**Divisions in Corinth**

1 Cor. 1:10 – 17

Intro:

What reasons for divisions in the Corinthian church?

**1. Lack of Spiritual Growth.**

Ch 3:1-5 - “I could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ”

Church in Corinth was young – 4 years old.

Church filled spiritual gifts, should be spiritual.

Contrary – Troubled Church:

Sexual immorality, divisions, believers dragged each other into court, abuse spiritual gifts, abuse Lord’s Supper.

Very immature group of believers.

Letter - Paul as a surgeon diagnoses problems and brings them to light.

Writing Convicting stern letter -> aims addressing spiritual immaturity.

“Grow Up”

A church is not a building. Church is made up of people. Spiritual maturity of the church depends on the spiritual maturity of its members.

Many times divisions happen in churches not because of theological disagreements.

Jonathan – toddler

Spiritual toddlers - Spiritual immaturity. People don’t get things their way.

How can a believer grow up spiritually?

1. Personal Relationship with God
2. Serving Christ – involved ministry
3. Church – high quality spiritual food

Very excited church leadership agreed to start systematic teaching scripture.

**2. Lack of Love**

Ch. 13: 1-3

Church at Corinth filled with problems that came from a lack of love.

Ch.13 – Dedicated entire Chapter to teach the Corinthians about Love.

Pentecostal churches at risk same trap Corinthians fell into.

Focus so much on spirituality, Parking Lot talking gossiping.

Divisions Corinth –> from a lack of Love.

Easy to love people that are similar to you.

Our church: Wealthy/ Lower middle class, Americans/ Ukrainians, younger generations/ older generation. Different views.

Solomon “Nothing new under the sun”

Early Churches: Jews/ Gentiles, Masters/Slaves, Law/ Philosophy.

As a church one of our main duties is to love people.

Peter - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Jesus – I’m giving you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Where do I get this love?

 1 John - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God

3. **Corinthians failed to understand that the Church is Body of Christ**.

Cafeteria at Normandy High School

People naturally associate themselves with people who are similar to them

No more groups in church

Church isn’t about multiple religious groups come together on a Sunday

Church is ONE GROUP that has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

JESUS CHRIST isn’t divided.

Believers in Corinth had a problem with Divisions/ Groups “Paul/Apollos/Cephas”

Paul – Gentiles, Peter – Jews, Apollos - Philosophers

Corinthians didn’t understand the church as the Body of Christ

Ch. 12 – dedicated 19 verses explain to Corinthians -> Body of Christ.

“Individual members of ONE Body.”

Diversity is a beautiful thing in the Church

- Multiple generations

Different people from all walks of life, redeemed and saved by the blood of Jesus.

Recently multi-ethnic church

1. **Drifted away central message Christianity – Message of the cross of Christ!**

First things Paul wrote about after the passage on divisions – cross of Christ.

v.18 – 25

Message of the Cross of Christ – powerful message unites believers.

Healthy Church – focuses heavily message of the Cross

Many churches Big emphasis on traditions/ religious rules.

Put big emphasis on secondary things, which really aren’t that important.

When you do that you forget about what the Christianity is really all about.

Corinthians drifted away from the message - Cross of Christ.

What can our church do to avoid divisions**?**

1.Seek Spiritual Growth/ Spiritual maturity

2. Purse Love with other believers

3. Understand Church is the Body of Christ

4. Big emphasis Message Cross of Christ.