

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
July | Aug | Sept 2026

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



LESSON 3 · JULY 11-17, 2026

Unity in Christ

First and Second Corinthians · Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide

MEMORY TEXT

“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 • ESV

The Church in Corinth

1:10 Divided over favorite leaders

3:1 Immaturity and pride

5:1 A member involved in incest

6:1 Lawsuits between members

6:12 Sexual immorality

11:17 The rich humiliating the poor at the Lord's Supper

THE FIRST PROBLEM

Paul addresses division first.

Disunity in the church is not a small matter.

Disunity Is a Serious Sin

GALATIANS 5:19–21

Jealousy, rivalries, dissensions, divisions —
beside immorality, idolatry, sorcery

ROMANS 13:13

Quarrelling and jealousy — beside drunkenness
and immorality

Division contradicts the very nature of the church.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27 · COLOSSIANS 1:18

When the members fight, the body cannot function.

“That they may all be one . . . so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

JOHN 17:21 • ESV

“I follow Paul.”

“I follow Apollos.”

“I follow Cephas.”

“I follow Christ.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:12

“Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:13 · NKJV

Christ alone was crucified.

Christ alone is Lord.

Christ alone is the Head of the church.

“That they may be one just as We are one.”

JOHN 17:22 • NKJV

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27

Unity is not uniformity.

One body, many members. Each member has a different function, but all belong to one body.

When does a group become a clique?

- When identity comes from what sets it apart
- When it turns inward and suspects outsiders
- When it is built on loyalty to one personality

Our deepest common denominator must be Christ.

PREACHERS AND PERSONALITIES

The problem begins when our identity attaches
to a preacher rather than to Christ.

TRUTH AND PREFERENCE

Spiritual maturity knows the difference between truth and preference.

Not every disagreement is a gospel issue.

“For you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like ordinary people?”

1 CORINTHIANS 3:3-4 • NASB

THE MIND OF CHRIST

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:3 • NKJV

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1

Servants, *not stars*.

Stewards, *not owners*.

“I would be willing to speak with stammering tongue if God’s purpose could be more fully presented.”

CHARLES H. SPURGEON

“Our mission to the world is not to serve or please ourselves; we are to glorify God by co-operating with Him to save sinners.”

ELLEN G. WHITE • CHRIST’S OBJECT LESSONS, 143

CONCLUSION

The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

The church does not need more stars. It needs more servants.

Discussion

- 1 Where are you tempted to make ministry a platform?
- 2 When has “defending truth” actually been about winning an argument?
- 3 What does “servants, not stars” look like in our church?
- 4 How can Christ be seen through me this week?