

The Church Was Divided

1 Corinthians 1:10-31

The city of Corinth was known for its wickedness, so what better place to start a church? Paul started the Corinthian church and stayed there for about a year and a half. Then he traveled on to keep preaching the good news of Jesus.

Six years later, Paul heard that the church in Corinth was struggling. These believers were arguing and suing one another, and they had questions about their faith. So Paul wrote a letter to help the church solve its problems.

The believers in Corinth were divided. One group bragged about following Paul. Another group chose Apollos. A third group followed Peter. And a fourth said they followed Jesus. Paul said that the believers should not be divided; they should all agree on what they believe. Paul wrote that Christians are joined together by faith in Jesus.

“Is Jesus divided?” Paul asked. “Was it Paul who died on the cross for you? Or were you baptized in Paul’s name?” Of course not! Jesus died on the cross, and the believers were baptized in Jesus’ name. They should come together because of the gospel. Believers all agree that Jesus is Lord, so Paul said they should get along and love one another.

Paul explained that the good news about Jesus seems foolish to those who are lost—those who do not believe in Jesus. But to those who believe, the cross is God’s power. Many people think they know a lot, but what they know is worldly wisdom. They do not know God, and to them, the good news about Jesus is foolish.

Paul encouraged his friends in Corinth to think about the fact that God chose them to be in His family. God did not choose anyone because of that person’s wisdom or power or family.

Paul said that God saves people who trust in Jesus. No one can earn salvation, so no one can brag about being saved. If the Corinthian believers wanted something to be proud of, they could be proud of Jesus and what He has done.

Christ Connection: Paul told believers in the Corinthian church to come together because of the gospel of Jesus. He reminded them that Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can humbly come together as one body