

Finding Unity In A Divisive World

The Mindset of Christ



*"I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. **Let there be no divisions** (schismata) in the church. Rather, **be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.**" 1 Cor. 1:10 NLT*

- Have you ever encountered a **"worldly"** Christian?

Paul's Purpose: To restore the Corinthian church to spiritual unity. #1 "Divisions" 1:10 to 4:21.

The Central Lesson and Application:

Let "The Mind Of Christ" bring harmony to your divisive world.

I. WHO MAKES YOU SO **SUPERIOR**? 4:7a

"For what gives you the right to make such a judgment?" NLT

This implies that their supposed superiority lacks support.

A. Leaders Must **REJECT** Pride.

(Parties: 1 Cor. 1:12; 3:4, 22) Paul rejected his esteem as a detraction from God's glory destroying harmony. **"Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all."** Rom. 12:16 NLT

B. Leaders Have A **TEAM** Ministry 3:5-7 NLT

*"After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? **We are only God's servants** through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but **it was God who made it grow.**"*

C. A **BIBLICAL** Worldview Is Important! 4:6 NLT

*"If you pay attention to what I have quoted from the Scriptures, you won't be **proud** of one of your leaders at the expense of another." 4:6 .*

Paul always presented a Biblical worldview. (4:6), *"...I have quoted from the Scriptures,"* Paul spoke relying only on the Holy Spirit (2:1-6). He decided to *"forget everything except Jesus Christ, the One who was crucified,"* (2:2); *"...I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would not trust in human wisdom but in the power of God,"* (2:3-5). Paul was criticized for his preaching. *"In person he is weak and his speeches are worthless."* 2 Cor. 10:10

Has a cultural worldview influenced you?

Are you influenced by Secular Humanism? By Materialism?

1 Cor. 3:11, *"For no one can lay any foundation than the one we already have—**Jesus Christ.**"* (Compare Col. 1:15-21)

II. WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU DID NOT RECEIVE? 4:7b

Everything in Christ is free!

A. **GIFTS** "Born Again" Disciples Receive In Christ. 1:2-31; Jn. 3:3

B. We **FIND UNITY** In "The Mind Of Christ!" 2:16b

"...let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes." Eph. 4:23-24

1. Jesus Prayed We Would Be **ONE!** Jn. 17:20-23

2. We Are To Have The **MINDSET** Of Jesus! Phil. 2:5-11

WHAT CHRIST'S THINKING (MIND) WAS LIKE

1. The Mind Of Christ Was **SUBMISSIVE**. Phil. 2:6

Submission: means "action and effect of submitting oneself." It is a synonym for "Surrender" of self will.

2. The Mind Of Christ Was To Be A **SERVANT.** Jesus' motto was Mark 10:45: *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

3. The Mind Of Christ Was **SACRIFICIAL.** Jesus realized that the price of service was a criminal's *"death by the cross."* Phil 2:8 (Mk. 8:34; 14:36c; 1 Pet. 2:5; Rom. 12:1)

III. IF EVERYTHING YOU ARE IS A GIFT, WHY **BOAST** OVER EARNING NOTHING? 4:7

"And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?"

This last question is in logical sequence that forces an admission, that removes all grounds or basis for a divisive superior attitude.

- **Disputing is "foolishness"** if based on the **FOLLY** of Human wisdom. (3:20).

- **Everything is yours!** You have everything you need now! (3:21-23) *"So no one should boast in human leaders for **everything is yours** – whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas (Peter) or the world or life or death or things present or things to come – **everything is yours**, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God."* 3:21-23

Conclusion

Let "The Mind Of Christ" bring harmony to your divisive world.

He has sounded forth the trumpet
That shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men
Before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him;
Be jubilant, my feet;
Our **God** is marching on.