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Pastor Jimmy L. Harper, Sr., President of State Convention  
Apostle Walter Camp, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Minister Danny Current, Dean of Christian Education  
Pastor Michael Hansberry, Southern District Moderator

### **Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church**

Apostle Walter F. Camp, Presiding Senior Pastor  
Pastor David K. Baker III, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presiding

802 W. 15<sup>th</sup>, Little Rock, AR 72202, 501-416-5894

[www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org](http://www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org)

## **A Call to Unity**

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition  
or Roget's Thesaurus – **June 29, 2014**

## **1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

**Introduction:** The apostle Paul first visited Corinth about A.D. 52. (Lardner.) See Acts 18:1. He was then on his way from Macedonia to Jerusalem. He had passed some time at Athens, where he had preached the gospel, but not with such success as to warrant him to remain, or to organize a church. See Barnes "Acts 17:1", and following. He was alone at Athens, having expected to have been joined there by Silas and Timothy; but in that he was disappointed. Acts 17:15; comp. Acts 18:5. He came to Corinth alone, but found **Aquila** and **Priscilla** there, who had lately come from Rome, and with them he waited the arrival of Silas and Timothy. ...."Acts 18:9,10". In the city, Paul remained eighteen months, (Acts 18:11,) preaching without molestation, until he was opposed by the Jews under Sosthenes their leader, and brought before Gallio. When Gallio refused to hear the cause, and Paul was discharged, it is said that he remained there yet "a good while," (Acts 18:18,) and then sailed into Syria.

It has been uniformly supposed that this **epistle** was **written** at **Ephesus**. The circumstances which are mentioned incidentally in the epistle itself, place this beyond a doubt. ...It is evident, from 1 Corinthians 16:8, that Paul purposed to tarry at Ephesus until **Pentecost**. But this must have been written and sent away before the **riot** which was raised by Demetrius, (Acts 19:23-41;) for, immediately after that, Paul left Ephesus and went to Macedonia, Acts 20:1,2. The reason why Paul purposed to remain in Ephesus until Pentecost, was the success which he had met with in preaching the gospel, Acts 16:9. But after the riot excited by Demetrius, this hope was in a measure defeated, and he soon left the city. These circumstances serve to **fix** the **time** when this **epistle** was written to the interval which elapsed between what is recorded in Acts 19:22,23. This occurred about A.D. 56 or 57. Pearson and Mill place the date in the **year 57**; Lardner, in the spring of the year **56**. (Source: Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/)

**1 Corinthians 1:1-2**, Paul called to be an **apostle** of Jesus Christ through the will of God... Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that **ARE sanctified (make holy [pure in heart])** IN Christ Jesus, Called to be **saints (holy [holy person])**, with all that in every place call upon the **name (AUTHORITY)** of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours...

**NOTE:** The words "**to be**", added by the translators, are **unnecessary** and even cloud the meaning. Paul was stating what he was, not what he intended to be. **Called to be saints ...** Again, "**to be**" is an unnecessary additive to the text. The Corinthian Christians were not merely candidates for sainthood but were in fact already entitled to this designation by virtue of their being **IN** the **spiritual body** of Christ, "**in him**," and therefore possessing a complete identity with the Saviour (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

**Thought 1.** Below are a few verses that clarify what Paul meant by “pure in heart.”

**Romans 2:28-29**, For he is not a Jew, which is one **outwardly**; neither is that **circumcision**, which is outward in the **flesh**: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the **heart (MIND)**, IN the **SPIRIT**, and **not** in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

**Spirit defined 4151, pneuma pnyoo'-mah: VITAL** (of life) **principle** (source), **spirit** [the intelligent, immaterial {not made of matter} and IMMORTAL {able to last forever} part of man].

**Thought 2.** Although, spirit also means “breath”, it’s doesn’t fit this verse.

**Colossians 2:10-11** ...ye are **complete** IN him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye ARE **circumcised** with the circumcision made without hands, in **putting off** the body of the sins of the **flesh (human nature)** by the **circumcision** of Christ...

**Thought 3.** From the above info, we now know our “Old Nature” was cut away from our “spirit” by the Holy Ghost when we believed on Jesus. We also received God’s nature a split second later. So, we’re his child with only ONE nature, his. We’ve been MADE just like our father! With only his DNA, life!

**1 John 4:16-17**, God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth IN God, and God IN him. Herein is our love made **perfect**, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because AS (like) **he** (God) IS, **so ARE** **WE** IN this world.

**1 Corinthians 1:3**, *Grace be unto you, and peace, from God (supreme (Highest in authority) Divinity) OUR Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Thought 1.** Notice how Paul made clear that God and Jesus are not the same person.

**1 Corinthians 8:6**, But to us there is but **ONE God**, the **Father**, of whom are all things, and we IN him; and **one Lord** Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we BY him.

