal with division within the church?
1. Point out the division in l\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Point to the s\_\_\_\_\_ behind the division.
  3. Encourage r\_\_\_\_\_.

### **We Must All Act as Strands of One Net (10c)**

- A. Paul desires the Corinthians to be made c\_\_\_\_\_.
1. Other translations read, *perfectly united, perfectly joined*
  2. The Greek word is a f\_\_\_\_\_ metaphor referring to the mending of nets.
    - a. If the net is torn it will not be effective in catching fish
    - b. If the church is divided, God cannot effectively use it.
- B. We all must act as individual strands of one big net
1. Christ is the f\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Christians of the local church are the n\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Christ's work is catching f\_\_\_\_\_ - let's keep it together so Christ can work through this church.

### **Conclusion:**

- Beware of being p\_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to God's work.
- Beware of being c\_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to God's people.
- Focus on being c\_\_\_\_\_ with one another in doing God's work.