

# TEARS IN THE FABRIC

## 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Why do so many issues divide Christians? Why are there so many denominations, “camps” and movements?

- 1) Because spiritual issues and what happens in the \_\_\_\_\_ matter so much to genuine believers
- 2) Such divisions have plagued the church since the times of the \_\_\_\_\_: one planted by Paul for example

### I. THE PROBLEM

#### A. The Key Description

- 1) V.10 (NKJV) calls it \_\_\_\_\_—other translations: cliques, splits, disunity, factions, parties
- 2) This word is based on a root verb often used of fabric: \_\_\_\_\_ in the fabric of the local church

#### B. The Reported Causes

- 1) Paul knew what was happening from a report by \_\_\_\_\_ household—probably a businesswoman
- 2) She reported “contentions” in the Corinthian church—debates, quarrels or arguments: serious \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) V.12 indicates that there were 4 cliques at Corinth: those of Paul, Apollos, Cephas (Peter) & \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) The Disagreements Were Not a Matter of \_\_\_\_\_ but Emphasis  
None of these teachers differed significantly regarding the gospel or core \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith
  - b) The Disagreements Were a Matter of \_\_\_\_\_ and Celebrity  
Many conservative Christians are not “of Paul” but they may be of \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) The Disagreements Were Perhaps a Matter of Who \_\_\_\_\_ Them to Christ
  - d) The Disagreements Developed Because They \_\_\_\_\_ on the Minors

#### C. The Modern Applications

- 1) At a Macro Level: Explanation for the origin of the various \_\_\_\_\_ within Christianity
- 2) On a Local Level: Explanation for the \_\_\_\_\_ that develop for causes like the following:
  - a) Worship \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Response to \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Polarized \_\_\_\_\_ climate

### II. THE SOLUTION

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ Counsel 1:10

- 1) Paul directs us to “all \_\_\_\_\_ the same thing”—a word for word translation of the original language
- 2) Paul directs us to mend the tears by \_\_\_\_\_ the same thing—the same mind & the same opinion
- 3) How can Paul ask Christians with such strongly divided opinions to say & \_\_\_\_\_ the same thing?

#### B. 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Questions 1:13

- 1) Our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ: “Is Christ Divided?”

Here is the secret to mending the tears: Focus on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than our own viewpoints or opinions

- 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Cross: “Was Paul crucified for you?”

If we keep our eyes on the \_\_\_\_\_ the issues that divide us will fade from view, out of importance

- 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ of Baptism: “Were you baptized into the name of Paul?”

Our allegiance to follow \_\_\_\_\_ trumps every other allegiance—to any cliques/parties in the church