

***Your Life in Christ Should  
Not Be a Soap Opera  
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians***



# Pop Quiz:

What sticks with you from our *Συνεργέω* activity from last week?

*Συνεργέω*

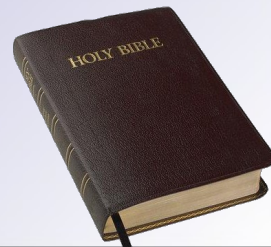
**Goal:**

- Make as much money as you can with your choices.

Scores					Bonus			Total
Group A								
Group B								

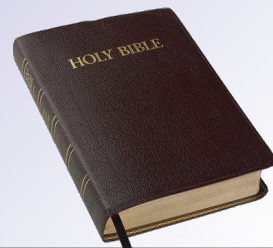
**Choices pay:**

- If Group A chooses black and Group B chooses black, each Group wins \$50.
- If Group A chooses white and Group B chooses black, Group A wins \$100 and Group B loses \$100.
- If Group A chooses black and Group B chooses white, Group A loses \$100 and Group B wins \$100.
- If Group A chooses white and Group B chooses white, each Group loses \$50.



# ***1 Corinthians***

- *A Little Bit of Background*
- *Dear Corinth*
- *Divisions*



# Division in the Church

- Let's get back into the text...
  - Very concisely, what have we discussed about how Paul opened his letter to the church in Corinth?
    - How did he finish off his salutations in 1:7-9?
    - Please read 1:10
      - How does that reflect Paul's sentiments from 1:1-2?
      - If the church in Corinth *knew* that they were struggling with divisiveness, how would they have taken 1:10?
      - If the church in Corinth *didn't* realize that they were struggling with divisiveness  
(which seems to have been the case here—most of them just seemed to think they were playing *Συνεργέω* really well and *beating* everyone else)

Συνεργέω

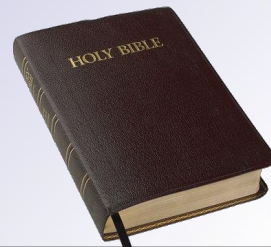
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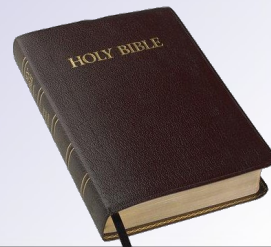
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      - If the church in Corinth *knew* that they were struggling with divisiveness, how would they have taken 1:10?
      - If the church in Corinth *didn't* realize that they were struggling with divisiveness, how would they have taken 1:10?
        - How then would they have taken 1:11?
        - Why would Paul put these verses in *this* order—encouraging them to be unified, and *then* telling them that he knows that they're not?
    - What might their reaction have been to Chloe's household upon hearing this?
    - How might that have proven Paul's point?



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    - Please read 1:10
    - Please read 1:11-12
      - How would following these different leaders play out?
        - Why would it be seen as different—and as something worth *dividing* over—to follow Paul?
          - Apollos?
          - Cephas?
          - Jesus?
  - Does following a different leader fundamentally change your Christianity? Why or why not?

## IS CHRIST DIVIDED!!!!

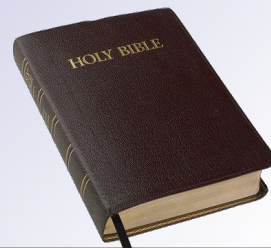
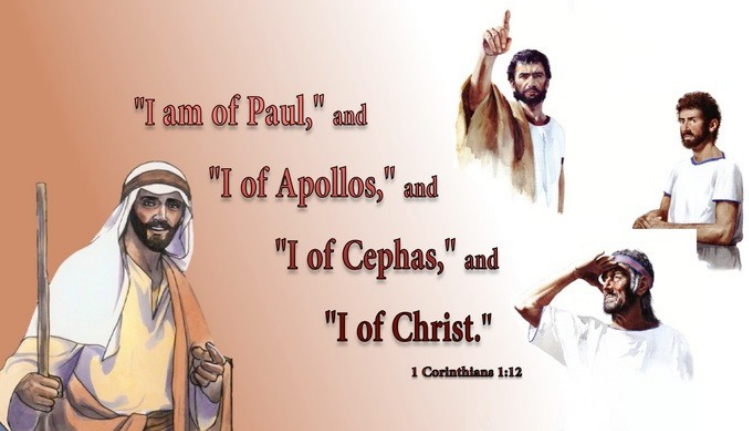
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"I of Apollos," and

"I of Cephas," and

"I of Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:12



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    - Please read 1:10
    - Please read 1:11-12
    - Please read 1:13
      - How does Paul respond to this division?
        - Why talk about *Christ* being divided, when the problem is the *church* being divided?
        - Why does Paul choose *himself* to reduce in their estimation, instead of pulling down Apollos or Cephas (or Jesus)—or all of them equally?
      - What kind of pastoral example is Paul giving them, even as he's chiding them?

