

The Dangers of Division

I Corinthians 1:10-17

Introduction:

- A. Our nation is greatly divided: politically, racially, financially and educationally.
- B. In a day and time when our nation is so divided, the church stands in need of unity.
- C. Remember: When the Church becomes ONE, the world has a chance to be WON.

God Desires for His Church to be United (1:10-11).

- A. Paul begins by appealing for the church in Corinth to be united.
- B. God has a lot to say about unity (Psa. 133:1; Jn. 17:20-23; Prov. 6:16-19).
- C. Unity will only be possible if we are willing to be true to the scriptures and stop making our opinions Gospel (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19; Rom. 14:1-5).

When the Church is Divided, it is often because of Spiritual Immaturity (1:12-16).

- A. The church in Corinth was divided over certain leaders.
- B. Paul rebuked the Corinthians over their quarreling about certain leaders.
- C. The Corinthians had their priorities mixed up and were too focused on themselves (3:1-4).

When the Church is Divided, the Church Loses Sight of its Purpose (1:17-2:5).

- A. Paul reminded the Christians that it is all about Jesus and Him crucified (17-18; 2:1-5).
- B. The situation in Corinth was brought to Paul's attention by Chloe's people (Jn. 13:34-35).
- C. The church must guard against turning people away because we cannot live in harmony.

Conclusion:

- A. If we want to make a difference in our world, we must come together and be united.
- B. Let's do all we can to make sure the Karns congregation isn't known for division, but for unity.
- C. "Christians, like snowflakes, are frail, but when they stick together they can stop traffic." (Vance Havner)