



# THAT MESSED-UP CHURCH

**Week of January 7**  
**1 Corinthians 1:10-17<sup>1</sup>**

## Overview

Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses needs and problems specific to that local church. But for a 2000-year-old letter, many of the topics will ring true to us today as well. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism were obvious in 1<sup>st</sup> Century Corinth and are also rampant in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world. Paul cares deeply about both right living and right thinking for Christians, and so should we. Read the letter with a view toward Paul's primary purposes: the health and "building up" of the body of Christ, and actions which further of the gospel. Keeping these themes in mind will help you understand the "why" behind Paul's guidance and admonitions to the Corinthian Christians.

## Group Objectives

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

## DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We are All for Jesus.*** Jesus saves us from our past, remakes us to be like him, heals our broken places, and is coming back as our king. Only Jesus is worthy of our allegiance, and worldly division has no place for those who follow him.

## Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- What (if anything) do you remember about the person who baptized you? Why?

## Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week?
- How were you able to join God on mission?

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<sup>1</sup> This discussion guide was written by Dawn Gentry and edited by Rachel Vaughn. For additional content, see the [sermon online](#) for January 7<sup>th</sup> (1 Cor 1:1-9) and the reading plan [found here](#).

## **Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

This week's text introduces the problem of division in the Corinthian church. People were setting themselves up in metaphorical camps and claiming allegiance to a particular church leader. Paul reminds them of the goal to be united around the "same purpose," that of proclaiming the gospel and following Jesus alone.

### ***Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17***

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- What do you find most challenging about this text?
- Think about a time you experienced quarrels within the church. What caused the quarrel?
  - What do you see in this text that could have changed your perspective about that topic?
- What might cause someone to develop an allegiance to a charismatic leader (in or out of the church)? Or what are some areas of life where you might be tempted to offer your devotion to someone (or something) other than Jesus?
  - Why is it important to have allegiance to Jesus alone?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
  - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?

### **Reach One More Practice**

- Think of someone in your life with whom you have recently quarreled, or at least have a known disagreement with. Offer them a cup of coffee and an hour of your time to simply listen to their perspective. Share with the group next week what you learned from this experience.
- What are you learning about yourself in this season?
  - What are you learning about God?

### **Prayer Prompts**

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
  - *Jesus, we offer our allegiance to you alone. Forgive us when we follow too closely the pattern of this world and offer our allegiance to anyone or anything else. Help us to seek to proclaim your gospel and put the needs of others first. Amen.*

### **For further study**

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see [www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org](http://www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org)
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1corinthians/>
- NT Wright, *1 Corinthians* (NTWright For Everyone commentary series)
- Max Lucado, *Life Lessons from 1 Corinthians*
- Ben Witherington, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*