

- I. The Problem: Division in the Church.**
 - A. One church ...four factions (see 1 Cor. 1:11,12).**
 - B. Instead of being a good witness in the community, the church at Corinth had become a stumbling-block.**
 - 1. The most important testimony you can have is the life that you live; the key to being a successful witness for Christ is following Christ (see Matt. 4:19 and 1 Pet. 3:15,16).**
 - 2. If we are truly following Christ, he will give us opportunities to share our faith.**
 - C. People in the church at Corinth were uplifting the names of men instead of uplifting the name of Jesus (v.4).**
 - D. It's okay to compliment or say nice things about your pastor, but always remember that pastors and other Christian workers are merely instruments of God.**
- II. The Solution: Praise God Not His Instruments.**
 - A. Paul and Apollos were sent by God not to be exalted and served, but to exalt God and serve others; they did what they did to honor and glorify God.**
 - B. In all that we do, our motive should be to bring honor and glory to God (see 1 Cor. 10:31 and Col. 3:17).**
 - C. God calls us to plant and water the seed of the Word in people's hearts, but he is the one who makes the seed grow.**
 - D. The agent (force, power) God uses to make the seed of the Word grow and draw people to Christ is the Holy Spirit.**
 - 1. The Holy Spirit does not live within unbelievers.**
 - 2. The Holy Spirit can and does convict unbelievers and draw them to Christ (see John 16:8).**
- III. Conclusion.**
 - A. Everyone who labors for the Lord will be rewarded (see 1 Cor. 3:8 and 2 Cor. 5:10).**
 - B. In the end only two things will matter: what we have done with Christ and what we have done for Christ.**
 - C. Jesus tells us to build up heavenly treasures (Matt. 6:20) – to invest our lives in things that have eternal significance.**
 - D. God call us to work together as his instruments with one purpose – to honor and glorify him.**
 - E. Let's do our best to honor and glorify God in all that we do.**