

1 Corinthians 4:14-21

MIND of Christ

“God has given us wise examples to follow.”



Many Individuals No Divisions

1 Corinthians 1-4

- Paul's greeting of saints and thanksgiving to God (1:1-9)
- Being of the same mind and having no divisions (1:10-17)
- The word of the cross is power and wisdom (1:18-31)
- God's wisdom IS to have the mind of Christ (2:1-16)
- Divisions can lead to loss of eternal reward (3:1-9)
- The wisdom of the world is foolishness before God (3:18-23)
- The wisdom of God causes us to be faithful servants (4:1-13)
- God has given us wise examples to follow (4:14-21)

Many Individuals No Divisions



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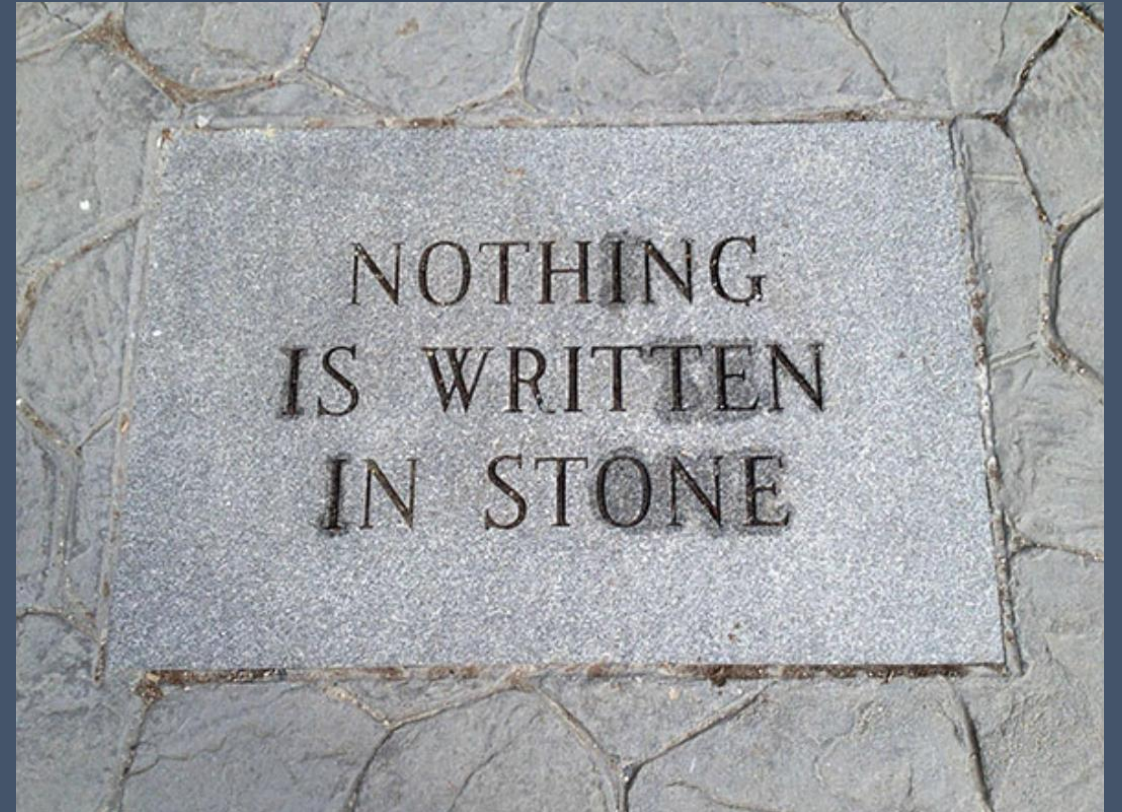
Many Individuals No Divisions

The Use of Irony

A horizontal line of black silhouettes representing a diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities, all holding hands. The silhouettes are positioned at the bottom of the slide, with the text 'Many Individuals No Divisions' overlaid on them.

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The Use of Irony



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The Use of Irony

- Irony – opposite of what you might expect
- Chiding my wife – locking the doors (gracious, loving response)
- Child's complaint – work them too hard (things they didn't work for)
- Paul's descriptions of his service (4:9-13) – to set their hearts right
- Said in love – admonishment
- Said in anger – shame



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

Jesus (Joh 10:11-15)



Paul (1Co 4:9-13)



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

Jesus (Joh 10:11-15)

¹¹ I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me ¹⁵ even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father, and I lay down My life for the sheep.



