

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:11-12
Topic: Relationships. Factions.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 8
Series: 2 of 3

Focal Point Radio Ministries

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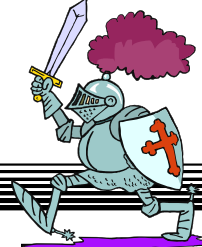
Message # 02-20

Pastor Mike

War Zones & Peace Treaties

Attacking the Problems That Attack Our Unity

part 2



1. Quash _____

2. Dismantle _____

3. End _____

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. Describe a situation in which you continued a conflict because your ego got tangled up in the issue.

Why is it so hard to see this problem when the conflict is brewing? How can you remember to check for this the next time you sense a conflict heating up?

2. Read James 4:1-3. Identify the problem that this passage points out as it relates to a quarrel you had with another Christian.
3. Do you think you may be involved in a circle of relationships within the church that has subtly adopted an air of exclusivity that was created and is maintained by feelings of superiority ...even in the slightest? What practical steps can you personally take to change this perception and/or reality?
4. Read Titus 3:9-11. Because unity is so important in Christ's church there are times when Christians need to part company with a divisive person. While this may seem contradictory on the surface, reflect on this command and describe why this is such an important biblical directive.

Have you ever had to put Titus 3:9-11 to work in your Christian life? How did the situation turn out?

5. In what situations have you used "super-spiritual" excuses to maintain unbiblical divisions, distinctions or cliques in your Christian relationships? What were your excuses?

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

Sunday

1Chr.3-4 & Ps.5-6

Monday

1Chr.5-6 & Ps.7-8

Tuesday

1Chr.7-9 & Ps.9-10

Wednesday

1Chr.10-11 & Ps.11-12

Thursday

1Chr.12-13 & Ps.13-14

Friday

1Chr.14-15 & Ps.15-16

Saturday

1Chr.16-18 & Ps.17-18

Here are some resources to help you attack the problems attacking our unity.

MacArthur, John. **The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness.** Crossway Books, 1998.

Murray, Andrew. **Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness.** Bethany House, 2001.

Sande, Corlette. **The Young Peacemaker: Teaching Students to Respond to Conflict God's Way.** Shepherd Press, 1997.

Sande, Ken. **The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflicts.** Baker Books, 1997.