

Divisions at Corinth: Cause & Cure, 1Cor. 1-4

Intro: v.11 Chloe spills the beans (ca. 56 A.D.): “Factionalism in the Church”

_____ sum up the degrees of contention & division:

- 1:10 ἔρις / eris = strife, dissension (as in 3:3)
- 1:10 σχίσμα / schism = a rent, a break, a division
- 3:3 διχοστάσια / dichostasia (M. text) = a sharp difference, division
- 11:19 αἵρεσις / hairesis = a sect, a faction, a clique (based on a self-willed choice)

FACTIONALISM AT CORINTH

I. Causes & Manifestations (The “Disease”)

A. Carnality, 3:1-3 = fleshly motivation versus H.S. motivation, Gal. 5:16-26.

Note ___ destructive, fleshly passions in Gal. 5:20-21 (in the midst of a list of _____).

B. Pride, arrogance against one another

“puffed-up” = 4:6; 4:18; 8:1; 13:4 = self inflated

C. The Messengers Exalted above the Message, 3:4; 1:12

D. Missing the Message = the Wisdom of God in Christ = Moronic to the world, 2:18-3:6

II. The Cure (Rx for Divisions)

A. By BEING JOINED TOGETHER IN (by)
THE SAME MIND, 1:10

- Unity of purpose
- Unity of expression
- Unity of interest
- Unity of activity

Rom. 12:16; Phil. 1:27 (soul)

? How does such unity come to pass ?

Answer: BY CONFORMING TO THE MIND OF THE LORD AS EXPRESSED IN HIS WORD, 1Cor. 2:9-16.

B. By Scripturally Evaluating Leaders, 3:5-10, 21-23; 4:1-6

Conclusions:

- Factions, divisions, cliques are not new to local churches. Paul had to consistently confront these.
- Such are neutralized by a pervading mindset (1:10); i.e., unity of mind (making Christ & His word paramount).
- Factions often result from improper identification with and evaluation of leaders.
- Leaders must continually guard against factionalism in the church.
- KEY #1 FOR ALL: PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (“walking in/by the Spirit”).
- KEY #2 FOR ALL: REJECTION OF FACTIONALISM, 1Cor. 11:17-19; 1:10.