

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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?**"*

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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

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These divisions are not about Jesus or salvation

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

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***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*

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How & why was this happening to them?

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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

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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

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Is the church a worldly-wise faith business?

- Church conference on Business Management

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

- operating on entirely different basis & definitions?

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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

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(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

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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)

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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

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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.

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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.

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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?

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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

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

- I am limiting myself to things of eternal value.
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*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*