



Going Deeper Questions
Division in the Church
Pastor Ethan May

Sermon Scripture Passage

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Fun icebreaker question

What movie can you quote the most?

Discipleship Cycle: Debrief & Interpret

Last week, Pastor Brynn challenged us with this Discipleship Cycle:

"This week, choose one person in your life to think about as a saint. What does that belief about them do in your relationship? How could believing another person is a saint shift your perspective about them and influence how you treat them?"

Did anyone try this? How did it go?

Quick Review: What stood out to you from this week's passage?

Looking back at your notes from this week's passage and sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

My Story

As a reminder, this sermon series will have us focusing on some difficult topics - so as we discuss them together, remember that we are all siblings and fellow saints in Christ!

- 1) Have you ever witnessed or been part of a church split? What was it like?
- 2) Reflecting on the two different ways of thinking that Pastor Ethan mentioned - "bounded-set" thinking and "centered-set" thinking - what way of thinking have you experienced most in your own spiritual life?
- 3) Why do you think it's hard to worship alongside people who think differently than you?

Dive Deeper

Take a moment and read Acts 2:42-47, the passage about the new believers from 16 different cities and countries.

- 4) What stands out to you about this new gathering of Christians?
- 5) Do you notice any difference between this group of believers in Acts and the group of believers in Corinth from our passage this week?

Finally, re-read 1 Corinthians 1:13-17.

6) Paul gets almost a little sarcastic here as he calls out the Corinthians (the pastoral staff called him "Sassy Paul" when talking about this part). What do you think he means by verse 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"? How would this division in the church "empty the cross of its power"?

*Faith: What is this passage asking me to believe about God or myself?

*Hope: What hope does this passage offer us as God's people?

*Love: What is this passage asking us to do? How do we put these words into action in our lives?

Discipleship Cycle: Respond Actively

This week, think about something that you might disagree with other believers about. What would it look like to stand next to those people in unity, saying, "I genuinely disagree with you, and it's about something important...so I'm going to tell you I love you, be honest about why I think what I think, and then tell you I love you again. Because we are still unified in Christ, we are both saints in Christ, and I will choose love."

A special question for couples and families

Sometimes, it's the people who are closest to us that are easiest to argue with - our spouse, or children, or roommates, or family. Why do you think it's so easy to do that with people who are closest to us? And how can we overcome that so that we can be unified in our mission to love God and one another?
