

11/15/2020

Paul's View on Thanksgiving, Part 3

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I Corinthians 1:4-13 ⁴I always thank my God for you because of the grace He has given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in Him you have been enriched in every way, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will sustain you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. ¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree together, so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be united in mind and conviction. ¹¹My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹²What I mean is this: Individuals among you are saying, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. Paul thanks God for people whom he does **not agree** with all of their actions or their beliefs. V.4
- B. **Grace** is the reason why Paul can be thankful for people whom he disagrees with. V. 4-6
- C. The Corinthians have every **spiritual gift** necessary to do what they are called to do and to be. V.7
- D. Paul believed that Christ will **sustain** them until they are made perfect. V.8
- E. Paul didn't depend on human **faithfulness** but on God's. V.9
- F. Paul appeals them to **focus** on the commonality that we have as believers and not on our differences. V.10-13

II. How can we apply this to our lives?

- A. We must cultivate a heart of **thankfulness** for those around us, even with those whom we disagree with.
- B. Write **grace-checks** out to those around us.
- C. We need to use what God has given us for the **purpose** that God gave it to us.
- D. **Believe** and **communicate** this belief to others that God is at work and that He will complete that work in them.
- E. Focus on our **commonality** and not our differences. If you have a belief that you are strong on but it causes division, filter your expression of that belief through this passage.