

- ◆ Vs. 17 What is the authority and purpose of Timothy coming to share with them?
- ◆ The old saying goes, 'Talk is cheap.' Paul understood that and knew that some of those who were causing problems were doing so because he was far away.
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 4.19-21.** What was Paul's plans as far as the Corinthian church went?
- ◆ Vs. 21 What does Paul want them to do before he gets a chance to come for another visit?
- ◆ How does the arrogance of man stop the authority of God? How was this evident in the 1st problem?
- ◆ What is the solution when this happens?

1 Corinthians Study Guide

- Introduction: 1 Corinthians 1.1-9
- Problem ONE: 1 Corinthians 1.10-4.21
- Problem TWO: 1 Corinthians 5.1-13
- Problem THREE: 1 Corinthians 6.1-20
- Problem FOUR: 1 Corinthians 7.1-39
- Problem FIVE: 1 Corinthians 8.1—13 & 1 Corinthians 10.1-11.1
- Problem SIX: 1 Corinthians 9.1-27
- Problem SEVEN: 1 Corinthians 11.2-16
- Problem EIGHT: 1 Corinthians 11.17-34
- Problem NINE: 1 Corinthians 12.1-14.40
- Problem TEN: 1 Corinthians 15.1-58
- Conclusion: 1 Corinthians 16.1-24

Weekly study guides available at:
http://sonrisechurch.com/study_series.htm



THE FIRST PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

©copyright 2015 by Rev. Bob Highlands III
 The translation quoted here is the New International Version (NIV)

The problems in the church at Corinth are both complex and simple at the same time. In some ways they may seem foreign or distant to us, yet they are still the type of problems the church of the 21st century faces. Always pay close attention to the foundation of Paul's appeal and his final goal in solving the local problem.

Read 1 Corinthians 1.10-17

^[10] I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. ^[11] My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ^[12] What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

^[13] Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? ^[14] I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ^[15] so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. ^[16] (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) ^[17] For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

The first problem covers parts of four chapters of the sixteen in 1st Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1.10 thru 1 Corinthians 4.21). Paul attacks or deals with the first problem by naming it three times and each time working to show them how wrong they are about how they are approaching the matter. In the process Paul tries to get them to see their own needs as demonstrated by this problem in their church.

Understanding the First Problem

Read 1 Corinthians 1.10-11

Introduction to the first Problem

- ◆ Vs. 10 Who does Paul use as the foundation of his appeal as he write to them?

- ◆ Vs. 10 In dealing with this first problem what are the three goals Paul has for the church at Corinth?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- ◆ Vs. 11 How does Paul know what is happening in the church at Corinth?

- ◆ Vs. 11 How is the problem effecting the relationship of the members of the church?

1 Corinthians 1.12 thru 2.9

The wisdom of man vs. the wisdom of God

Read 1 Corinthians 1.11-12

- ◆ Vs. 12 What are they disagreeing about?

- ◆ (Note: They are acting as if each of the men they name

- ◆ Vs. 22 How does Paul expand the argument? Why did he do this? What did he want them to understand?

- ◆ Vs. 23 What is really important for them to focus on?

- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 4.1** How should believers view each other including their leaders?

- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 4.6-7**
- ◆ Vs. 6 What is the limit that each believer is not to exceed?

- ◆ Vs. 7 How should each believer view themselves?

- ◆ How do the following verses show the arrogance or prideful attitude in some believers?
 - ◇ 1Co 4:6
 - ◇ 1Co 4:18
 - ◇ 1Co 4:19

- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 4.14-17**
- ◆ Vs. 14 How does Paul view the followers in the church at Corinth?

- ◆ Vs. 15 What is his authority for speaking to them as he has?

- ◆ Vs. 16 How could Paul make this statement and not be arrogant or proud?

- ◆ What is the key to being able to receive solid spiritual food?
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 3.10-11** How does Paul want the Corinthians to see their different leaders?
- ◆ What is the key to their Christian learning and experience?
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 3.16-17**
- ◆ Vs. 16 How does God want to be involved in the life of the believer.
- ◆ How is this a change from the way God related to His people under the Old Covenant of the Law?
- ◆ Vs. 17 How does the persons responsibility increase when they become a follower of Christ?
- ◆ How does the spiritual man respond differently to their leaders than the natural man responds to those over them?
- ◆ Bonus: How could this be applied to the way people look at actors, athletics and politicians in or modern times?

1 Corinthians 3.18 thru 4.21

The Arrogance of Man vs. The Authority of God

Read 1 Corinthians 3.21-23

- ◆ Vs. 21 What is the problem with seeing some men as superior?

are their savior. They are putting Paul, Apollos, Peter and Jesus all on the same level.)

- ◆ Vs. 13a When Paul asked, "Has Christ been divided?" what type of response do you think he was looking for from the church at Corinth?
- ◆ Vs. 13 How does Paul try and get them to see the incorrectness of this argument?
- ◆ How could this be compared to a modern problem many churches face with members coming from so many different church and religious backgrounds?
- ◆ How can this be seen in the way different people and churches worship?
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 1.20-21** How are the teaching of men compared to the message of God
- ◆ What did the wisdom of the world fail to do?
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 1.22-25**
- ◆ Vs. 22-23 How is the crucifixion of Christ a problem for:
 - ◇ The Jews? -
 - ◇ The Gentiles and Greeks? -
- ◆ Vs. 24. How does this change when a person become a follower of Christ? WHY?
- ◆ Vs. 25 Where does Paul put the wisdom of God compared to the wisdom of man?

- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 1.26-31**
- ◆ Vs. 26-28 How does Paul describe the Corinthian believers before they met Christ.
- ◆ Vs. 29 Knowing this is true, what should the believer never do? Why?
- ◆ Vss. 30-31 What should the results of knowing Christ do for the attitude of the believer?
- ◆ What do we learn from the following verses about wisdom?
 - ◇ 1 Corinthians 2.1-2
 - ◇ 1 Corinthians 2.4-5
 - ◇ 1 Corinthians 2.6-7
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 2.8** How do the rulers of the world show their lack of wisdom?
- ◆ Is this still true today? Explain your answer.
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 2.9** What is the benefits of rejecting the wisdom of man and accepting the wisdom of God?
- ◆ How does the wisdom of man lead to divisions in the church?
- ◆ Why would following the wisdom of God stop division in the church?

- ◆ What is the key to the wisdom of God?

1 Corinthians 2.10 thru 3.17

The Natural vs. the Spiritual

- ◆ Paul now takes a second approach to the first problem of divisions and quarreling over church leaders. Paul transitions from his first approach to the second in 1 Corinthians 2.10-16.
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 2.14-15** What two types of people does Paul define? What do we learn about each type of person?
 - 1.
 - 2.
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 3.1-4**
- ◆ Vs. 4 What are they disagreeing over?
- ◆ Vs. 3 How is it coming out in the church
- ◆ Vs. 1 How does Paul describe their maturity level?
- ◆ Vs. 2 How did this effect how much he could teach them when he was with them before?
- ◆ Vs. 3 Does Paul feel they have grown any as believers since he first taught them?
- ◆ How does Paul describe the type of teaching he was able to do for them
- ◆ **Read Hebrews 5.14** What is the difference between solid spiritual fool and giving believers milk to drink?