

## Family Gatherings

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

1. Think back over your involvement in church life through the years, and describe something *good*, and something either *bad* or *ugly*.

2. First some technical language! Using whatever resources are at your disposal, what does *Apostle*, *sanctified*, and *grace* mean?<sup>1</sup>

3. Read verses 1-4 and quickly answer the following:

v1 Who does Paul serve as an Apostle? By whose authority does he serve?

v2. How is the church sanctified? Who else is Paul addressing, and how are they described?

V3-4 How have the Corinthians received grace?

What do the above answers have in common?

4. How might you define church according to these opening verses (1-4)?

5. How does Paul's focus on Jesus challenge (or affirm) your perception of what church is about?

6. According to verse 5, what does God do for his people?

7. As we read on through verses 6-9, what seems to be the purpose of this enrichment?

8. From what we've seen, why is church life worth our commitment?

<sup>1</sup> A useful website is [biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com). Once there, look under the *Study* tab, then *Dictionaries*, then *Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* for a great online Bible and theology dictionary that's free to use.

9. What does Paul ask of the Corinthians in verse 10?
10. According to verse 12, what kind of division is Paul referring to? Have you ever seen this type of division in your own experience?
11. How does Paul counter this type of division in verses 13-17? How does his argument dismantle division based on personality?
12. Consider what this passage teaches us about the nature and purpose of church. What is the best contribution you can make to the healthy functioning of your church?
13. Thank God for your church and the grace its members have received.

Questions for the whole family (focusing on verses 1-9)

1. What are some different reasons people gather together?
2. Why do we gather as a church? Why is it important to keep going to church? What would happen if we stopped?
3. What can we each do to help church be a place where people are strengthened in their faith?