



divided

OPENING UP



We've all seen the "Detroit vs Everybody" slogan on t-shirts and other gear. What is it that resonates with you when you read that slogan?

TEXT



Vs. Everybody | 1 Corinthians 1:10-17a

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel,

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Big Idea: God's people are not divided.

Key Question: How can we experience unity despite our differences?

1. Acknowledge and mend what's been torn. (vv. 10-12)
2. Turn to the one and only Christ. (vv. 13-17a)

DISCUSSION



- Where have you experienced the “Us vs. Them” mentality in your life? What did it produce?
- What “tears” or divisions do you think the church needs to acknowledge before we can work on mending them?
- Discuss why turning to Christ helps us to experience unity despite our differences. What is it about Jesus, what he has done for us, and what he continues to do in us that helps us to rise above the things that divide us?
- Personally reflect upon the groups, person, or tribe that you have created distance with. Remember that God is sanctifying us all and that he doesn’t do it all at once. What would it look like to extend them grace, space, and time? What would mutual respect and mutual growth look like?
- What can we do at the personal level to build the unity of our church family? Consider how the disciplines of communal worship, service, generosity, and our life groups help us practically live out the unified Christian life.

LIFE CHALLENGE



The only true “Us vs Them” war going on is a spiritual one between God’s kingdom and his spiritual enemies (Ephesians 6:12). Think of a person or cultural group *outside of the church* with which you feel at odds. Discuss what it will look like to love this person or people instead of seeing them as the enemy—remembering that they are just people who need Jesus like you do.

What is one practical step you can take toward this person or a person from this group to show them the love of Jesus this week? And how will you commit to pray for them, knowing that God’s enemy is at work in this world, blinding their eyes to freedom and forgiveness in Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER



Oh Lord, please forgive us for perpetuating factions in the church when we take our eyes off the unity that we have in Christ. We are so grateful for the sacrifice of Jesus on behalf of us sinners and for how he brings us together as a community of the forgiven. Please help us to remember that you are at work in your church and each of your children to sanctify us and make us more like Jesus. Give us patience with one another and with the pace of your work in our lives. Make our heartbeat the words that Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:10, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”. Let us be a community that mends the tears and turns to Christ. Amen.