

Sunday, July 19, 2015—I Corinthians 1:10: That There be No Divisions Among You

Introduction

- Last week, we concluded our consideration of the opening section of I Corinthians by looking at verse 9. In doing so we observed the following truths:
 - God is faithful—we can trust what God says because, God is not a man that he should lie.
 - God called the Corinthians into the fellowship of his son through the preaching of Paul’s gospel.
 - God has placed believers into intimate fellowship and communion with his son as well as the rest of the members of the Godhead (II Cor. 13:14, Phil. 2:1). There are no curtains separating us from the presence of God. We are in Christ and Christ is in us. We share in the glories of Christ’s exaltation.
 - We have been made a part of the fellowship that the Godhead has enjoyed since before the world began.
- This week we are going to turn a corner in our study together as Paul begins to address the Corinthians directly and call them to a particular course of action.

I Corinthians 1:10

- **Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**
- *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*,—this phrase signifies a shift in focus. Paul is going to begin calling the Corinthians into a particular course of action, i.e., he is going to begin making practical application of the glorious positional truths we have been studying in verses 1 through 9.
- According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*, the English word “beseech” means “to entreat; to supplicate; to implore; to ask or pray with urgency; followed by a person; as, “I Paul beseech you by the meekness of Christ,” 2 Cor.10.; or by a thing; as, I beseech your patience.”
- The first thing I want to point out about this word is that to “beseech” is consistent with grace. Paul is not commanding the Corinthians to do anything. Rather he is begging or pleading with them to consider a particular course of action.
- Secondly, as the definition indicates, “beseeching” is most often done on the basis of someone or something.

- Romans 12:1—“by the mercies of God”
- Romans 15:30—“for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake”
- II Corinthians 6:1—“as workers together *with him*”
- I Thessalonians 4:1—“by the Lord Jesus Christ”
- II Thessalonians 2:1—“by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- Paul’s beseeching in I Cor. 1:10 is “by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Given the context we have been studying in makes sense the Paul would “beseech” them in this fashion. In the first nine verses, Christ is mentioned specifically in almost every verse.
 - Verse 2—the Corinthians are sanctified them in Christ Jesus and called them to be saints.
 - Verses 3-4—imparted grace by Jesus Christ.
 - Verses 5-7—Christ enriched them in spiritual gifts as a means of confirming his testimony in them.
 - Verse 7—they are waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Verse 8—will confirm them blameless unto to the end in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Verse 9—they have been called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Please note that Paul calls the Corinthians “brethren” in verse 10 thereby indicating that they are Paul’s brothers and sister in Christ Jesus. Paul uses the word “brethren” 28 times in 28 verses in I Corinthians to describe his relationship with the saints in Corinth.
- So as fellow brothers with the Corinthians rather than ordering or commending them, Paul beseeches them to a particular course of action. This beseeching is being done based upon the positional realities of who the Corinthians are established in verse 1 through 9.
- *That ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you;*—here we see the first part of what Paul is beseeching the Corinthians unto. There are two issues here: 1) “ye all speak the same thing,” and 2) that “there be no divisions among you.”
- The word “speak” occurs 60 times in 57 verses in Paul’s epistles. The word occurs 25 times in 25 verses in I Corinthians alone.
 - Matthew 12:34

- Ephesians 4:31-32
- Paul wants the Corinthians to be one in voice concerning their doctrine and lifestyle. This is clearly an expression of the unity of mind and purpose Paul wanted the Corinthians to function with.
- I Corinthians 14:8—how many assemblies give an uncertain sound when it comes to matters of doctrine? Paul is beseeching the Corinthians to all speak the same thing.
- Secondly, Paul does not want there to be any “divisions” among the saints in Corinth. The English word “division” carries the following relevant meanings: 1) The act of dividing or separating into parts, any entire body. 2) The state of being divided. 3) That which divides or separates; that which keeps apart; partition. 5) A separate body of men; as, communities and divisions of men. 6) A part or distinct portion; as the divisions of a discourse. (*Webster’s 1828*)
- I Corinthians 1:11—Paul is beseeching them in this manner because he heard that there were contentions in Corinth that were dividing the church.
- 1 Corinthians 11:18
- 1 Corinthians 12:25—the English word “schism” is a translation of the same Greek word rendered “division” in I Cor. 1:10. According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* the word “schism” means: 1) In a general sense, division or separation; but appropriately, a division or separation in a church or denomination of Christians, occasioned by diversity of opinions; breach of unity among people of the same religious faith. 2) Separation; division among tribes or classes of people.
- With regard to their doctrine and lifestyle, Paul did not want there to be “divisions” among the saints in Corinth. The Corinthians not speaking the same thing would serve as a manifest token of the divisions that were among them.
- *but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*—the English word “but” at the head of this phrase establishes a contrast between how Paul *does not* want the Corinthians to behave with *how he does* want the Corinthians to behave. Instead of not speaking the same thing and their being divisions, Paul wanted the Corinthians to be perfectly joined together in mind and judgment.
- Psalm 133:1—is Paul advocating for unity at the expense of the doctrine that he taught? No he is beseeching them on the basis of the doctrine taught in verses 1 through 9.
- Romans 12:16
- Romans 15:5-6

- Romans 16:17—note the important role the doctrine plays.
- Philippians 1:27
- Philippians 2:1-4
- Philippians 3:6
- I Thessalonians 5:13
- I Corinthians 2:16—how would this type of unity in speech, mind, and judgment be accomplished? By all the saints in Corinthian functioning with the mind of Christ that they had been given.