

1 Corinthians 1:10-18^{iv}

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our LORD Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

^{iv} **About the Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Paul takes up the first item on his agenda: the dissension in the Corinthian community and its manifestation in cliques. He appeals to the Corinthians to be of one mind and judgment, rather than divided into groups, each with its own label.

Many suggestions have been made about the nature of the groups Paul mentions. Possibly Paul's followers were the poorer members and Apollos's, the more educated. Cephas (also known as Peter) probably had not been to Corinth, but Jewish Christians might consider him their patron. The "Christ" party is most difficult to identify; they may have been those who claimed to have a special mystical relationship to Christ, or to possess special knowledge.

Paul tactfully centers his criticisms on his own partisans. They have not been baptized in the name of Paul but in the name of Jesus Christ, to which name Paul has already appealed as the grounds for unity.