

**MESSAGE.**

The church in a broken world must maintain Jesus Christ as its central foundation to overcome the divisive influences of a self-indulgent culture. Because true leadership is a responsibility rather than a status, the community must reject the idolatry of personalities and recognize that every believer stands on equal ground at the foot of the cross. Unity within the body of Christ is not defined by total agreement on politics or culture, but by a shared commitment to humility and the prioritization of love over the need to be right. A culture of love serves as the most compelling witness to the outside world, requiring believers to continually return to the Gospel to resolve tensions and extend forgiveness. Ultimately, the health of the church depends on individuals valuing the collective body of Christ more than their own personal positions or preferences. ***When Jesus is at the center, love becomes the culture of the Church. #bccBIGidea***

**PRAYER.**

Father,

You are Love. Let Your love overflow through me amidst all other circumstances so the world may see You and desire a relationship with You.

Amen.

**ENGAGE.****Identity and Calling (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)**

Observation: How does Paul describe the believers in Corinth? (vs. 2, 4-9) What specific spiritual gifts and promises does he highlight that they have received through Christ?

Discovery: Paul addresses a church known for its chaos and worldliness as "sanctified" and "holy." What does this tell us about where our true identity comes from—our performance or our position in Jesus?

Application: If you truly believed you were "sustained by Him" and "guiltless" (v. 8) regardless of your past, how would that change your willingness to be vulnerable with others?

**The Problem of Personalities (1 Corinthians 1:10-17)**

Observation: In verses 11-12, what specific behaviors were causing "quarrels" among them?

Discovery: Why do you think Paul was so adamant about not wanting people to identify themselves by who baptized them (v. 14-15)? How does focusing on human leaders or "personalities" distract from the message of the cross?

Application: In our modern context, we often follow specific pastors, authors, or political figures. How can "making celebrities" out of leaders inadvertently create division within our own local church? What does this do to the "celebrity leader's" own health?

**Unity and the Mind of Christ (Ephesians 4:4-6 & Philippians 2:3-4)**

Discovery: Paul defines humility not as thinking less of yourself, but as "counting others more significant." How does this definition of humility directly solve the problem of division mentioned in 1 Corinthians?

Application: Unity survives when we prioritize love over being right. Is there a current situation or relationship where your desire to "win" is hurting the unity of the body?

Application: What does it look like practically to be "united in the same mind and the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10) when we still have different personal opinions on politics or culture?

## Day 1: Whose Team Are You On?

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1:10–13 **The Big Idea:** We don't follow people; we follow Jesus.

- **The Hook:** Who is the best superhero, athlete, or YouTuber? Imagine if you and your friends were on a team and got into a huge fight because you liked different people. Would that make the team better or worse?
- **The Lesson:** In the city of Corinth, the grown-ups were acting like kids on a playground. They were arguing about which teacher was the best—Paul, Apollos, or Peter. Paul told them that the Church isn't a fan club for people. When we make "celebrities" out of people, we forget that Jesus is the one who actually saved us.
- **Discussion:** Why is it dangerous to follow a person more than we follow Jesus? (Hint: Do people ever make mistakes? Does Jesus?)
- **Activity:** Draw a large circle on a piece of paper. Write **JESUS** in the middle. Write the names of your family, your church leaders, and your friends on the outside of the circle. Remind them that as long as everyone stays focused on the center, they stay close to each other.

## Day 2: The "Equal Ground" Rule

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:4–6 **The Big Idea:** In God's family, no one is "more important" than anyone else.

- **The Hook:** Play a quick game of "High/Low". Have everyone stand on chairs if they have blue eyes or sit on the floor if they like pizza. Then, have everyone stand on the floor together.
- **The Lesson:** In the ancient city of Corinth, some people thought they were "better" Christians because they were rich or had certain jobs. But Paul reminds us there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism". The Cross is a great equalizer. It means we all needed Jesus the same amount. No one stands on "higher ground" than their brother or sister in Christ.
- **Discussion:** Have you ever felt like someone was "better" than you at church? Or have you ever felt like you were better than someone else? How does knowing Jesus loves us all the same help us be humble?
- **Activity:** Look at a level (or a level app on your phone). Explain that humility is like that level—it keeps our hearts flat and steady so we don't look down on others or feel bad about ourselves.

## Day 3: Winning the Relationship, Not the Argument

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:3–4 **The Big Idea:** Love is more important than being right.

- **The Hook:** Would you rather be right and alone, or be kind and have a friend?
- **The Lesson:** Sometimes we get into arguments with our siblings or friends. Even if we are 100% right, if we are mean about it, we hurt the "body of Christ" (the Church). Humility means caring more about the other person than about "winning." Paul's answer to every argument was a "better view of the cross". When we remember how much Jesus gave up for us, it makes it easier for us to give up our "right" to be grumpy or mean.
- **Discussion:** Is there someone you've been "right" with lately, but you haven't been "loving" toward? How can you offer them encouragement today?
- **Activity:** The "Encouragement Challenge." Have each family member pick one person they've had "tension" with this week. Write a short note or draw a picture for them that says, "I'm glad we are on the same team".