

The Prodigal Church

Sustainable unity in a divided world

(1 Corinthians 1:1-17)

- 1. Who you follow determines where you will end up. (1 Cor. 1:1-10)**
 - a. By following Christ, we can share peace. (v.3)
 - b. By following Christ, we can share the message of hope. (v.5)
 - c. By following Christ, we can share our stories. (v.6)
 - d. By following Christ, we can share His gifts. (v.7)
 - e. By following Christ, we can anticipate our justification together. (v.8)
 - f. By following Christ, we can anticipate His return together. (v.8)

- 2. Blindly following someone other than Christ can be dangerous. (1 Cor. 1:11-17)**
 - a. Some divisions are painfully unnecessary. (v.11)
 - God's messengers come in a variety of packages. (v.12-13)
 - By confusing the message with the messenger, the blessings of unity can be lost. (v.13)
 - Disunity is often a result of pride.
 - b. Trading the perfect for imperfect will lead us to disappointment.
 - When others fail us, we can feel like God has failed us.
 - The power of redemption comes from the work of redemption, not the messenger who delivers it. (v.17)

Questions for application and discussion:

1. What sources do you routinely use to find the truth?
2. What is so dangerous about confusing the message with the messenger?
3. How can Christ and our understanding of His promises unify us?