

DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH (1:10-4:21)

1. Due to _____ (1:10-2:5)

A. Appeal for unity (1:10)

1) Questions:

a) Why is unity so important?

b) What are some of the things we are divided over today?

c) What do we mean by “divided”?

2) “In the name of Jesus Christ”

3) “one” , “complete” - John 17:21, 17

B. Report of disunity (1:11-12)

C. Hero/leaders

1) Of Paul

2) Of Apollos - Acts 18:24

3) Of Cephas - 2 Cor 11:22

4) Of Christ – 1 Cor 11:6, Acts 15:29

D. Paul's personal disclaimer (1:13-16)

1) Is Christ divided?

“Believers bear no such relation even to inspired teachers, as to justify their being called by their names.” Charles Hodges, p. 15.

2) Disassociates himself with his own personality following - Matt 28:18-20

3) KEY THOUGHT (1:17):

E. Solution to prideful disunity (1:17-2:5): _____

1) Effective evangelism is not about an intellectually _____ presentation

2) The cross is the _____ of the Christian life (1:17-18)

Rom 1:16-17

Heb 2:14-15

3) Cross is _____ to the unsaved (1:18-29)

John 3:18

Wisdom of world	Wisdom of God

KEY THOUGHT (1:23-24):

Why does God do it this way?

“The lowest manifestation of divine wisdom exceeds the highest results of the wisdom of man.” Hodge 24.

“If any man neglected what was thus presented, the fault was neither in the doctrines taught nor in the mode in which they were exhibited, but in the objector.” Hodge, p. xiv.

4) Real wisdom is in _____ (1:30-31)

Gal 6:14

5) Paul's own example (2:1-5)

a) Humility and weakness in preaching (2:1-3)

b) Relied on demonstration of Spirit's power, not earthly eloquence (2:4)

c) True foundation for belief is not persuasive argument, but the witness of the Holy Spirit with and by the truth

6) KEY THOUGHT (2:2):

F. **Result:** Divisions due to pride are without foundation, because we are united by the simple gospel of Christ's crucifixion for us. There is no place for boasting in humans at any level.

G. Application:

1) How do we balance the “foolishness of the cross” with the following scriptures; Isaiah 1:18, 1 Peter 3:15. What is the place of reasoning with the unsaved, when they see the cross as foolishness?

2) What applications can you make from this section to us today?