

DAY 1
GLORIFY GOD WITH YOUR UNITY
Chapters 1-4

Today's chapters address divisions in the church, focussed on different leaders and their gifts.

1. The importance of unity in Christ, and the unspiritual worldliness of division: 1:10-17, 3:6-9

I appeal to you to be united - unity is key theme

It's all about Jesus, not other human leaders

See also Ephesians 4, John 13:34, 35

Questions: what sort of divisions do we see in today's churches? What does Paul's teaching say to us?

2. Boasting of human eloquence and cleverness is contrary to God's priorities: 1:18-2:16

The Christian gospel is not a humanly clever message, but about the cross!! - that's Paul's message. (Cruciformity!) God chose ordinary lowly people not celebrities. The Holy Spirit (not human cleverness) converts and gives true wisdom

Questions: are our churches into celebrity leaders and rich, clever and powerful church members? Is our preaching and teaching focussed on the cross of Jesus, or something more humanly clever and powerful? Do we trust in the Holy Spirit in our work, or something else?

3. Right and wrong views of your leaders: servants in God's work, field, temple, accountable to him for their work. 3:5-4:7.

Your leaders are the Lord's servants in the Lord's work - servanthood being Jesus' way 4:1-5

Questions: do our church leaders see themselves as servants or masters? Do we honour them too much or too little?

4. Final warning against spiritual arrogance instead of the apostles' way of the cross, + final fatherly call for a good response 4:8-21