

We don't do that here

(Freedom from spiritual discrimination)

October 25, 2021

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17 NKJV - (10) I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. **(11)** My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. **(12)** What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." **(13)** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? **(14)** I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, **(15)** so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. **(16)** (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) **(17)** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

The church in Corinth is divided. Some claim to follow Paul and others Apollo's and still others Cephas. Likely, they are rejecting the other Christian teachers in misguided loyalty to the one they prefer. Paul wants them to move past any idea that he and Apollo's are in competition with each other. He describes both as servants of the Lord who helped the Corinthians to come to faith in Christ. They each did the job the Lord gave them to do. Why would the Corinthians follow the servants instead of the master.

In **1 Corinthians 3:8-9**, Paul compares himself and Apollo's to field hands. He planted the seed of the gospel and Apollo's watered it. God, though, is the one who caused the crop of their faith to grow. The Corinthians may have pictured two young men in a field, one of them working the plow and scattering the seed, the other following with the water bucket. Neither field worker owns the field, of course, but their master sends them out because both jobs need doing. The two are not in competition with each other. They work together and both will be paid by the master. In this metaphor, Paul says, the Corinthians are the field (**1 Corinthians 3:8-9**). This concept is the same today. Church leaders don't own God's people! They serve merely as God's manager (Stewards) of His people, regardless of title or position. By laws must be complimented by scripture. No exceptions! Christ said upon this rock I will build "**MY CHURCH!**" God is a God of oneness (Unity). Churches cannot be divided if they claim Christ! Even the style better be approved by Christ because worship is worship and we must worship Him in "Spirit and Truth!"

A fire is coming to test their work, Paul writes. That fire is Christ's judgment of the work of Christians on the day of the Lord during the end times. Those whose work is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ will receive a reward. Those whose work is shown to be weak and worthless will suffer a loss, but **they** will be saved by God's grace **through faith** in Christ. There will be no salvation, though, for anyone who destroys God's temple, the church (**1 Corinthians 3:13-17**).

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 6:9

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Everyone believes in a "god." But not everyone believes in "God."

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"