

Connect

Please reflect on the following quote, and how it may apply to your life, work, and ministry and, also, to the passage which we are presently studying.

"Ambition is the mother of all heresies."

- John Calvin

Verses - 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (CSB)

10 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction. 11 For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by members of Chloe's people, that there is rivalry among you. 12 What I am saying is this: One of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in Paul's name? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. 16 I did, in fact, baptize the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't recall if I baptized anyone else. 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied of its effect.

Study

1. Based on last week's reading (vv.1–9) and Pastor Takeshi's sermon on that text, what do we know about (a) the author of this letter and (b) the people to whom it was written?
2. In our reading for this week (vv.10–17) in your own words, please describe the issues being addressed. What do you find most interesting or difficult?
3. So far as we know, there were no rivalries between Cephas, Paul, and Apollos, and no problems with their respective teaching. So how shall we understand the **"rivalry"** described in verses 11 and 12 and the **"division"** mentioned in v.10?
4. Have you ever attended a church where different members favored different leaders, resulting in rivalry and division? What was the result / resolution?
5. Although Paul was the one sent first by Christ to preach the gospel in Corinth, why did some there come to see themselves as belonging to Cephas or Apollos?
6. And some said, "I belong to Christ." (v.12) Was this a good thing to say?
7. Why was Paul happy that he had baptized so few of the believers in Corinth? (vv.13-17)
8. Why did Paul preach the gospel there "not with **eloquent wisdom**"? (v.17)

Share

1. How can we aim to honor Christ as the highest priority in our lives? In what ways have you done that in your life and/or have you failed to do that?
2. Where is giving Christ the highest priority in the Bible? How does Scripture and today's verses do that? How does it lead to unity in our church?
3. What would result in honoring Him this way?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.