

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient ruins, likely the Temple of Apollo at Side in Turkey. Several tall, fluted stone columns stand in a row, some with their capitals still intact. In the background, a large, rugged mountain rises under a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with dry, yellowish-brown grass and some scattered stones.

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

1 Corinthians 1:1-17

THE FOUNDATION FOR UNITY — 1:1-9

I CORINTHIANS 1:1-17 (NKJV)

¹ Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother, ² To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE FOUNDATION FOR UNITY — 1:1-9

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-17 (NKJV)

⁴ I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, ⁵ that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

THE FOUNDATION FOR UNITY — 1:1-9

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-17 (NKJV)

⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

THE FOUNDATION FOR UNITY — 1:1-9

- ◆ Paul's apostleship from Christ – (1:1; 9:1,2; Acts 22:21;)
- ◆ Set apart ones in Christ with all who call on the name of Christ – (1:2; Acts 2:21,38; 22:16)
- ◆ Received grace through Jesus Christ – (1:4)
- ◆ Enriched in everything by Christ (miraculous gifts) – (1:5-7)
- ◆ Will be judged by Christ – (1:8)
- ◆ Called into the fellowship of Jesus – (1:9)

THE CALL TO UNITY — 1:10

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-17 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

THE CALL TO UNITY – 1:10

- ◆ Paul's appeal is given to these brethren by the authority of Christ – (John 17:20,21; cf. Eph 4:1-16)
- ◆ Speak the same thing – (1 Peter 4:11)
- ◆ The same mind – (Eph. 4:1-7; Phil 1:27; 2:1-5; 3:16)
- ◆ And *that* there be no divisions – (*The result of carnality*) – (1:11; 3:3,4; 11:18; 12:25)
- ◆ The same judgment (*based on same standard*) – (Acts 2:42; Heb. 5:12-14)

THE REALITY OF DIVISION — 1:11-12

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-17 (NKJV)

¹¹ For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's *household*, that there are contentions among you. ¹² Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

THE REALITY OF DIVISION — 1:11-12

- ◆ Report from Chloe's *household* – (1:11; 11:18)
- ◆ There were contentions among them –
“*Unseemly wranglings (as opposed to discussing, dialegomai) that were leading to the schisms. Listed in works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-20) and the catalogues of vices (2 Cor. 12:20; Romans 1:19-20; 1 Tim. 6:4).* – Robertson Word Pictures
- ◆ The party spirit – (“*I am of Paul,*” or “*I am of Apollos,*” or “*I am of Cephas,*” or “*I am of Christ.*”) – (1:12; 3:4-6; 4:6)

THE ABSURDITY OF DIVISION — 1:13-15

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-17 (NKJV)

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 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.

THE ABSURDITY OF DIVISION — 1:13-15

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

THE ABSURDITY OF DIVISION — 1:13-17

- ◆ Is Christ divided? – (1:13; 2 Cor. 11:4)
- ◆ Necessity of water baptism – (*They had all been baptized – and thus joined to the one who was crucified for them*) - (1:13; Acts 18:8; Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27; 1 Cor. 12:13)
- ◆ By whose authority had they been baptized? – (1:14,15; Acts 2:38; 19:1-5)
- ◆ “Christ did not send me to baptize” – (*i.e. to baptize in his own name*) - (1:17; Mat. 28:18-21; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 18:8)

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

IN OUR TEXT WE SEE:

- ◆ THE FOUNDATION FOR UNITY — 1-9
- ◆ THE CALL TO UNITY — 10
- ◆ THE REALITY OF DIVISION — 11-12
- ◆ THE ABSURDITY OF DIVISION — 13-17

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

- ◆ **DIVISION is WRONG** — Let us all submit to the authority of Jesus Christ – *(Those who possess a party spirit makes the cross of Christ of no effect for themselves)*
- ◆ **DIVISION is REAL** — Let us strive to learn, follow and teach the truth that unity may prevail -

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED?

BY WHOSE AUTHORITY?

INTO WHAT?

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN BAPTIZED IN
THE NAME OF JESUS, INTO THE BODY
OF CHRIST, WHY NOT NOW?

THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

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