

**SHILOH COMMUNITY CHURCH
SERMON NOTES**

TITLE: Take the Next Step: 08/17/08

1 Corinthians 1 & 2

HOMEWORK & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Since everyone who calls on Jesus Christ as Lord is sanctified (verse 2), why don't Christians always agree? What is the difference between disagreement and division? How can Christians in a local church disagree without being divided?

I. OBSERVE—I COR. 1:1-9

One of the main purposes of the book of I Corinthians was to correct and respond to some issues that had arisen within the Corinthian church.

1. Read the introduction of Paul (1:1-9) and count the number of times “Christ”, “Jesus”, or “God” are used.
2. Based on your observations, what foundation is Paul laying in writing this letter of correction?
3. From these verses, identify the promises the believers at Corinth have in Christ (Answers at the end of the study).

APPLY—I COR. 1:1-9

1. Before Paul begins to correct the problem of division in the Church at Corinth he thanks God for the strengths of the Corinthians (verses 4-9). Why is this good practice when you encounter someone with whom you disagree? Why should we consider the strengths of those with whom we disagree?
2. How significant is it to understand and embrace our calling to be saints who are sanctified? What does this look like in your life?
3. Is the grace of Christ a major sustainer of “all utterance and all knowledge” in your life?
4. How sure are you that Christ will confirm and complete the work of faith he started in you? (Phil 1:6)
5. What promise can you identify with the most? Explain.

II. OBSERVE—I COR. 1:17-31

1. Underline the following words: wise, wisdom, knowledge, and foolishness
2. In verse 17 it states “...lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect,” after which Paul explains the wisdom that brings glory to God.
 - List out the characteristics of God's wisdom that bring Him glory vs. wisdom that causes the cross of Christ to have no effect.

APPLY—I COR. 1:17-31

1. How does our culture emphasize knowledge?

2. A spirit of division is based on worldly wisdom (verses 18-31). Why does worldly wisdom divide people? (Also see James 3:13-18)
What wisdom are you investing in? What is its effect on the cross?
3. How do you become knowledgeable academically or professionally, while at the same time spiritually humble/dependent to bring glory to the cross?

III. OBSERVE—I COR. 2:1-9

1. In verses 2:1-9, Paul fleshes out his approach to wisdom in sharing Christ and Him crucified. What words express this truth?

APPLY—I COR. 2:1-9

1. How do Paul's words challenge your approach to sharing Christ and Him crucified?

IV. OBSERVE—I COR. 2:10-16

1. In verses 10-16 Paul compares the natural man v. those who have the spirit of Christ. Who or what does Paul attribute to understanding the things of God?

APPLY—I COR. 2:10-16

1. Do these verses give you any comfort? Explain.
2. Are you taking advantage of learning through the Spirit, through whom you are sealed? (Eph 4:30)

Taking it Home

How does one "boast in the Lord" (Chapter 1, verse 31)? Why does this help end division? Let's end this week's study by boasting in the Lord a little while. Let's go around the room and each one tell about one good thing God has done or is doing in your life. How is God at work in you? What is something happening in you that could only come from God?

Some answers for I COR. 1:1-9 PROMISES:

- v. 2- we are sanctified in Christ. Called to be saints.
- v. 3, 4, 5- source and dispenser of grace is Christ, who supplies the believer with everything.
- v. 8-Christ will confirm and finish the work of faith He started in you (cf Phil 1:6).
- v. 9-called into fellowship with Christ through and by God the Father.