

1 Corinthians 1:4-17

PERSONALITIES AND THE CROSS



1 CORINTHIANS

Paul Responds to the
Church at Corinth

Responding to issues reported by Chloe (1-6)

Divisions, wisdom, and the cross (1-4)
Immorality, lawsuits, and sexuality (5-6)

Responding to issues mentioned in the letter from Corinth (7-16)

Marriage and celibacy (7)
Freedom, food, and idolatry (8-11)
Issues in worship (11-14)
The resurrection (15)
Generosity and closing (16)



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CHRIST'S WORK IN THE SAINTS AT CORINTH

Thanksgiving for God's Grace

1 Corinthians 1:4 ^{NIV}

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.





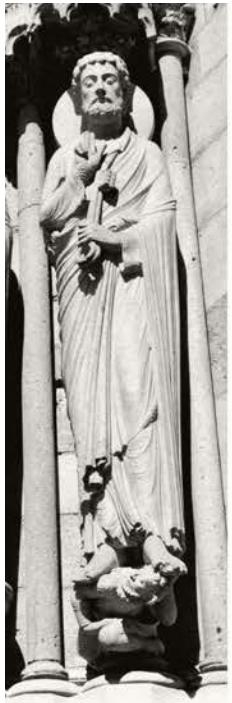
CHRIST'S WORK IN THE SAINTS AT CORINTH

Enriched, Gifted, and
Blameless in Christ

IN CHRIST JESUS, THE CHURCH AT CORINTH:

- Has been spiritually enriched in every way (v. 5)
- Is a testimony of Christ among them (v. 6)
- Lacks no spiritual gift as they wait for our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 7)
- Will be kept firm and blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 8)





GOD'S CALLING FOR THE SAINTS AT CORINTH

Fellowship With Christ

1 Corinthians 1:9 ^{NIV}

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.



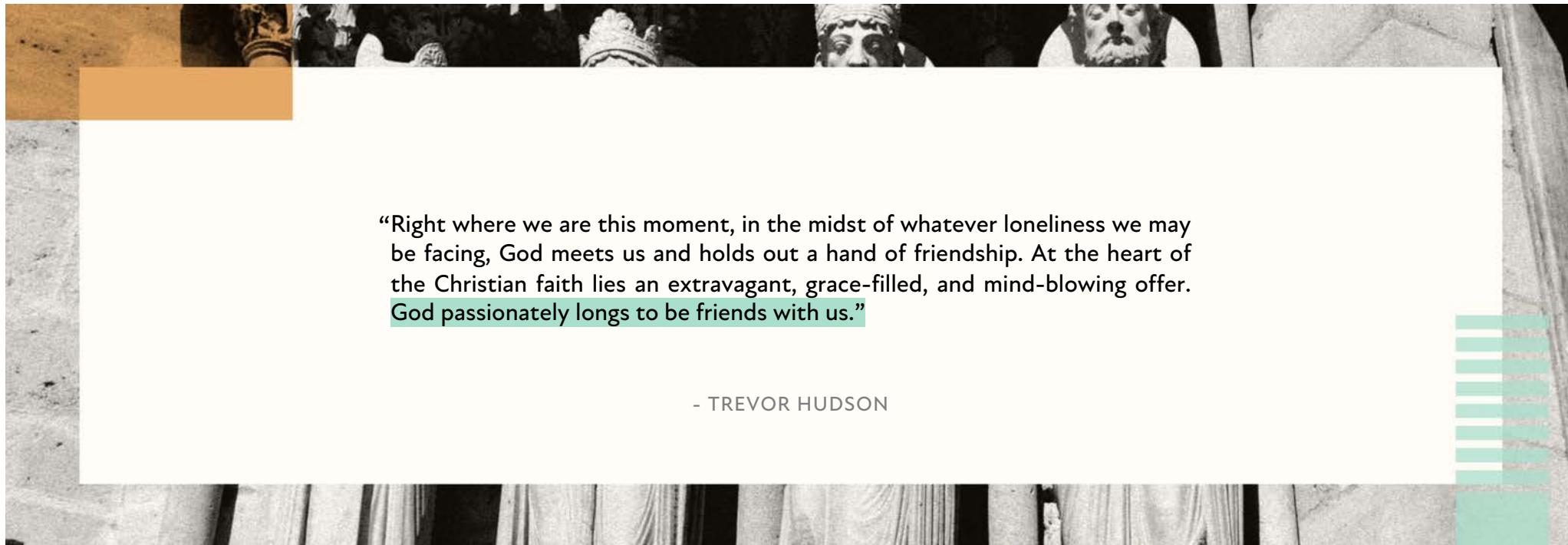


GOD'S CALLING FOR THE SAINTS AT CORINTH

Fellowship With Christ

KOINONIA - communion; fellowship; a close intimate relationship of partnership, oneness, and love.





“Right where we are this moment, in the midst of whatever loneliness we may be facing, God meets us and holds out a hand of friendship. At the heart of the Christian faith lies an extravagant, grace-filled, and mind-blowing offer. God passionately longs to be friends with us.”

