

# Sermon Notes



## 1 Corinthians 1: 10-17

### **Collective Cultures:**

Social rules focus on promoting selflessness.  
Working as a group.  
Doing what's best for society.  
Families and communities have a central role.

### **Individualistic Cultures:**

Self-sufficient.  
Pursuant of their own dreams and goals.  
Own place of work, own house, own bank account, own phone.  
Paid services.

What does the Bible promote?

### Highly Individual!

**Psalm 139** "...you are fearfully and wonderfully made...knit together ...  
How precious are your thoughts, ... How vast is the sum of them...more than the grains  
of sand."

**Eph. 2:10**- "God's workmanship...created for works...prepared beforehand..."

### Highly Collective

**John 17:21**- High Priestly prayer

“...that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

**Big Idea: The cure to division is the power of the cross.**

### **I. What is Unity? (v.10)**

**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.

**1 Corinthians 6:17** "He that is joined to the Lord is one Spirit."

**Ephesians 4:4-6** "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one Spirit, one body, one God."

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### **II. What is Division? (v.11-16)**

**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."

Loyalist- I follow Paul who founded this church.

Professionalist- I follow Apollos- (Luke) He is the most talented speaker.

Traditionalist- I follow Peter- time with Jesus & commissioned- rock.

Individualist- I follow Jesus- I don't need any of you.

What causes divisions?

### **James 4:1a**

"What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?"

-Individualism

-Significance

-Hidden Pride

### **II. What is Division? (v.11-16)**

**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.)

### **III. What is the Cure? (v. 17)**

**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.

**Big Idea: The cure to division is the power of the cross.**

#### **Application**

The cross of Jesus allows us to have crucial conversations.

# Study Guide



## 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

1. According to research done by Hofstede Insights (Cultural Study Group), the USA, Australia and Great Britain are the most individualistic cultures on earth. Collective cultures on the other hand, focus more on doing what is best for the whole group. Discuss what some of the distinctions are between collective vs. individualistic groups.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10. Notice that Paul is encouraging unity in the body. What have been your experiences in this area? What has worked well in church life to promote unity, and what have you seen that works against unity?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:11-16. Discuss the following dynamics that cause division in church:

- a. Following a person instead of following Jesus.
- b. Name dropping and badges of honor.
- c. Individualism
- d. Desire for significance
- e. Hidden pride

4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:17. How does the cross of Jesus level the playing field and cause unity rather than division? Discuss.

5. In a highly individualistic culture, like Corinth, it is only normal to see that this seeps into church culture. Review the Conflict Cycle document and determine whether you need to have a crucial conversation with someone. What might that look like? Prayerfully consider what God might be prompting you to do.

