

DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

A Study of 1 Corinthians



1. Divisions Among God's People

Introduction

We all face issues and problems in our lives. And that is also true of any church or gathering of believers! Where there are people, there are issues. That was true in New Testament times and it is true today. The Book of Corinthians, written by the Apostle Paul, deals with issues that had arisen in the church in Corinth.

Paul had spent 18 months in Corinth and people of all races and levels of society had become Christians. They had experienced the power of God in their lives, but sadly problems had crept in. The first problem that the Apostle dealt with was the divisions that had arisen in the church.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-17, 3:1-4

1. Reason for Unity 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

✘ In what ways does Paul bring out the truth that we are one in Christ? 1 Corinthians 1:2, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

2. Appeal for Unity 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

- ✘ What was Paul's appeal to the believer's in Corinth? 1 Corinthians 1:10
- ✘ What was causing the disunity in this church? 1 Corinthians 1:11-12
- ✘ Do you think this is a problem in the church today? Discuss.
- ✘ Why is it foolish to quarrel over who is the best leader? 1 Corinthians 1:13

3. Effect of Disunity 1 Corinthians 2:14 – 3:4

- ✘ Who are the 3 types of people mentioned in these verses? 1 Corinthians 2:14 & 15, 3:1
- ✘ How did Paul evaluate the believers in Corinth? 1 Corinthians 3:1, 3
- ✘ What about us? How do you think the Apostle Paul would evaluate your life?

4. Answer to Disunity 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, 21-23

✘ What does Paul say about himself and Apollos? 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

- ✘ What do you think Paul was wanting the church to understand? 1 Corinthians 3:7, 11, 21-23
- ✘ Share what has stood out to you in this study. What is God saying to you personally?

Conclusion

The Christians in Corinth were divided. They had been arguing about which leader they preferred. Sadly this also happens today. The Apostle Paul appeals to them, and to us, to be united, and says that this kind of behaviour shows immaturity and worldliness. We need to remember that each leader is a servant of the Lord, but the One who should receive all the credit is Jesus Christ,