

KEEPING OUR FOCUS ON JESUS

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Ice Breaker: Growing up, who did you quarrel with the most? Over what?

BACKGROUND: Paul founded the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey. Eighteen months after he left, arguments and divisions arose. Paul addresses the problems and challenges them to live together in unity.

THE BIG PICTURE: The focus must always be on Jesus — HE is the One who unites us.

DIGGING DEEPER:

PAUL'S APPEAL FOR UNITY 1 Corinthians 1:10

- What is unity? What are some misconceptions of unity?
- What exactly does Paul appeal to the Corinthian believers to do/be? Is this kind of unity even possible? What does this unity look like today?
- What are some of the essentials that we Christians must agree?
- How important is unity in the church? How do you respond when you hear/see a fellow Christian breeding disunity? How does our unity affect the spread of the gospel?

THE REASON FOR PAUL'S APPEAL 1 Corinthians 1:11-12

- What was dividing the Corinthian church? What specifically is happening there that has him concerned?
- Paul mentioned four leaders. What was significant about each leader? How could someone boast about each leader? Have you ever identified yourself with a particular leader or group in a way that might be unhealthy? What is the difference between respecting a leader and idolizing him?
- How do divisions hurt the church?

PAUL'S CORRECTION 1 Corinthians 1:13-17

- Paul asked three rhetorical questions. What were these questions? How does each question expose the foolishness of divisions?
- What is the ultimate solution here? What did Paul come to do? Where does Paul point them to? What was Paul's priority? What do we need to focus on every moment? What is the result when we focus on Jesus?

CONCLUSION:

- How may we at The River apply Paul's exhortation to unity?
- What challenged you the most this week?