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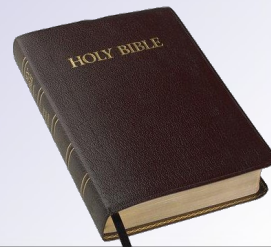
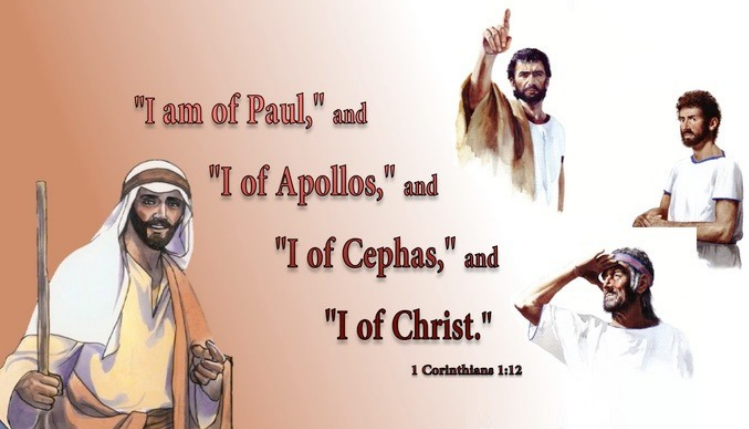
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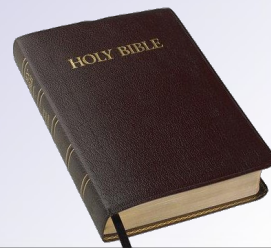
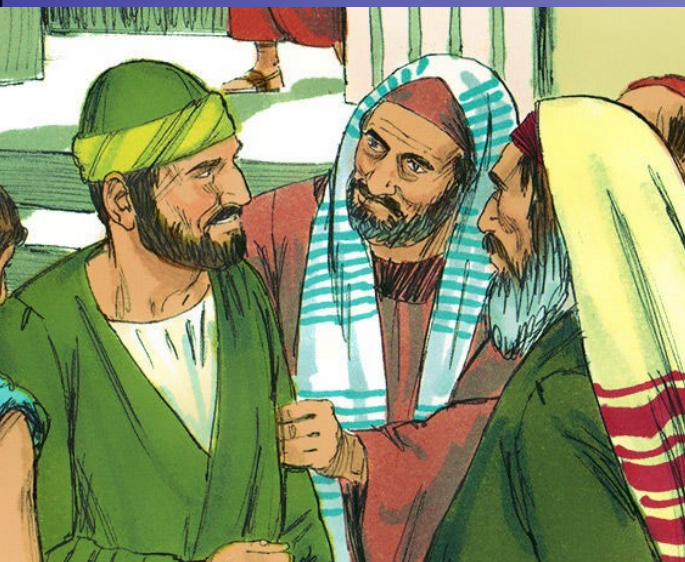
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# *Division in the Church*

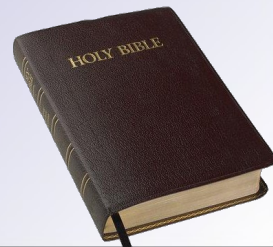
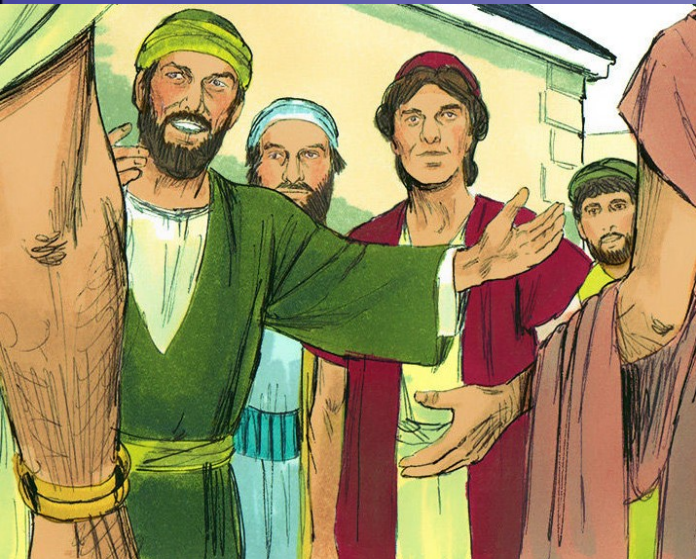
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    - Please read 1:13
    - Please read 1:14-16
      - Why does Paul go off on this bizarre tangent?
        - Is Paul anti-baptism?
        - Is Paul suggesting that evangelists and church planters shouldn't be baptising people?
        - Remember who those baptisees were—
          - Crispus was the former synagogue ruler there in Corinth (before Sosthenes)
            - What do we remember about him from back in Acts 18:4-8?





