

Is Christ Divided?

Chapter 2: Audio Lesson: New Testament #45



Objective: To understand Paul's instructions to the Corinthians about divisions in the church and about how we can learn spiritual truth.



I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

—1 Corinthians 1:10

Who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

—1 Corinthians 2:11-12

The first problem Paul addressed in his letter to the Corinthians was the problem of division. The believers were divided over who was the greatest leader in their church. Their evaluation of their leaders was largely based upon who had led them to Christ or who had baptized them. But if Christ lives in the hearts of all believers, then they should agree on the fundamental matters concerning Christ and should know that Christ cannot be divided on those matters. Paul's essential message was that we should follow Christ and not human leaders.

Paul taught that the Spirit of God alone teaches spiritual things to man. We cannot learn spiritual truth simply through our eyes, ears, or heart. We must learn spiritual truth through the Holy Spirit. Those who are spiritual have received the Spirit of God, and this Spirit gives us the capacity to know and understand God's thoughts.



1. True or false? The Corinthian congregation was divided among itself and had frequent disagreements.
2. True or false? The basis for unity among Christians is that all believers have a relationship with the same Jesus—His Spirit is within those who believe.
3. True or false? Paul insisted that he was the true leader of the church and all people should follow him.
4. True or false? Paul convinced the Corinthians of truth with his many wise words.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. According to Paul, what is the key to salvation?
 - a. Baptism
 - b. Wisdom
 - c. Unity
 - d. Believing the truth of the gospel
6. According to Paul, what is the key to spiritual maturity?
 - a. Performing rituals and doing many good works
 - b. Intellectual understanding
 - c. Strong leadership
 - d. Believing the truth of the gospel
7. How is the gospel communicated best?
 - a. With strong words
 - b. With clear logic
 - c. By a bold and confident person
 - d. In the power of the Holy Spirit
8. What is the key to understanding God's truth?
 - a. He reveals it to us by His Spirit.
 - b. Eloquent preachers explain it to us.
 - c. We must study diligently.
 - d. We must become enlightened through meditation.
9. Why is it not possible for human beings naturally to understand spiritual things?
 - a. God only chooses to reveal truth to a few people.
 - b. We are not intelligent enough.
 - c. Only God's Spirit can open the hearts and minds of those who are born again to discern things spiritually.
 - d. It is possible, but most people do not have the patience or insight to learn.

10. Who is the best teacher we can have?

- a. Paul and his writings
- b. Our pastor
- c. The Holy Spirit
- d. Our conscience

11. How do we receive the Holy Spirit's teaching?

- a. Through years of education
- b. By being born again and asking Him
- c. Through visions and angelic visitations
- d. Through deep meditation

12. What kinds of people does Paul describe in 1 Corinthians? (choose all that apply)

- a. Unbelievers
- b. Believers
- c. Monks and nuns
- d. Carnal believers
- e. Sages



Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to be your teacher? What specifically, do you need His enlightenment about? How do you think your life would change if you obeyed what He reveals to you each day?



Thank God that His truth is available to all who believe and that He gives us His Spirit so we can understand His Word, His will, and His ways. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes and teach and guide you as you follow Him in obedience.



Going Deeper

1. As Paul attempts to correct the problem that the Corinthian believers were polarized around their leaders, explain and apply why he primarily addressed his remarks to the group he chose to address. _____

2. Explain and apply the ways in which his question in verse 13 of chapter 1, “Is Christ divided?” is a brilliant spiritual solution to this problem. _____

3. How should we personally apply the way Paul was self-effacing in chapter 1 and the first part of chapter 2, when we plant a church, lead people to Christ, and disciple them in Christ? _____

4. What does he tell them in chapters 1 and 2 about the way the Gospel is preached and believed that should teach them not to polarize around him? _____

5. In chapter 2, Paul writes that he was with them in fear and in much trembling. Of what was he so afraid? _____

6. In this context, summarize and apply what Paul teaches, especially in verses 9-16 of chapter 2, about the way the Holy Spirit teaches us spiritual truth. _____

7. In the context of educational psychology, Paul is writing that we learn through the eye gate, the ear gate, the heart gate, and the gate of the Spirit. Explain and apply what these gates are while we are learning or teaching spiritual truth. _____