**Ephesians 4:4, 6**, There is... **One God** (supreme (Highest in authority) **Divinity**) and Father of ALL, who is ABOVE all, and IN you all.

**1 Corinthians 1:4-9**, **I thank** my God **always** on your behalf, for the **grace** of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are **enriched** by him, in **ALL utterance**, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that **YE come behind** in no gift (a divine gratuity, a (spiritual) endowment.); waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also **CONFIRM** (make stable, strengthen) you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is **faithful**, by whom ye were called unto the **fellowship (partnership)** of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Thought 1.** Notice he gave thanks for them being in the family of God who’ve received “spiritual endowments” and “come behind in no gift.” But, as we’ll see, they’re babes.

**1 Corinthians 1:10**, Now I **beseech (beg)**, you, brethren, by the **name (character, authority)** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **ALL SPEAK** the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be **perfectly joined together (repair (literally or fig.) or adjust)** in the same **MIND (understanding, will)** and in the same **JUDGMENT**.

**Judgment defined 1106, OPINION, or resolve (counsel, etc.): advice, purpose.**

**NOTE: No divisions ...** All divisions are contrary to the will of Christ; and by reference to the perfect unity which is the ideal of Christian relationships, Paul highlighted the broken fellowship which had marred the body of Christ in Corinth. **Be perfected together ...** This comes from a versatile Greek word, meaning "to ADJUST the parts of an instrument, the setting of bones by a physician, or the mending of nets." The general meaning would appear to be "put the broken unity back together"; and thus by the use of such an expression Paul states by implication the disunity of the church in Corinth. Paul at once stated the source of his information concerning such a disaster. (Source: *Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/*)

**Thought 1.** For Paul to "BEG" the saints to all speak the same thing, having the same MIND and judgment means it's possible for this to occur. The question, is how badly do they even DESIRE to be in oneness (UNITY)! If a Christian really has a desire to be in oneness, only then can the Holy Spirit teach them how to achieve it!

First, we're enlightened with a "good understanding" of the "truth" of God's word rightly divided that we all should believe. And then out of "REVERENCE" for our Father, we humble ourselves to believe the same thing, thus, we have unity!

**Psalm 111:10**, The **fear (reverence)** of the Lord is the **beginning** of wisdom: a **good understanding** have ALL they that **DO** his commandments...

**Proverbs 16:6**, By **mercy (kindness)** and **TRUTH** iniquity is PURGED: and by the **fear** of the Lord men depart from evil.

**Amos 3:1-3**, Hear this word that the Lord (Jehovah [Yahweh]) hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, You only have I **known** of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Can **TWO walk together, except they** be **AGREED?**

**John 17:17-19, 21-23** ...Sanctify them through **thy truth**: thy WORD is truth. As thou hast sent me... so have I also sent them into the world. ...for their sakes I **sanctify consecrate** (devote to the service of God) myself, that they also might be **sanctified (consecrate** [devote to the service of God], **make holy** [pure]) through the truth.

...That they ALL may be **ONE**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one IN US: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be **ONE**, even as we are **ONE**: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in **ONE**; and that the world may KNOW that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

**One defined 1520, one**, (in UNION; in AGREEMENT or concord.).

**1 Corinthians 1:11**, For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by **THEM** which are of the HOUSE of **Chloe**, that there are **contentions** among you.

**Contentions defined 2054, a quarrel, wrangling** (to argue noisily and persistently): **DEBATE, strife, variance** (disagreement).

**Proverbs 13:10**, Only by **PRIDE** cometh **contention (4683, a quarrel: debate, strife** [1. bitter and sometimes violent conflict, struggle, or rivalry]).

**Pride defined 2087, arrogance: presumptuously** (in a presumptuous manner). Arrogance, contemptuous pride: a strong feeling of proud self-importance that

is expressed by treating other people with contempt or disregard  
Presumptuous, overstepping DUE bounds: manifesting PRESUMPTION.

Presumption, something believed without actual evidence: a belief based on  
the fact that something is considered to be extremely reasonable or likely.

**NOTE:** It is generally assumed by commentators that **Chloe** was a **respected** member of the church, and Metz expressed confidence that she was "a woman of character and good standing"; but it should be noted that it was not Chloe who gave Paul the information regarding Corinth, but **her "household,"** a term usually applied in the New Testament to the **familia** (household slaves), as in the case of "the household of Aristobulus" (Romans 16:10).

This is the only mention of Chloe in the New Testament, making it impossible to solve the question of who she might have been. The principal point, perhaps, is this: Paul named the source of the evil report he had received, not relying at all upon mere **gossip** or **rumor**. (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic. [studylight.org/com/bcc/](http://studylight.org/com/bcc/))

**1 Corinthians 1:12-13**, Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. **Is Christ divided?** was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

**Thought 1.** First, we saw after Paul expresses thanks for their salvation, he begins to correct the pride that was among them; which, we learn from scripture is the source of their contentions. Notice, he did not call them "so-all Christians"! Nor did he say they were not saved because they were calling themselves by the names of the humans being used by God to preach the gospel to them! If it wasn't for the scriptures we just read, some of us would call them anything, but a child of God! And before I matured, I was at one time a part of those that used the phrase, "so-called-Christians"!