- TREVOR HUDSON

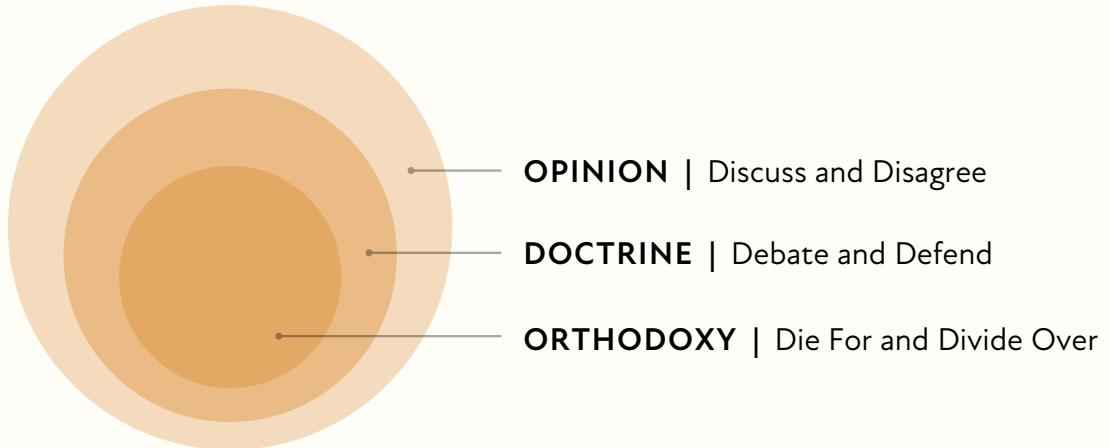
DIVISIONS AMONG THE SAINTS AT CORINTH

1 Corinthians 1:10 NIV

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that **there be no divisions among you**, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

DIFFERENT ISSUES CALL FOR DIFFERENT RESPONSES:

- In the essentials, unity.
- In the non-essentials, charity.
- In all things, love.





SCHISMS TEARING APART THE SAINTS AT CORINTH

Divided Over Preference
and Allegiance to Leaders

1 Corinthians 1:11-12 NIV

My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that **there are quarrels among you.**¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."





What “non-essential” topics might tear
us apart as a church?





“Many Christians publicly disown and attack other believers who share the same beliefs in Christ, but who are voting for the “wrong” candidates. They seem to feel a more common bond with people of the same politics than of the same faith. When the church as a whole is no longer seen as speaking to questions that transcend politics, and when it is no longer **united by a common faith that transcends politics**, then the world sees strong evidence that Nietzsche, Freud, and Marx were right, that religion is really just a cover for people wanting to get their way in the world...”

- TIMOTHY KELLER

TRANSCEND THE POLITICAL NARRATIVES

Genesis 1:26a NIV

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule...”

Jeremiah 29:7 NIV

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Matthew 22:19-21 NIV

“Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius,
²⁰ and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”
²¹ “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

TRANSCEND THE POLITICAL NARRATIVES

Romans 13:1 NIV

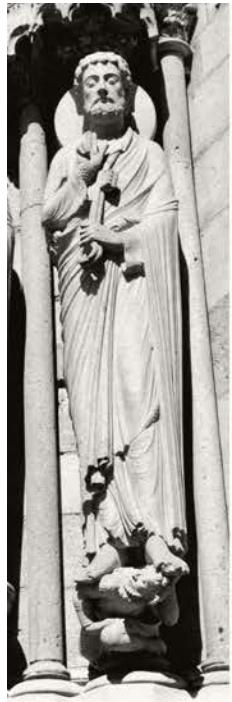
Let everyone **be subject to the governing authorities**, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Titus 3:1-2 NIV

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to **slander no one**, to be **peaceable and considerate**, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² **for kings and all those in authority**, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

**1 Peter 2:1 NIV**

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

1 Peter 2:12-17 NIV

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority,¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.





EARLY CHURCH DISTINCTIVENESS IN THE ROMAN WORLD

Adapted from Larry Hurtado,
Destroyer of the gods

A BOOKISH PEOPLE:

Scriptures were essential to life and practice

A NEW IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY:

Unity and fellowship with God and one another

A COUNTERCULTURAL ETHIC:

Diversity | Unity across ethnic, religious, political, and social divisions

Care for Poor | Support to marginalized and suffering

Sanctity of Life | Women, children, immigrants, widows, sick, politicians...

Sexuality | Fidelity in marriage between husband and wife

Forgiveness and Enemy Love | Commitment to love and forgive enemies





A culture divided needs a church united.



“Unity comes not through uniformity – but through each individual, as different as he may be from the others, turning his gaze steadily upon the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. Unity comes not from a common language, or nationality, or race, or color, or political agenda, but from a common vision and posture as we all with unveiled face behold the glory of the Lord and bow the knee before him.”

- A.W. TOZER

ALL CHRISTIANS ARE UNITED BY CHRIST

1 Corinthians 1:13-17 NIV

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest **the cross of Christ** be emptied of its power.



A culture divided needs a church united
by the good news of Jesus.