

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

## *Why the Divisiveness?*

*(Glad you asked)*

*In I Corinthians 1:10-17 Paul begins addressing the help the Corinthians asked for*

- *He pleads with them to embrace Oneness in Christ*
- *Then confronts them for violating it*
- *He concludes that divisions violate the cross of Christ*

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*I Corinthians 1:11-13 declares how they are dividing from each other...*

*And asks them, "Is Christ divided?"*

*Charles ID'd some things Christians divide over today*

- *Denominations, Calvinism & Wesleyanism, Baptism, Juice or wine, Leaders, Music, Social status, Fear, Congregation size*
- *And those divisions misrepresent Christ to our world*

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*Paul then focuses on why this has happened to them*

*These divisions are not about Jesus or salvation*

*- Our faith is not about **what** we believe*

*- It is about **WHO** we believe*

*John 3:36, "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life"*

*The real question isn't about what division is over... but **Why?***

- *Dividing over something less than the fullness of Who Christ IS...*
- *it is not an expression of faith in Him*

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*We can't stop some from diving from us for lesser reasons*

- *We can commit to never dividing from them for nonessential things*

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*Separating from the fellowship we are called to in Christ (Vs.9)...*

- *Separates us, and the whole body of Christ, from His fullness...*
- *Depriving others of the fullness only found in us, in Him together*

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*It's a lose, lose, lose outcome*

- *We lose, those we separate from lose, and Christ loses the fullness He paid for and provides*
- *Those who should be drawn to His fullness in His people...*

*- Are left without what we deprive them of against His will.*

*- Some are drawn to worldly winning not of Christ*

*How & why was this happening to them?*

*I Corinthians 1:17-2:5*

- *How contemporary & relevant is God's Word today?*

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They allowed worldly thinking and values into their lives and Christ's church,

- And ended up corrupting both.
- That cannot lead to the fullness of His life in & through His people

### **I Corinthians 1:9 & 20-24**

- "Called into the fellowship of His Son" (**I John 1:3**)
- "Disputer" vs "those who are called"
- **Called from** self-interest & worldliness
- **Called to** God's wisdom that renders worldly wisdom foolishness

Is the church a worldly-wise faith business?

- Church conference on Business Management

Or, is The Church of **1:2-13** Christ's body, God's family (**Matt.12:30**)

- operating on entirely different basis & definitions?

In John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," Mr. Worldly Wiseman is a deceptive character from the town of Carnal Policy who tries to lead Christian off the righteous path by offering worldly, legalistic advice instead of the gospel, urging him to seek relief from his burden through self-effort or legality, rather than Christ's cross, representing false comfort and worldly confidence over spiritual truth

(Vs.20) "the disputer of this age" - Athens in **Acts 17**

- Paul had just left Athens before coming to Corinth
- Disputing was a popular pastime there

The disputer is a contrarian, being different just to be different...

- Finding reasons to question or dispute where there are none.
- A contrarian disputer is someone who habitually opposes or disagrees with the

views or opinions of others, often for the sake of being contrary. They tend to challenge consensus & take opposing positions, driven by a need for control or superiority in conversation. (Dictionary)

The disputer draws personal significance from "calling into question" anything

- It's about themselves, not really the issue at hand
- wanting to appear wise in their own eyes
- Do we not live in such times? Social media is overflows with it

Worldly wisdom divides. Godly wisdom unites

- Some "Christians" so yearn to be relevant in this world they are conforming to it
- At the expense of how "not of the world" Christ really is.

**I John 2:15**, Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

The established "wisdom" of the world around us can be subtly influential

- Will we be viewing life & faith by prevailing worldly wisdom?
- Or will we view the world's ways around us through God's wisdom?

**Vs. 1:1-13** present the foundation & focus for the rest of the letter

- We'll see them identified & applied in many ways as we continue on

For me - as the world descends into the septic tank of history,

- I am limiting myself to things of eternal value.

*If Jesus were standing here as one man, as He did  
2,000 years ago,*

- would He give Himself to some of the things  
you invest yourself in so heavily?*

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**NEXT WEEK: God's Wisdom In The World**