



1 Cor 3—Divisions in the Church

June 9

OVERVIEW: [1 Corinthians](#)

CONTEXT: If Thessalonica represented Paul's trophy church then Corinth represented his problem church; yet he loved and laboured with them. The root of their troubles was pride as they were continually enticed by the world. One manifestation of this was their disunity.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (1 Cor 1:3)

- How can "grace" and "peace" often be misunderstood?
- How important were grace and peace to Paul?
- What is peace?
- What is grace?
- How do we obtain peace with God by grace through faith in Jesus?
- Why do unbeliever's so desperately need this?
 - What about believers' ongoing need?

READ: 1 Cor 3

QUESTIONS:

1. **How do divisions reflect the world rather than Christ?**
2. **Have you ever witness church gone wrong, or a church not acting like it should, descending into conflict? Though painful please respectfully share so we might learn from this.**
3. **Vv. 1–3- What is the root cause of division in the body?**
4. **Where does jealousy and strife come from?**
5. *V. 4- Paul founded the church in Corinth (Acts 18); Apollos was its second "pastor." Many other visiting apostles (like Peter) and leaders visited the church too. Some were drawn to one leader vs. the other. Why is this an immature and proud way of viewing leaders? How can Christians get caught up in this, even today?*

6. **Vv. 5–9- What are leaders? Even though one does this or that, who is it that gives the increase and should be our focus?**
7. *Vv. 10–15- Our work in the church is founded upon Christ and builds on what others have laid down. How is this humbling to realize? How might that labour be measured in this life? When will it ultimately be judged? Only what will have any enduring value?*
8. **V. 15-What does this verse mean in context?**
9. **Vv. 16–What is the argument Paul is making here? Why is it a serious crime to do something that might cause damage to Christ's Church?**
10. *Vv. 18–20- Where ought we to find true wisdom? In pride or in humility? (He cites Job 15:13 & Ps 94:11).*
11. **Vv. 21–23- Whatever gifts we have, be it leaders, common graces such as the world, time or circumstances, where do these things come from and so why ought we not boast?**
12. **How do these remedy pride and disunity in the Church?**
13. **How can we guard, promote and preserve the unity we enjoy at MBC? How must we do this diligently remembering 1 Pe 5:8b**

NEXT TIME: June , 16- 1 Cor 7, Principles for Marriage