

1 Corinthians 1:1 – 17

New American Standard Version

1 Paul, called *as* an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
2 and Sosthenes our brother, ²To the church of God which is
3 at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ
4 Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on
5 the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:
6 ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
7 Jesus Christ. ⁴I thank my God always concerning you for
8 the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that
9 in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and
10 all knowledge, ⁶even as the testimony concerning Christ
11 was confirmed in you, ⁷so that you are not lacking in any
12 gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus
13 Christ, ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in
14 the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, through
15 whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus
16 Christ our Lord. ¹⁰Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name
17 of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be
18 no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in
19 the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹For I have been
20 informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*,
21 that there are quarrels among you. ¹²Now I mean this, that
22 each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of
23 Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." ¹³Has Christ
24 been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or
25 were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I
26 baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no
27 one would say you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶Now I did
28 baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do
29 not know whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷For Christ did not
30 send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in
31 cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not
32 be made void.

Observation (What does it say?):

Mark and list the positive affirmations and the corrective exhortations Paul gives (remember to note the line numbers for our discussion):

Affirmations

Exhortations

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What common ideas or themes do you see in the affirmations?

What common ideas or themes do you see in the exhortations?

How would you summarize Paul's combination of affirmations and exhortations?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

What divisions do you see in our church?

What does "same mind, same judgment" (v. 10) mean in practical terms?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation

(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage (repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, unusual words, etc.)? Mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the writer's thought process.

- Who are the people involved?
- What is the action taking place?
- What type of literature is the passage (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are there any unusual words used?
- Is there any symbolic or figurative language used?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Is there any repetition of words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Are there indications of cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Does the passage contain any explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation

(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts of the passage that would help you **interpret** the writer's meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application

(What does it mean for me?)

How does the writer's meaning relate to your life? What specific application might the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them. – J.A. Bengel