

## THE ROAD TO UNITY

1. Text: I Corinthians 1:10-17
2. Major problem in Christianity: denominationalism. Thousands of groups claiming to follow Christ with vastly different beliefs and practices.
3. Is such divisions approved by the Lord? Let's let this text answer for us. I Corinthians was written about 56 or 57 A.D. or about 25 years from Pentecost (Acts 2). Already the seeds of division were being sown in churches. And the principles found here in just one church being addressed are timeless in application.
4. Let's explore Paul's inspired message:

### I. **The Aim: "No Divisions"**

1. Verse 10. Word division here used for split (like wood), to divide, separate, tear apart. Used in John 19:24 of clothes and temple veil in Luke 23:45.
2. Then to divisions, dissensions, schisms. John 7:43 Divisions among people over Christ. I Corinthians 11:18 Division among them. In 12:25 No schisms in the body.

### II. **The Approach: Two Principles In Verse 10**

1. Affection: Brethren: though much wrong in church he still uses kind term. Beseech is a sweet, tender word to plead for their attention and acceptance.
2. Authority: "In the name of the Lord (Master) Jesus Christ. In His name: by his authority. In 5:4-5 they're to deal with sinner this way. See also 14:37 "I speak the commandments of the Lord."

### III. **The Answers To The Division: See Three In Verse 10**

1. Speak the same things. Use the same terminology, speak of same things in the same ways. Leads to clarity and simplicity. In religious world: use of terms never used in Scripture or not used as Scriptures use. Vain speculative language.
2. "Be perfectly joined together." Really one Greek word meaning to put in proper condition, complete, even idea of restore. Used in Mark 1:19 of mending nets. In Galatians 6:1 of restoring one to the faith. Se we must strive to have this unity, proper condition, have the will and attitude to be united.
3. "Be of the same mind and judgment." Two words very much alike. "Nous" is the mind, thinking, understanding. Judgment is the result of the thinking or the decision, resolve, judgment. These relate to basic, clear doctrinal truth, not every opinion, whim, preference, speculation of any and all cranks.

### IV. **The Attacks Which Cause Disunity**

1. The way they looked at Christ. Verse 13 Is Christ divided? Matthew 28:18
2. Mistakes on salvation. Was Paul crucified for you? See 3:11.
3. Elevating men. Verse 12: "I'm of Paul. I'm of Apollos." All divisions are tracked back to men and their ideas. Verse 14: Paul's point about baptism.
4. Problems with the Gospel. Verse 18 following: it's powerful and saving, yet misunderstood. Romans 1:16 and its power.

Conclusion: Our plea for unity

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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