Focal Point Radio Ministries

June 22 & 23, 2002

Message # 02-21

Pastor Mike

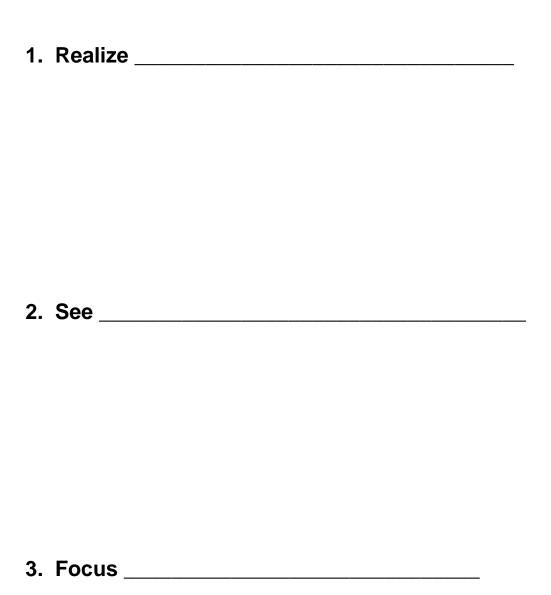
Text: 1 Corinthians 1:13-17 Topic: Relationships. Perspective.

Study: First Corinthians
Week: 9

Series: 3 of 3

bart 3 War Zones & Peace Treaties

Three Key Perspectives That Will Keep Us Together



1 Cor. 1:10-17

10 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. 11 My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another. "I follow Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? 14 I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

- 1. What is most difficult for you about God's call for unity in your Christian relationships?
- 2. How does pondering the reality of living together in God's future kingdom change your perspective on relating to "difficult Christians" here and now?

Why are thoughts and feelings of superiority more difficult to imagine in that setting than they are in the present one?

3. List some of the dangers of having exalted opinions of gifted people in the church.

What are some of the subtle ways you can promote your opinion of yourself in the name of keeping gifted people in a proper perspective?

- 4. How does engaging in the true, heartfelt worship of Christ make feelings of cliquish superiority impossible?
- 5. List three important things you have learned about your Christian relationships over the past few weeks. What do you personally need to do about the things you have learned?

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule. Sunday

1Chr.19-21 & Ps.19-20 Monday

1Chr.22-23 & Ps.21-22

Tuesday 1Chr.24-25 & Ps.23-24

Wednesday

1Chr.26-27 & Ps.25-26

Thursday

1Chr.28-29 & Ps.27-28

Friday

2Chr.1-2 & Ps.29-30

Saturday

2Chr.3-4 & Ps.31-32

Here are some resources to help cultivate and maintain the "three key perspectives" from 1 Corinthians 1:13-17.

Anderson, Robert. The Lord from Heaven. Kregel Publications, 1978.

Bounds, Edward M. Heaven: A Place, A City, A Home. Baker Books, 1975.

Dyer, Larry E. Baptism: The Believer's First Obedience. Kregel Publications, 2000.

Edersheim, Alfred. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah. Reprint. Hendrickson Publishers, 1997.

Finzel, Hans. The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make. Victor Books, 1994.

Moody, Dwight L. Heaven. Reprint. Moody Press, 1995.

Sanders, Oswald. Spiritual Leadership. Moody Press, 1980.

Tozer, A. W. What Ever Happened to Worship? Christian Publications, 1985.

Venning, Ralph. *The Sinfulness of Sin.* Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1965.

Watson, T. E. Should Babies Be Baptized? Grace Publications, 1995.

Wilkes, Gene. Jesus Leadership: Discovering the Secrets of Servant Leadership. Tyndale House, 1998.