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

Jesus (Joh 10:11-15)

- A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, v. 11
- Hired shepherds will leave the sheep in danger, vv. 12-13
- Shepherds are concerned about their sheep, vv. 14-15

Paul (1Co 4:9-13)



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Paul (1Co 4:9-13)

⁹ For, I think God has exhibited us apostles last of all as men condemned to death because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. ¹¹ To this present hour, we are both hungry and thirsty and are poorly clothed and are roughly treated and are homeless; ¹² and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.



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Paul (1Co 4:9-13)

- A good father lays down his life for his children, vv. 9-13
- Hired teachers will leave the children after contract, v. 15
- Fathers are concerned about their children, vv. 14-15

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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- “We’re not called to follow anybody but Christ, but we’re called to imitate those who do.”
- Imitate (imitators) – imitate, follow (imitators, followers)
- G3401, G3402 – 1Co 4:16; 11:1; Eph 5:1; 1Th 1:6; 2:14; 2Th 3:7, 9; Heb 6:12; 13:7; 3Jo 1:11
- Paul essentially said, “Be followers of me.”
- WHY? – Confusing
- Denounce – “I of Paul, I of Apollos, I of Cephas, I of Christ.” (1Co 1:12)
- How then are we to follow or imitate people who follow Christ?



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- **The Wisdom of God (1Co 1:21)** (i.e. project based)

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. (1Co 1:21)



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- The Wisdom of God (1Co 1:21) (i.e. project based)
- **Christ's Foundation (1Co 15:1-2)** (new alignment)
- Now, I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved. (1Co 15:1-2)
- humbling oneself



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- The Wisdom of God (1Co 1:21) (i.e. project based)
- Christ's Foundation (1Co 15:1-2) (new alignment)
- **New Identity in Christ (Joh 1:12)**
- But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. (Joh 1:12)



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- The Wisdom of God (1Co 1:21) (i.e. project based)
- Christ's Foundation (1Co 15:1-2) (new alignment)
- New Identity in Christ (Joh 1:12)
- **A Different Identity (1Co 1:12)** (alignment change)
- Now, I mean this that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul" and "I of Apollos" and "I of Cephas" and "I of Christ." (1Co 1:12)
- elevating oneself and the other person



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- We remain humble and be Christians only (followers of Christ).
- We don't identify or align with any person other than Christ.



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- We consider the dangers of recognizing denominations.
- We maybe reconsider calling ourselves evangelical or even brethren as this may perpetuate division.



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- We seek for those whose examples follow that of Jesus and Paul as one who is humble in service and word and doesn't create division but stands against it.



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

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- Does Paul say one thing to one church and something different to another?
- Paul teaches the same doctrines **everywhere in every church**.
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- For this reason, I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord; and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ just as I teach **everywhere in every church**. (1Co 4:17)
- church division



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- Does Paul say one thing to one church and something different to another?
- Paul teaches the same doctrines **everywhere in every church.**
- It's doesn't just apply to the church in Corinth.
- Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner, let him walk. And so I direct **in all the churches.** (1Co 7:17)
- Christian living



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- Does Paul say one thing to one church and something different to another?
- Paul teaches the same doctrines **everywhere in every church.**
- It's doesn't just apply to the church in Corinth.
- But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have **the churches of God.** (1Co 11:16)
- head coverings



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- Does Paul say one thing to one church and something different to another?
- Paul teaches the same doctrines **everywhere in every church.**
- It's doesn't just apply to the church in Corinth.
- For God is not *a God* of confusion but of peace, as in **all the churches of the saints.** (1Co 14:33)
- orderly worship



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- Does Paul say one thing to one church and something different to another?
- Paul teaches the same doctrines **everywhere in every church.**
- It's doesn't just apply to the church in Corinth.
- Now, concerning the collection for the saints **as I directed the churches of Galatia so do you also.** (1Co 16:1)
- providing for other saints



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1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- I've people saying that "this book only applies to the Corinthian culture."
- It's doesn't address only the church in Corinth.
- Paul didn't shift his teaching from church to church.
- The issues brought up in this book were happening **everywhere in every church.**
- This means it applies to HBC, GBC, and you personally.
- We need to be careful with how we view the rest of this book, 1 Corinthians.



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- More on applications
- More church (1Co 1:10)
 - “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.”



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1 Corinthians 4:14-21

- More on applications
- More humility (“Humility is key.”)
 - Do you refuse to obey certain doctrines for whatever reason?
 - How’s that going to go for you at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
- More maturity
 - Are you being disciplined? If not, why? (avail yourself or others)
 - Are you worth imitating? If not, why? (spiritual gift)



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