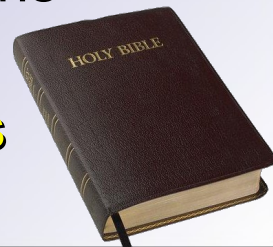
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        - Remember who those baptisees were—
          - Crispus
          - Gaius was a Corinthian convert who then went on to travel with Paul
            - How was Gaius treated in Ephesus, back in Acts 19:24-30?
            - And yet, what do we know about Gaius from later on, in Romans 16:23?
            - This is probably the same Gaius from 3 John 1:1
              - What does *that* tell us?
              - What was 3 John *about* again?



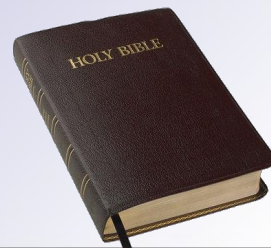
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        - Remember who those baptisees were—
          - Crispus
          - Gaius
        - We know from 1 Corinthians 16:15 that the household of Stephanas were Paul's very first converts in the region
          - How does Paul describe Stephanas and his ministry—and how the Corinthians should emulate both—in 16:14-18?
            - Why would Paul *begin* and *end* his letter talking about examples like Stephanas?



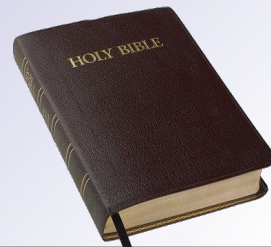
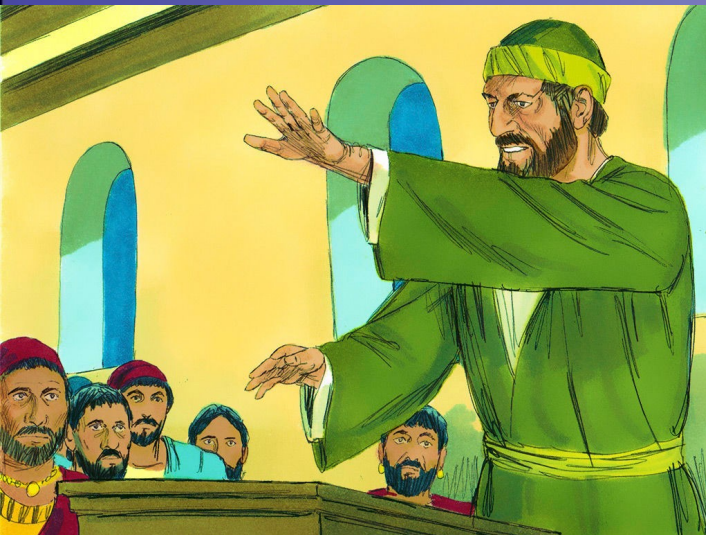
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    - Please read 1:14-16
    - Please read 1:17
      - Again, is Paul minimizing baptism?  
(NOTE: Both Jesus in John 4:1-2 and Peter in Acts 10:47-48 also tended to let other people do their baptising for them—why is that?)



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    - Please read 1:17
      - Again, is Paul minimizing baptism?
        - What is Paul emphasizing here instead?
          - How might we today empty the cross of Christ of its power by preaching merely with words of human wisdom?
      - Paul was pretty wise—so how *did* he preach?

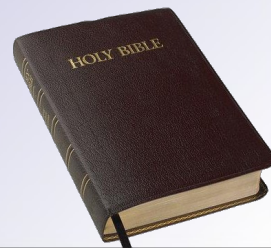


# *Division in the Church*



Funky little teaching moment...

- To discuss the divisions in Corinth, let's break up into small groups
  - GROUP ONE: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5
  - GROUP TWO: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16
  - GROUP THREE: 1 Corinthians 3:1-23
  - GROUP FOUR: 1 Corinthians 4:1-17



# *Division in the Church*



## Funky little teaching moment...

- To discuss the divisions in Corinth, let's break up into small groups
  - What is causing division within the church according to Paul in these verses?
  - How do you think Paul defines the word “wisdom” in these verses?
    - How do you think his discussion of “wisdom” would have helped to alleviate the division at Corinth?
  - How does Paul present himself? Does he present himself as a great and powerful man?
    - Who do you think Paul would say can have spiritual wisdom and importance—and why?
  - How does he present the church in Corinth?
    - Why do you think he does this, and how do you think the Corinthians would have felt while listening to him?
  - How do you think Paul understood God's role in his life?
  - According to Paul, how should we view our leaders (pastors, presidents, teachers, etc.)?
  - Given this section, how do you think Paul would suggest we should we view each other?
  - How should we try to be more like Paul today?
  - How do you think this discussion would have helped to alleviate the division at Corinth?
    - Was Paul being too harsh? Why or why not?

