

TEARS IN THE FABRIC

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Why do so many issues divide Christians? Why are there so many denominations, “camps” and movements?

- 1) Because spiritual issues and what happens in the _____ matter so much to genuine believers
- 2) Such divisions have plagued the church since the times of the _____: one planted by Paul for example

I. THE PROBLEM

A. The Key Description

- 1) V.10 (NKJV) calls it _____—other translations: cliques, splits, disunity, factions, parties
- 2) This word is based on a root verb often used of fabric: _____ in the fabric of the local church

B. The Reported Causes

- 1) Paul knew what was happening from a report by _____ household—probably a businesswoman
- 2) She reported “contentions” in the Corinthian church—debates, quarrels or arguments: serious _____
- 3) V.12 indicates that there were 4 cliques at Corinth: those of Paul, Apollos, Cephas (Peter) & _____
 - a) The Disagreements Were Not a Matter of _____ but Emphasis
None of these teachers differed significantly regarding the gospel or core _____ of the faith
 - b) The Disagreements Were a Matter of _____ and Celebrity
Many conservative Christians are not “of Paul” but they may be of _____
 - c) The Disagreements Were Perhaps a Matter of Who _____ Them to Christ
 - d) The Disagreements Developed Because They _____ on the Minors

C. The Modern Applications

- 1) At a Macro Level: Explanation for the origin of the various _____ within Christianity
- 2) On a Local Level: Explanation for the _____ that develop for causes like the following:
 - a) Worship _____
 - b) Response to _____
 - c) Polarized _____ climate

II. THE SOLUTION

A. _____ Counsel 1:10

- 1) Paul directs us to “all _____ the same thing”—a word for word translation of the original language
- 2) Paul directs us to mend the tears by _____ the same thing—the same mind & the same opinion
- 3) How can Paul ask Christians with such strongly divided opinions to say & _____ the same thing?

B. 3 _____ Questions 1:13

- 1) Our _____ in Christ: “Is Christ Divided?”

Here is the secret to mending the tears: Focus on _____ rather than our own viewpoints or opinions

- 2) The _____ of the Cross: “Was Paul crucified for you?”

If we keep our eyes on the _____ the issues that divide us will fade from view, out of importance

- 3) The _____ of Baptism: “Were you baptized into the name of Paul?”

Our allegiance to follow _____ trumps every other allegiance—to any cliques/parties in the church