



## **WEEK ONE | A CHURCH DIVIDED**

As books of the Bible go, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians has it all, division, scandal, factions, shaming, deceit, sexual immorality, and I could go on. It sounds awful, doesn't it? It sounds like a church that has lost its way. It's too far gone and can't be saved. They should just shut the doors and start over. Then again, come to think of it, it sounds like a whole lot of churches in our town. Could it be that even our own beloved church suffers from some of these maladies? People haven't really changed much throughout history. Sin is still sin, and we need a Savior to bring us all together. That's the message of this series.

**What is a highlight of your summer? Share some good vibes as we kick-off this season.**

### **THE SITUATION**

**Be honest, what is your reaction (what feelings rise up) the second you hear Russ say anything that sounds political from the stage?**

We expect political division.

**In what ways are we blind to or excuse the divisions in the Christian community?**

**How have you seen that the "common belief in Jesus" isn't enough to keep us united?**

### **TALK ABOUT IT**

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 and 13**

**What do you think is really at the heart of our tendency, like the Corinthian church, to divide into opposing factions?**

Russ mentioned this quote. *"It's hard to hate up close."*

**Talk about that for a minute.**

Paul called on these people, when it comes to Christ, to *"be perfectly united in mind and thought."*

**What do you think he meant by that? That's impossible, isn't it?**

## **APPLY IT**

**Why do we make heroes out of actors, movie characters, politicians, pastors, etc.?**

Anything above Christ in our hearts or actions empties the cross of Christ of its power.

**What is missing in you that blocks Christ from his rightful position in your life?**

**What keeps him from being enough?**

## **PRAY**

Start now and make this time an indispensable part of your group time. It can be at the beginning, end, or wherever but don't overlook it. We have plenty to pray about.

- Pray together before you go home.
- Take requests, email them to the group, ask them to pray this week.