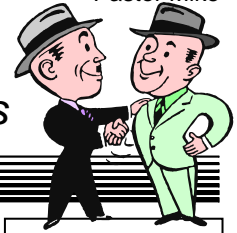


Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10
Topic: Relationships. Unity.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 7
Series: 1 of 3

Focal Point Radio Ministries
June 8 & 9, 2002
Message # 02-19
Pastor Mike

War Zones & Peace Treaties ^{part 1}

Embracing God's Goal for Christian Relationships



1. Think _____

2. Realize _____

3. Resolutely _____

1 Cor. 1:10-17

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

¹¹ My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized into my name.

¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. How would you characterize the state of your Christian relationships?

In what ways do you think your relationships with other Christians in your church and in your home fall short of what God intends them to be?

2. What kind of commitments are needed to accept someone as "a member of your family"? What kind of commitments are expected of a sibling when his or her parents adopt another child into the family?

Read 1 John 4:19-21. An ancient Roman opponent of Christianity named Caelius, chided the "naïve" followers of Christ, saying, "they love one another almost before they know one another" (*The Octavius of Minucius Felix*, ANF, 4:177). Though the statement was not intended as a compliment, these Christians were caught obeying God's high standard for Christian relationships. To what extent do you think the observer of your life would say the same of you? How would Caelius describe your loyalty and commitment to the Christian "acquaintances" in your church family?

3. Why is it easier to ignore our "war zones" instead of dealing with them, and what are the potential consequences of continuing to ignore them?

Mentally identify the spiritual siblings who are in need of a peace treaty with you. In other words, with whom are you presently in a state of "disagreement"? What concrete steps will you take to move toward the goal that God has laid out for your relationships in 1 Corinthians 1:10?

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

2Kgs.14-15 & Rom.12

Monday

2Kgs.16-17 & Rom.13

Tuesday

2Kgs.18-19 & Rom.14

Wednesday

2Kgs.20-21 & Rom.15

Thursday

2Kgs.22-23 & Rom.16

Friday

2Kgs.24-25 & Ps.1-2

Saturday

1Chron.1-2 & Ps.3-4

Here are some resources to help you through the challenges of achieving relational harmony with other Christians.

- Adams, Jay. **From Forgiven to Forgiving**. Calvary Press, 1997.
- Bellah, Robert. **Habits of the Heart: Individualism & Commitment in American Life**. UC Press, 1996. (Reference on culture.)
- Frazee, Randy. **The Connecting Church**. Zondervan, 2001.
- Gorman, Julie. **Community That Is Christian**. Victor Books, 1993.
- Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. **Ephesians 4:1-16. An Exposition on Christian Unity**. Baker Books, 1998.
- Putnam, Robert. **Bowling Alone: The Collapse & Revival of American Community**. Touchstone, 2001. (Reference on culture.)
- Ryken, Philip Graham, ed. **The Communion of the Saints: Living in Fellowship with People of God**. P & R, 2001.
- Sande, Ken. **The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflicts**. Baker Books, 1997.
- Saucy, Robert L. **The Church in God's Program**. Moody Press, 1972.
- Schaeffer, Francis. **The Church at the End of the Twentieth Century**. Crossway Books, 1994.
- Sproul, R. C. **Getting the Gospel Right: The Tie That Binds Evangelicals Together**. Baker Books, 1999.