

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What is the difference between our POSITION in grace and our PRACTICE in grace? What is your description?
2. What did you learn or remember about Paul’s writing style?
3. Why is it important that there not be “anonymous” complaints and concerns? Do you agree?
4. Have you been a part of a church with “cliques?” Have you been involved in a church split? What were the issues and how were they resolved?
5. How do we, or should we, apply the CURE at ECC?

SCRIPTURES

1Cor. 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. 11 My brothers, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

1Cor. 1:13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? 14 I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.



January 20 & 21, 2018 | Divided #2 | 1Cor. 1:10-17 | Dennis Miller, pastor

TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES

1. Unity in the church is the greatest TESTIMONY to Christ and His WORK.

John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

2. We who have the SPIRIT of Christ also have the “MIND of Christ,” and we need to use this WISDOM.

1Cor. 2:16 . . . But we have the mind of Christ.

LET’S REVIEW

1. The Past — Grace

1:4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

2. The Present — Gifts

1Cor. 1:7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift . . .

3. The Future — Glory

1Cor. 1:8 He will also keep you firm to the end,

**Paul’s Message: Your POSITION with Christ is secure.
Now, let’s work on your PRACTICE.**

PAUL’S WRITING STYLE

2Pet. 3:16 He (Paul) writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

THE CONFLICT —

1Cor. 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1. Paul's PLAN was to deal with about TEN poor practices within the church and within the LIVES of the Corinthian people. He begins with DIVISIONS.
2. The APPEAL (παρακαλέω parakaleō, *beseech, admonish, exhort*) is to AGREE on matters of DOCTRINE. He says this from a positive and negative PERSPECTIVE.
3. Paul asks the people to "SPEAK the same thing." (*The problem is always SPEECH.*)
4. There cannot be DIVISIONS (σχίσμα, schisma) in the local church concerning matters of ESSENTIAL doctrine. There will be differences from church to church because of "SCHISMS" from past years (denominations). Most of the divisions have not been because of Scripture or DOCTRINE, but because of PRACTICE and pressure.

THE CONTROVERSY

1Cor. 1:11 My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

1. Paul writes this letter from Ephesus on his THIRD journey. This was several years AFTER he had departed Corinth.
2. Some travelers from Chloe's household INFORMED Paul of quarrels. This seems to SURPRISE Paul.
3. Note that Paul NAMES those who gave the report. There CANNOT be anonymous reporting or complaining within the church body. That only leads to MORE conflict.

1Cor. 16:17 I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you.

THE CLIQUES —

1Cor. 1:12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

The church was developing into sub-cultures:

1. Paul — the FOUNDER of the church in Corinth.

2. Apollos — the first PASTOR and a great speaker.

1 Cor. 3:6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

3. Peter — the Apostle and LEADER of the Christian church.

Two options here: either Jews from Jerusalem had MOVED to Corinth, or Peter had VISITED the church in Corinth.

1Cor. 9:5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?

4. Christ — Although this seems NOBLE, apparently some were claiming a "SUPER-faith" directly from the Lord (and surely each group would have claimed this to be true). This reduces Christ to a MERE MAN when you compare Him with the others.

THE CURE

1Cor. 1:13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? 14 I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1. Paul asks three rhetorical questions to show the SILLINESS of their divisions. The THIRD question about baptism shows an UNUSUAL fascination these people have with baptism.

1Cor. 10:2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

1Cor. 15:29 Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?

2. Paul then states that he is thankful he had baptized only TWO, but then remembers a few MORE. *Why add this?*

a. Crispis and Gaius were unique church LEADERS.

b. He wants to be absolutely ACCURATE in his writing so that it could not be questioned LATER.

c. Paul's lack of MEMORY on the issue is part of the point he is making that it doesn't MATTER who baptized whom.

3. The last verse does not LESSEN the importance of baptism, but emphasizes the ministry of Paul — to preach the Gospel in a way that honors CHRIST and not the PREACHER!

4. The CURE is to make sure that the FOCUS is on Christ!