

# Small Group Discussion

## A Personal Appeal - I Corinthians 1:10-17

October 31, 2021

1. The key passage of the message was I Corinthians 1:10, but we also considered Philipians 2:1-11, Ephesians 4:1-3 and John 17:20-23. What stood out to you from these texts or from the message?
2. Our own context: Have you ever felt that awful feeling when people you love are quarrelling? What about examples of the opposite – where you have experienced quarrelling become peace, the relationship restored? (Have you met people who modelled the way of Jesus – share their example with your group.)
3. In verse 11, Paul says “**My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you**” That word quarrels is like “contentions” and it is more emphatic than just discussing differences. One commentator mentioned it is closer to ‘gainsaying’ – meaning arguing just to get your own way, to benefit yourself.
  - a) What are the indicators we might have of ourselves that our hearts or attitudes have moved from discussing and trying to understand, over towards ‘quarrelling’ in a contentious way? (Tone of voice? No longer want to see the person?)
  - b) What are some healthy biblical and practical strategies that we can use when we feel this shift is happening within us?
4. One thing unity isn’t! A side celebrity-driven/person-driven loyalty thing. Verses 11-16 mention Paul, Apollos, Peter, Christ.... Paul could have really made a case that he was the most important one to listen to here, but he instead asks very strong rhetorical questions: “**Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?**” What can you observe about the apostle’s strategy here.
5. Mission and Unity Practice - John 17:20-26: Why not take time to pray, using that same passage to pray for our church and all the churches in Ottawa. What wonderful things to pray for one another, and for the world! (If God helps apply this passage to your heart and a practical step of obedience becomes clear, be sure to take that step.)

Next week – we’ll be considering the **focus** for the church – it’s not ‘unity’ by itself - but instead the message of the cross! (I Corinthians 1:17-31) *Remember we will be taking communion together.*