

Divisions

1 Corinthians 1 - 4

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While Paul was in Ephesus, he had visitors from Corinth. They told him about several problems the community of believers was encountering. Paul wrote a letter addressing these issues.

The Problem:

Divisions had arisen within the Corinthian assembly. Some said, "I follow Paul." Others, "I follow Apollos," or, "I'm a disciple of Peter." And there were those who claimed, "I don't follow anyone except Christ."

Paul's Response:

Why are you dividing Christ into factions? Was Paul crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? No! So stop it! You need to be united in purpose.

When I shared the good news with you, I did so simply. My entire focus was on Jesus Christ, especially on his crucifixion. I didn't use clever or persuasive rhetoric. I didn't need to. The cross of Christ has its own intrinsic power. I'm nothing, just a messenger. You came to faith in Christ not because of what I or Apollos said but by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

I planted the seed; Apollos watered; but the Lord made it grow. I laid the foundation; now others are building on it. That is as it ought to be. But they must build carefully and well. The foundation cannot be replaced or improved upon; the foundation is Jesus Christ.

These divisions among you are a product of pride. But you have nothing to be proud of. You have been given many wonderful blessings. But that's just it! You didn't earn them; they were given to you by our Lord Jesus Christ.