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1 Corinthians 1:10-17

10 **I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.** 11 For some members of Chloe’s household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. 12 Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of Paul.” Others are saying, “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,`” or “I follow only Christ.” 13 Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. 16 (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don’t remember baptizing anyone else.) **17 For Christ didn’t send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.**

1. **UNITED IN THOUGHT AND PURPOSE vs10**
   1. Paul urges the Corinthians to be united in their beliefs and actions, emphasizing the importance of harmony among believers. This underscores the significance of unity within the church community. It teaches us the value of working together towards a common goal, setting aside personal differences and conflicts.
   2. What does it mean to be "united in thought and purpose" within the church?
   3. Why is unity important for the effectiveness of the church's mission?
   4. How can we maintain unity despite diversity within the church?

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1. **AVOID DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH vs11-16**
   1. Paul warns against divisions within the church. He stresses the need to be "perfectly united in mind and thought," indicating that disunity can hinder the effectiveness of the church's mission. This teaches us the importance of resolving conflicts peacefully and seeking reconciliation rather than allowing disagreements to escalate into divisions.
   2. What were the specific divisions Paul addressed in the Corinthian church?
   3. How can disagreements within the church lead to harmful divisions?
   4. What steps can we take to prevent and address divisions within our own church community?

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1. **PREACH DON’T PROMOTE vs17**
   1. Paul emphasizes the centrality of preaching the gospel rather than promoting oneself or one's own wisdom. He highlights the power of the message of the cross, which may seem foolish to the world but is the wisdom and power of God for those who believe. This teaches us to remain faithful to proclaiming the gospel message, recognizing its transformative power in the lives of believers.
   2. Why did Paul prioritize preaching the gospel over promoting himself or his own wisdom?
   3. How does the message of the cross differ from the wisdom of the world?
   4. In what ways can we prioritize preaching the gospel in our own lives and ministries?

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