



Week #2 Leader's Guide – April 17, 2016

Straight Talk
"Bold Letters to the Corinthians"
SDBC Community Groups

"The Cause of Division"

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1. Read the Key Passage.
2. In verse 10, Paul says we are to “agree” and to be “united.” Discuss what it means to combine these two ideas. Agree on what? Unite on what? Discuss what it means to “agree.” Does it mean I need to agree 100% with another person to say I agree?
3. In the Christian, church world, what are the things we must agree on? List the essentials of our faith.
 - a. As you list these, do you find yourselves agreeing on these essentials?
 - b. As you list these, do you find yourselves united on these essentials?
 - c. What is the difference between an idea being essential to us and an idea that is my preference? Distinguish between a preference and an essential.
4. In relation to the teachers at Corinth, were the Corinthians dealing with preferences or essentials?
5. In verse 13, Paul makes several points for the believers in Corinth by asking them questions. What is he seeking to communicate to us by these questions?
6. In verse 17, Paul says his mission is to preach the gospel. Is this also our mission? Is this what unites us?
7. Read Romans 14:5-12.
 - a. How does this passage deal with preferences over essentials?
 - b. How should we handle our preferences when we cannot agree or unite?
8. Read John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 4:1-6.
 - a. What is the antidote to forming or engaging in divisions?
 - b. What role can we play to avoid making divisions?