

# 1 CORINTHIANS

## discussion guide

### **OVERVIEW FOR PART 1:**

Join us as we walk through the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. We'll see the many cultural similarities between the pacific northwest and ancient Greece, as well as be challenged in how we are designed to live out the gospel through the local church.

In the first mini-series we will look to the first four chapters, where Paul deconstructs the counterfeit places we find meaning and significance, and makes his case for why Christ is the greatest person for us to look to for our status and hope for the future.

### **PART 1: WEEK TWO All For One**

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

In week 2 of our series on the book of 1 Corinthians we are going to be looking at unity in the church. It's been reported to Paul that there are divisions within the church at Corinth, and that people are picking teams based on their preferred leader. The Corinthians were caught up in leader idolatry revealing their misplaced hope, their broken value system, wrong pathway, and their broken community. These were not likely overt campaigns, but subtle factions running beneath the surface handicapping the witness of the church. These horizontal factions are the effect of vertical fracture in our relationship with God.

God's vision for a gospel formed church is harmony, not unison, made possible only through Jesus. The gospel is at the same time unified, and diverse. It's not trying to make us into the same person, but it is trying to unify us. It humbles us to see the good, be able to affirm that good, and at the same time, challenged to be better, more diverse, more of what we aren't.

The gospel tells us that the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ has the power to heal our fractured vertical relationship with God. Made whole vertically, we are then empowered to mend our horizontal relationships, bringing an end to factionalism. The fruit of unity in the church is a consistent steadfast witness of Jesus Christ to a watching world.

### **Read: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

1. What modern day schisms do you see in the Church?
2. Which leader idolatry pitfall do you gravitate towards
  - a. *I follow Paul* – the original, historic, “right” way (misplaced hope)
  - b. *I follow Apollos* – the new, talented, gifted way (broken value system)
  - c. *I follow Cephas* – seek control through the law (wrong pathway)
  - d. *I follow Christ* – only God can judge me (broken community)
3. How have you contributed to the schisms in the Church?
4. How can the cross be emptied of its power?
5. In your own words, how does Christ heal our broken vertical relationship with God?
6. What horizontal relationship in your life needs to be mended? How could you take steps toward unity in light of this passage?