

“Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters....” 1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NIV)

“If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honorable position.... He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church?” 1 Timothy 3:1, 4-5 (NLT)

III. THE ISSUE IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

“Some members of Chloe’s household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, ‘I am a follower of Paul.’ Others are saying, ‘I follow Apollos,’ or ‘I follow Peter,’ or ‘I follow only Christ.’” 1 Corinthians 1:11-12 (NLT)

“Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!” 1 Corinthians 1:13 (NLT)

IV. THE ISSUE BEHIND THE ISSUE

“...right now, friends, I’m completely frustrated by your unspiritual dealings with each other and with God. You’re acting like infants in relation to Christ, capable of nothing much more than nursing at the breast. Well, then, I’ll nurse you since you don’t seem capable of anything more. As long as you grab for what makes you feel good or makes you look important, are you really much different than a babe at the breast, content only when everything’s going your way? When one of you says, ‘I’m on Paul’s side,’ and another says, ‘I’m for Apollos,’ aren’t you being totally infantile?”

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (Msg)

“After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God’s servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It’s not important who

does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building.” 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (NLT)

“So don’t boast about following a particular human leader... look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ....”

1 Corinthians 3:21,4:1 (NLT)

V. THE APPLICATION

A. Reestablish The Value of Unity

B. Elevate Jesus

C. Expose The Immaturity

D. Keep The Main Thing The Main Thing

DIVISION IN THE CHURCH
FRACTURED - Part 1
September 13, 2026
Jerry Clonch

I. A GENTLE START

“This letter is from Paul.... I am writing to God’s church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Through him, God has enriched your church in every way-with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (NLT)

II. THE ISSUE

“I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.” 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35 (NLT)

“May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.” John 17:23 (NLT)

“... all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters.” 1 Peter 3:8 (NLT)