

The Cure

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I Corinthians 1:10-31 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? ¹⁴I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that I do not remember if I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with words of wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." ²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand signs and Greeks search for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. ²⁶Brothers, consider the time of your calling: Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were powerful; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸He chose the lowly and despised things of the world, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast in His presence. ³⁰It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." (BSB)

I. What are the details of this passage?

- A.** Paul is addressing the **problem** of divisions inside the Corinthian local church. V. 10-16 These divisions are similar to the divisions that we have today in Christianity.

- B. The Gospel is our **unifying** factor.V.17-18
- C. Knowing God **personally** is the key to unifying the local church as well as the church universally. V. 19-24
- D. Our relationship with Him gives us His **wisdom** and His **power**. V. 25
- E. Our earthly standing is not a factor in our standing in God's **family**. V. 26-27
- F. The purpose of God choosing us is to show that our salvation is not earned but is a **gift** that we cannot claim to have earned. V. 28-29
- G. God, through Jesus Christ, alone gets the **glory** for our salvation. V. 30-31

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A. We must find ways to have **fellowship** with other like-minded Christians.
- B. We must keep our **emphasis** on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Keep in mind that there is not a one size fits all when it comes to the **presentation** of the Gospel.
- C. We must keep our focus on **healthy** relationships with God, man and a **healthy** respect for ourselves.
- D. We must see people as **fellow** children of God or **potential** children of God. The other labels must be avoided.
- E. Since we have been chosen by God we must **align** our actions up to our position in Him.
- F. We must stay **humble** in our assessment of ourselves.