

JUNE 16, 2024

"The Caring and Handling of Clergy"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13



THE CARING & HANDLING OF CLERGY

4th Sunday after Pentecost

AUTHOR

The apostle, Paul, formerly known as Saul, was a well-educated Pharisee from Tarsus, who also learned the tentmaking trade. He believed the Christian movement was dangerous to Judaism and was a persecutor of Christians. After Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, he dedicated his life to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, traveling throughout the Roman Empire on 3 missionary journeys. He wrote 1 Corinthians in A.D. 55 to the church in Corinth, near the end of his 3rd missionary journey.

CONTEXT

Corinth was a major cosmopolitan city, seaport, and major trade center but there was idolatry and immorality present. Paul had started the church in Corinth so he was very concerned when he received reports of problems in the church. Paul wrote to correct the problems and answer questions that church members had asked in a previous letter.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. What problem did Paul specifically address in verse 10?
2. Instead, what did Paul say the people at the church in Corinth should do?
3. Read Romans 15:5. How should followers of Jesus live?

4. The church at Corinth had divided into 4 factions, each one having its own emphasis and following its own leader. Who were the 4? (See 1 Corinthians 1:12)
5. In 1 Corinthians 1:13, Paul insists that Christians are all one in Christ. He asks if Christ is divided and then to show the foolishness of such a question he asks 2 other questions – what are they?
6. Our allegiance must be to Jesus first and to unity which is what he desires for us. How might division interfere with the mission of the church?
7. What might be some ways to encourage unity in a church that struggles with division?
8. To read other passages on unity, see 1 Corinthians 12:12–13, Romans 12:4-5, and Ephesians 4:1-6.
9. How can we welcome and support our incoming senior pastor?

ENCOURAGEMENT

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

- John 17:20-23 (Jesus' Prayer for Unity)

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