

SERIES: MAKING THE SHIFT FROM PROBLEM SOLVING
TITLE: "CONFLICTING COMPARISONS"
Pastor Joel Spiridigliozzi / July 5, 2009
Audio Message available at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio/>

Biblical Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:1-16

1 IS _____ THAN 4 (1 Cor. 1:10-12)

The Corinthian church was divided into at least four factions, each having its own emphasis, following its own leader, and acting in antagonism to the other three.

TEAM _____: Emphasis on ministry to the Gentiles. Paul was intentional, strategic, and passionate about spreading the Gospel.

TEAM _____: Emphasis on teaching – he was enamoured, learned, and an eloquent preacher (Acts 18:24-28).

TEAM _____: Emphasis on Jewish Christians. Peter was faith-filled yet impulsive and unstable. Probably an extrovert and made decisions based on feelings rather than thought.

TEAM _____: Some Corinthians claimed special relationship to Christ – an emphasis they felt the followers of Paul, Apollos, and Cephas had neglected or did not have.

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious...hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy..."
(Gal. 5:19-21).

"There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbour?"
(James 4:12).

IS 1 (1 Cor. 1:13-17)

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink"
(1 Cor. 12:12,13).

LIFESTYLE (1 Cor. 3:1-4)

"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not mere men?"

OF 1 (1 Cor. 3:5-7)

"The spiritual authority of Jesus is an authority not found in a position or a title, but in a towel." – Richard Foster

SHIFTING TO SOLUTIONS...

1. Be a _____ Player

"The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour."(v.8)

2. Never Forget Who Owns it _____

"For we are God's fellow worker, you are God's field, God's building."
(v. 9)

3. Get Over _____ – Everyone Else Has

"By the grace God has given me..." (v.10)

4. Be the _____ You Can Be

"...I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds." (v.10b)

5. Build Your Life on _____

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."(v.11)

6. Keep Your _____ on the Main Thing

"If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames." (v.12-15)