



**1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

**1** Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,  
**2** To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:  
**3** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*On what authority does Paul write this letter to the Corinthians?*

**1 Corinthians 1:4-9**

**4** I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. **5** For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— **6** God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. **7** Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. **8** He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Paul often writes in lengthy sentences. Look at verses 4-8 and break it down into smaller parts. Write it in your own words if that helps.*

*For what does Paul give thanks? What impact does Christ have on this community?*

**1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

**10** I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. **11** My brothers and sisters, 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 in the name of Paul? **14** I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, **15** so no one can say that you were baptized in 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 wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

*What problem do you think the church in Corinth was dealing with?*

*What divides the church today?*

*Do we wrestle with a celebrity culture, even within the church, that can take attention away from Jesus Christ?*

*There are many things that can divide the church. What can unite it?*

### **Ephesians 2:11-21**

**11** Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— **12** remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**14** For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16** and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. **17** He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

**19** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **21** In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

*What divisions are highlighted in this passage?*

*What is able to overcome such a divide?*

*God is able to unite humans with God and divided peoples with each other. He has **reconciled** us in Jesus Christ. Why do you still think we struggle with being united and are tempted to make so many distinctions and separations in this life?*

*How can you apply this Scripture to your life?*