

Message Notes

"Roots of Division"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – How did we get here?

What's at the root of all these divisions? (1 Corinthians 4:6-21)

1. A wrong view of comparison and ranking people (1 Corinthians 4:6-7)

Three life changing questions (or. 7)

- a. "For who makes you different from anyone else?"
[Level ground before the cross of Christ]
– Luke 18:9-14
 - b. "What do you have that you did not receive?"
[Everything you have is a gift] – James 1:16-17
 - c. "And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"
[Opposite of boasting is thankfulness]
– Romans 1:21-23
2. An "over-realized eschatology"
(1 Corinthians 4:8-13)
 - a. An unreal expectation of what this life is like
– 1 Timothy 6:3-10
 - b. A poor theology of suffering – 1 Peter 4
 3. No father figure in their lives
(1 Corinthians 4:14-17)
 - a. Running through the stop sign
 - b. No one to imprint on (imitative Living)
 4. Arrogance (1 Corinthians 4:18-21)
 - a. Overconfidence in my certainty
 - b. A misunderstanding of what real power is
– Romans 1:16

Application – *Are there roots of division brewing in you?*

1 Corinthians 4:6-21

⁶Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. ⁷For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? ⁸Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings—and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you! ⁹For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! ¹¹To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. ¹²We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world. ¹⁴I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me. ¹⁷For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. ¹⁸Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. ¹⁹But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. ²⁰For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. ²¹What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

Luke 18:9-14 (please grab a pew Bible)

James 1:16-17

¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Romans 1:21-23

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

1 Timothy 6:3-10 (please grab a pew Bible)

1 Peter 4:12-13

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...