One day during a worship service, a number of years, before I began to pastor, while looking at things being said and done that were wrong, I became angry, and found myself saying, "Those so-called Christians"! And as quickly as those words left my heart (mind), I heard a voice speak up in an angry, stern way, and say, "They are NOT so-called Christians! They're Christians! They're just BABIES! Somebody put up with you! And now, you put up with them!" As you know, that was our Father! When I heard him, I saw it quickly! A split second later, out of godly sorrow, I dropped my head in shame! And since then, I've obeyed those words.

As I did back then, today some believers through pride and immaturity, are wrongly analyzing what they see in the body of Christ; and thereby are compounding the problem! As brother Charles Capps put it, "It's ignorance gone to seed"! Our Father wants his "explained word" to go forth in love, so that his children can GROW up; just as they did at Corinth.

**1 John 5:1**, Whosoever **believeth** that Jesus is the **Christ** **is born** of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

**Thought 2.** So, regardless of the denomination, if anybody truly believes in their heart, as scripture has stated, that Jesus is the Christ, he or she. IS born of God! There is only one body of Christ. And as Paul said, he is not divided!

And as Paul reasoned with them, he did so as a brother in Christ correcting as he was led by the Holy Spirit! All things were said with a goal of UNITY (oneness) in mind!

**John 7:21-24**, Jesus... said unto them... ...If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye **angry** at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

**Judge NOT** according to the **appearance**, but **JUDGE righteous** judgment.



**2 Timothy 2:19-20** ...Let every one that **nameth** the **name of Christ** depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of **wood** and of **earth**; and **SOME** to **honour**, and **SOME** to **DISHONOUR**.

**Thought 3.** So, even though some are to dishonor; they're still; IN the house! And since our Father has accepted them because of their faith, we should too.

**1 Corinthians 1:14-15**, *I thank God that I baptized **none** of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.*

**NOTE:** It was Paul's custom to entrust the **physical act of baptizing converts** to an assistant such as John Mark, Silas or Timothy. There were occasions, however, when he found it necessary to do the actual baptizing with his own hands, as in the cases here cited. He, in this passage, viewed it as **providential** that he had baptized so few of them, thus denying them any excuse for connecting his name with a party. Both Gaius and Crispus were prominent Christians, Crispus having been the **ruler** of a **synagogue**. (Source: *Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic*. [studylight.org/com/bcc/](http://studylight.org/com/bcc/))

**1 Corinthians 1:16**, *And I baptized also the **household** of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.*

**NOTE:** The same name with "Stephanios", or "Stephanio" in Pliny. Before he says he had baptized none but Crispus and Gaius; but recollecting things, he corrects himself, and observes, that he had also baptized the household of Stephanas, who by the Greek writers is thought to be the same with the **jailer** baptized by the apostle at **Philippi**, but was now removed from thence to Corinth, and was become a famous and useful man there. No argument can be formed from the baptism of his household in favour of **infant baptism**, since it must be first proved that he had any infants in his family, and that these were baptized; and if his household and the jailer's are the same, it is certain that his household were such who were **capable** of having the word of God spoke to them, and who actually did **believe in God**. And if they were not the same, yet it is clear that this household of Stephanas consisted of adult, converted, and very useful persons; they were the firstfruits of Achaia, and had addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints, (1 Cor. 16:15). **Besides**, that is, the above mentioned persons, **I know not whether I baptized any other**, meaning at Corinth, for he might have baptized, and doubtless did baptize many more in other places... (Source: [biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/](http://biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/))

**1 Corinthians 1:17**, *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to **preach** the **gospel**: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*

**NOTE:** ....his sense is, that baptism was not the **chief** and **principal business** he was sent about; this was to be done mostly by those preachers of the word who travelled with him, or followed after him... **but to preach the Gospel**; ...This was what he was rather sent to do than the other, and this "not with wisdom of words". Scholastic divinity, or the art of disputation, is by the **Karaites**, a sect among the **Jews**, called (Myrbdh tmkx) , "**wisdom of words**": this the apostle seems to refer to, and signifies he was not sent with, or to preach, with words of man's wisdom, with human eloquence and oratory, with great swelling words of vanity, but in a **plain, humble**, modest manner; on which account the false teachers despised him, and endeavoured to bring his ministry into contempt with others... **lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect**; lest the success of the ministry should be attributed to the force of enticing words, and the strength and persuasion of oratory, and not to the energy of **divine power** attending the doctrine of the cross. (Source: [biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/](http://biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/))