

Behind Divisions

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 1:10-19.

B. The Apostle Paul is very concerned with incipient divisions within the church. (Philippians 2)

II. Unity in the church.

A. The ground of unity is the church's relationship to Christ.

B. The nature of the unity is the same mind and the same judgment.

1. This does not mean to think alike.

2. This refers to having the mind of Christ—a willingness to give up rights and personal privileges and take a lower place. (Philippians 2)

III. Schisms in the church.

A. Loyalties were divided in Corinth.

1. There were loyalists tied to Paul.

2. There were people in love with oratory tying themselves to Apollos.

3. There were those going back to the roots by tying themselves to Peter.

4. There were others putting themselves haughtily in line with Christ.

B. When you divide among men, it is terrible for the church.

C. The problem.

1. Christ cannot be parceled up—no one is able to give a complete view of Christ warranting that viewpoint.

2. Men cannot be deified. There is no man that can do what Christ has done.

3. The tendency among groupies is to distort the meaning of symbol—they take a teaching tool and make it into a badge.

IV. The cure to divisions is the facts of the gospel—particularly, the word of the cross.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to have the same mind in Christ?

2. What is the danger of following just one man in his teaching of the Christian faith?

3. How is it that the gospel can heal factions? Explain.
