

PAUL, THE APOSTLE

"The plea for Unity" – 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)

Purpose was to preach Christ – to the Gentiles

This is why I was chosen to be a teacher and a missionary. I am to teach faith and truth to the people who do not know God. I am not lying but telling the truth. 1 Timothy 2:7 (NLV)

But the Lord said to me, "Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles!" Acts 22:21 (NLT)

God's Wisdom is Better Than the World's Wisdom - 1 Corinthians 1:10-16 *sel* (GW)

I. Unity and mission

All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them. Acts 4:32-34 (NLT)

II. The benefits for Christian Unity

Imitating Humility - Philippians 2:1-5 *sel* (NIV)

- A. We become a family in relationship
- B. We become friends in fellowship
- C. We can be followers of Christ in partnership

III. The Church can experience and know the power of God when unified

- A. The power was evidenced by the growth of the church
- B. The power was evidenced by their finding strength in diversity

IV. Unity gives the favor of God

And with great power the apostles gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and great grace was upon them all. Acts 4:33 (JUB)

A little sermon in a nutshell!

Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, live like men, be strong! Let everything that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (PHILLIPS)