

Together: study of 1 Corinthians
“Characteristics of an Effective Church”
1 Corinthians 1:1-17
January 7, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

1. An Effective Church knows who they are.

² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ — their Lord and ours: ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2-3

2. An Effective Church knows what they have.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge — ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

We have received:

- (a) Grace (v.4)
- (b) Great Teaching (v.5)
- (c) Gifts (v.6)
- (d) God’s guarantee (v.7)

3. An Effective Church promotes unity.

¹⁰ 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

UNITY IS NOT CONFORMITY.

UNITY IS ACHIEVED BY HAVING THE SAME MIND & THOUGHT

Division is created by:

- (a) Quarrels (v.11)
- (b) Cliques (v.12)
- (c) Lack of Focus (v.13-17)

Discussion Questions

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why did this stand out to you?
2. List 4 facts about the church at Corinth. (**Special Assignment:** a. Describe Corinth by checking Bible dictionaries, etc.); b. Locate Corinth on a map and explain how its location affected the character of the city.)
3. Define “sanctified” and “holy”. (1:2)
4. According to 1:5-7, how had God enriched this church? What are “speech and knowledge”?
5. What “gifts” did Corinth have?
6. According to verse 8, what help was God giving them (1:8)?
7. Define “faithful” (1:9) and tell why this quality of God is important.
8. What problem at Corinth is discussed in 1:10-17?
9. List & define 4 expressions in 1:10 that describe unity or division.
10. What are “quarrels” (1:11), and who reported them to Paul?
11. According to verse 12, what was the nature of the division? (*Think: Were these preachers responsible for the division? Explain.*) What are some ways people sometimes exalt religious leaders?
12. Pastor Shawn outlined 3 Characteristics of Effective Churches. What were they? In what ways are you contributing to the effectiveness of PRCC? In what way(s) can you help strengthen PRCC’s Effectiveness?