

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 1:10–17

DISCUSSION 1: UNITY

1. Paul warns them not to have divisions. How are differences and even some disagreements not necessarily division? When or how do differences and disagreements become division?
2. How does division hurt the body of Christ and our relationships in it? How does division harm the Church's witness to the world?

DISCUSSION 2: QUARRELING

1. What might it look like to disagree in godly or healthy ways compared to ungodly quarreling?
2. What are some of the unrighteous reasons Christians quarrel and argue with one another (examples: pride, misaligned priorities, tribalism, etc.)?
3. How are you tempted to quarrel, or even just move toward distancing yourself from others or allow division, based on your use of social-media? How can you engage (both in what you post and read) on social-media in ways that allow you to express convictions without doing so in quarrelsome or divisive ways? (See the first resource in Recommended Resources below.)
4. What is one action step for you this week on fighting against quarreling, division, or disunity?

DISCUSSION 3: POSITIONAL AND PRACTICAL PEACE

1. Read Ephesians 2:13-17. How did Jesus create unity among his people? Why is unity in Christ the most fundamental or definitive bond among humans?
2. Read Ephesians 4:1-3 and Philippians 2:1-7. If we have a positional or objective unity in Christ (Eph. 2:13-17; 4:4-5) why does Paul need to urge us to maintain seek the practical outworking of that unity?
3. What are some of the attitudes and actions in Philippians 2:1-7 and Ephesians 4:1-3 that promote peace and unity while protecting against pride and division? Which of these do you most struggle to put on?
4. How would you answer these questions, and why?
 - Am I delight to disagree with?
 - Am I building unity with others around Jesus or other commonalities?
 - Am I showing more loyalty and allegiance towards a particular "tribe" of thinking and living than towards Jesus?
5. What is one action step for you this week in seeking unity and peace among believers?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- “How to Master the Art of Disagreement—in the Church and on Social Media” by Bobby Jamieson at thegospelcoalition.org.
- “Christ Purchased the Church’s Peace” by Dustin Crowe at indycrowe.com.