

1 Corinthians 1 New American Standard Bible

Appeal to Unity

Paul, called *as* an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
² To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶ just as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹⁰ Now I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be ^[h]made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹ For I have been informed concerning you, my brothers *and sisters*, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am with Paul," or "I *am* with Apollos," or "I *am* with Cephas," or "I *am* with Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized ^[i]in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I am thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one would say you were baptized in my name! ¹⁶ But I did baptize the household of Stephanas also; beyond that, I do not know if I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made of no effect.

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

And the understanding of those who have understanding, I will confound."

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has God not made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than mankind, and the weakness of God is stronger than mankind.

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers *and sisters*, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the insignificant things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no human may boast before God. ³⁰ But *it is* due to Him *that* you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written: "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?
Did God instruct you to do something?
Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. There are two types of food, one for the stomach and one for the spirit. What brings us damage is the wrong food for the spirit.
2. At the start of this letter Paul wants this Church to know he is in the ministry of Jesus, so that everything he says will be seen in the authority he has as a leader apostle.
3. This letter is written by them to the Church, not just to an individual, but the Church at Corinth.
4. At that time the Church was not fragmented by division and denominations, but what is about to happen in this Church focusses Paul to address the issue of division to avoid fragmentation and denominationalism.
5. Sanctified in Christ Jesus is the process of holiness taking place in the soul, through the work of grace operating in their spirit.
6. The term 'saints by calling' means the spirit of God drew them to Jesus to be saved.
7. But in that drawing to Him, there came a point when each of them turned around and listened to the Spirit's voice and made Jesus their Lord.
8. 'Grace to you' that is the gift invitation to be invited to turn around.
9. Peace is the outcome of surrender, the peace that God gives to all who put their trust in Him.
10. Paul is very happy to give thanks to God for him, seeking and searching out the people of this Church to be saved.
11. Paul acknowledges that God's blessing and outpouring of the good gifts that were given to this Church were many, enabling them to be used mightily and giving them great understanding.
12. The testimony of Christ in them, was the mark of the Holy Spirit in them, operating through them with many blessings.
13. You could safely say this Church was a spirit filled Church.
14. But that I am afraid is where the problem stemmed from, an over focus on the spectacular became a distraction to them.
15. 'To wait eagerly' is to anticipate with expectation His arrival.
16. Jesus is the one who will announce us as blameless before God at the judgement.
17. Anything in you that says God is unfaithful is a lie to be contested with.
18. Paul, as an apostle, has the right to exalt this Church to act in a Godly way.
19. 'To be complete' is to be of one heart.
20. Someone had been talking to Paul about this Church and the way they had been behaving with each other.
21. The conflict with them was?
22. Whose group are you in - Paul's, Silas or Jesus? Division, and that my friend is where denominationalism starts.
23. Even if you belong to a Church with a great leader it is Jesus who we all belong to, the elevation of Christian leaders is very unhealthy for you and for them, we need to see ourselves as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

24. Paul is not confused as to his call to be a preacher and a teacher of the Gospel.
25. The way Paul ministered to them was with simplicity and demonstration, not with academia.
26. The cross is foolishness to the world but revelation to God's people.
27. God undermines the wisdom of men with profound revelation of truth; man's wisdom is foolishness to God.
28. The debilitator of truth in this age is the intellectual, the scientist, the politician and the bankers.
29. We don't come to know God, (That is connecting to God) through man's wisdom, but by putting our faith in His Son. God provided a reconnection to Him,
30. He has made it so simple even children can come.
31. Why did the Jews seek for a sign to prove God's plan for salvation?
32. Why did the Greeks seek wisdom?
33. It is the message of the cross that will save and nothing else, Jews stumble and Gentiles mock.
34. The called are invited to see the cross as the revelation of hope.
35. Man's best is as nothing in the eyes of God.
36. The least God has to say and do is far greater than man's.
37. Look where you come from, consider your calling, what you were before you were saved.
38. God took the least to challenge the most, (The Are - nots to impact the Ares.)
39. Why does He do this?
40. To keep us humble and to know that He is God.
41. He did what He did because we couldn't.
42. In Christ we are accepted by God, In Christ we get righteousness, redemption and sanctification.
43. Any boasting we do should be directed towards God.