



# perfectly united

studies in 1 Corinthians 1-4

SCPC term 1 2008

## sunday 10th february 2008

### study 2 one Christ 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

KEY VERSE FOR SERIES: 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**

Having kicked off in 1 Corinthians last week and getting an overview of the troubles in this 1st century church—we now hit the heart of their problem in this passage. We see Paul’s clear call to unity in verse 10—and why that call is so needed in the rest of the passage. This will provide us with an opportunity, not only to see a divided church in the 1st century... but to consider how we set up divides in the 21st century church.

#### some notes on questions

Q1. Look back to verses 4-6 to see how God’s grace has enriched us to be united in knowledge—but only through the “testimony about Christ” - i.e. this is about knowing someone not just knowing stuff... it’s all about Jesus.

Q2-3. The “quarreling” of verse 11 is further explained by verse 12—they are not just fighting over this or that issue—but are lining up in different factions.

Q4. The focus is Christ... the gospel of Christ... the cross of Christ—verse 17. While this study may involve talking about issues like baptism... make sure the focus of your conversation is the cross. It would be ironic if your study ended up being an argument over the sort of thing Paul says is less important “Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel”.

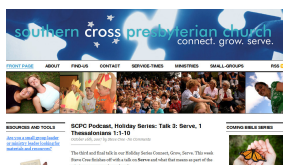
Q5. It’s funny how Jesus often gets left out of conversations about baptism!... Whatever the issue, if it’s not all about him, we’ve got it wrong. And if we make it more important or even as important as the cross—we’ve got it wrong already.

Q6-8. It’s hard to think of a more important discussion than these questions. Especially in a church as diverse as ours. But remember, while our diverse backgrounds may lead us to divide as the Corinthians did... perhaps the greater risk in our day is not so much that we fight—but that we don’t engage at all. Individualism: it’s the ultimate ‘divide’ - we’re all in a faction of one!

**digging deeper:** there’s no particular link intended from this study to Acts 18—other than it’s a good idea early in our study of the letter to take a look at the account of the church being planted. Since we’re reading their mail, we might as well take a peek at their birth...

**target practice:** OK it’s still a bit of a scary idea... but it’s actually about crossing the divide of our individualism—learning how to truly be interested, caring and loving of another—and giving of ourselves through being willing to talk openly and honestly as we point each other to Jesus.

small group bible study leaders' notes



remember that once the talk goes up on the website you can always post a question/observation by leaving a comment—it’s easy to do and then others will also be able to see the response when it goes up and leave their thoughts too.

**coming events**  
church camp: fri/sat 15-16 feb  
o-week outreach at uni: 18-23 feb  
SCPC AGM: wed 12 mar