

Pastor Dave Patterson
1 CORINTHIANS
Part 1

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

We are saved by grace and set apart by it.

[1 Corinthians 1.1]

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes.



[1 Corinthians 2.2]

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified.***

Jesus Christ and him crucified is enough to build the church.

[Acts 18:1-11]

*Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was. Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. And after Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time preaching the word. He testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed and insulted him, Paul shook the dust from his clothes and said, “Your blood is upon your own heads—I am innocent. From now on I will go preach to the Gentiles.” Then he left and went to the home of Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and everyone in his household believed in the Lord. Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptized. One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, “Don’t be afraid! Speak out! Don’t be silent! For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, **because I have many people in this city.** So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.*

[1 Corinthians 1.2-9]

*To the church of God in Corinth, **to those sanctified in Christ Jesus** and called to be his holy people, **together with all those everywhere** who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: I always thank my God for you because of his **grace given** you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in*

every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. **Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift** as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

[1 Corinthians 1.10-13]

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ." Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!

[Ephesians 4.3]

*Be eager and **strive earnestly to guard and keep** the harmony and oneness of the Spirit.*

The enemy tries to work his way in the church through lines of communication; the root of division is always selfishness.

[James 3.16]

*For wherever there is jealousy, envy and contention (**rivalry and selfish ambition**), there will also be confusion, unrest, **disharmony, rebellion and all sorts of evil** and vile practices.*

3 Ways We are Going to Guard Unity and Be of One Mind

- 1. Identifying and confront those who would divide the body of Christ** (*Chloe's Household*)
- 2. Practice doctrinal unity “closed and open handed beliefs”**
- 3. Agree with the final prayer of Jesus (John 17)**

[John 17.20-23]

*“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such **perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.**”*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What are some things that our culture seems to be looking for or seeking after? What was the cultural climate of Corinth like in the early church? What are any similarities between the two?**
- 2. How do we practically live for God, despite living in godless places? In other words, how do we live right in a messed up world?**
- 3. What sets us apart as God's people? What is the difference between positional and progressive sanctification (becoming more and more His)?**
- 4. How can we guard and build the unity in the Body of Christ? How does the Matthew 18 principle about resolving offense play a part in that?**
- 5. Pray and agree with the final prayer of Jesus. [John 17.20-23]**