

**Keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing**

**1 Corinthians 1:4-17**

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**I. Gifted Christians. 1 Corinthians 1:4-7**

"The Corinthian Christians were indeed gifted, yet carnal. Should it not show us that gifts are \_\_\_\_\_, unless they are laid on the altar of God?" (Spurgeon)

- How is a Christian established or made sure? The work of God and the testimony of Christ were \_\_\_\_\_ in these believers; which was made known to them through the Word of God.

First century Christians anticipated Christ's soon return; they were **eagerly waiting for the \_\_\_\_\_** (revealing), **of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**II. God is faithful. 1 Corinthians 1:8-9**

**Confirm** is a legal term insuring a \_\_\_\_\_ was complete.

- In the end, Jesus will judge the sinful world, but the judgment of sin is not for His followers, because we are \_\_\_\_\_ thanks to the blood of Christ that washes away our sin.

The word "**fellowship**" means \_\_\_\_\_, *sharing in common, or communion with agreement or unity of purpose.*

**III. Unity with other believers. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, Ephesians 4:4-6**

Christians believe in the same essential truths, even though some Christians may differ in \_\_\_\_\_ matters of interpretation and practice.

- In **Ephesians 4**, Paul was speaking about **Baptism of the Spirit**; it happens when the Spirit comes into a believer at **conversion**. \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism simply is a \_\_\_\_\_ of conversion.

Paul was not diminishing the importance of water Baptism; water Baptism was a \_\_\_\_\_, not only \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus, but one that was followed and obeyed by Jesus as well.

**IV. Paul's call to the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 1:14-17**

**Ephesians 4:12 for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints for the \_\_\_\_\_ of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, NKJV**

- "While therefore it is unscriptural to make baptism essential to salvation or a certain means of regeneration, it is nevertheless a dangerous act of \_\_\_\_\_ to undervalue or neglect it." (Hodge)

**Small Group Discussion**

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?*

1. Why did Paul begin pointing out so many positive things in **1 Corinthians 1:4-9** when the Corinthian church was actually having a lot of problems?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 1:6**. How is a Christian established or made sure? What does **confirmed** mean? **Colossians 2:7, Hebrews 2:3, Hebrews 8:6, Romans 1:11**
3. If the Corinthian church was not lacking any gift, can we say that about other churches or believers today? **Acts 1:8, Romans 12:1-8, 1 Peter 4:10-11, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**
4. Read **1 Corinthians 1:10-13**. What is the first problem identified in the Corinthian church? What was causing the divisions? Why were people divided by these kinds of things? **Ephesians 4:1-16, Proverbs 6:16-19, Titus 3:9-11, Romans 16:17-18**
5. Why did Paul say he was glad he didn't baptize many of the people? Was Paul downplaying the importance of Water Baptism? **Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 8:26-39, Acts 10:44-48**
6. What did Paul mean when he said in **1 Corinthians 1:17**, "**not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect**"? **Psalms 2:1-4, 1 Corinthians 2:1-4, 1 Corinthians 3:19, James 3:15**
7. Discuss the Practical Application of the sermon.