

- ↪ Last time we saw that divisions are so bad for the church because they take away the church's purpose. Think about it, a divided body is a dead body! A church divided cannot effectively preach about God's reconciling love.
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1. This was a church-wide problem not just a few within the Corinthian church, 1st Corinthians 1:10-12.

- ✓ Notice, "each one of you is saying" not "some of you" or "a group of you." We are the cause of divisions. All were involved in the divisions in the church at Corinth, the cause = James 4:1. Divisions are always caused by our passion to make ourselves, our needs, our opinions, our group, our goals, or agendas, or even our theology the center of the universe. Where is the center of the universe? We each think it is us, that's the problem. Church would be a great thing if it weren't for the people! We are, potentially, the biggest problem this church faces! "People in church are like porcupines in a blizzard; we need each other to keep warm but we prick each other when we get close." Divisions among believers exist because we believers have a natural tendency to seek our own way and our own glory.

2. What's the solution for our problem? Let's listen to what Paul prescribes for the Corinthian church.

- 1) "All agree" or "say the same thing," agree that we belong to each other.
- 2) "Be made complete," Mend the net.
- 3) "Same mind and same judgment," Judgment follows minds because if we're of the same mind we'll be of the same judgment.
 - ✓ "Same mind," some say we should fellowship with "like-minded believer," but that often means someone like our mind! "I'm right and your wrong and the sooner you realize it we can have unity." = we are holding unity hostage. The same mind Paul is speaking of is not any of our minds. We even have divisions within our own minds!

3. The mind Paul is speaking of is the indivisible mind of Christ, Philippians 2:5-7.

- ✓ 1st Corinthians 1:5, "Attitude" = literally "thinking" or "mind." 1st Corinthians 1:6, every right and prerogative of God but He laid it all down to put other's rights first. This is the Key to unity, Jesus' mind of laying down our own rights and personal agendas to lift others up. 1st Corinthians 1:7, "emptied Himself", there was nothing in Him that needed to go, not like us!

Since there is so much in us that needs to go, doesn't seem only right that we should empty ourselves too?
