

QUARRELLING AMONG YOU

*Paul is still dealing with their **pride and divisions** (1:10-31)



ADMONISH YOU

*Paul's purpose in using harsh words is **NOT** to **cause them shame!**

*Instead, he is warning of the **seriousness** of their **pride and divisions...**

*As their **spiritual father**

URGE (16)

παρακαλέω (parakaleō)

*encourage, exhort, plead, implore, appeal

*More than a request, but less than a command

-1Cor 1:10; Eph 4:1;
1Th 4:1,10

BE IMITATORS OF ME

As their spiritual father, he urges them to follow his example and teaching

*1Co 11:1 "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

-Phil 3:17; 4:9; 1Th 1:6

*Consider what he's already said about his teaching among them:

2:1-2 "And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to **know nothing** among you **except Jesus Christ and him crucified.**"

NOT IN TALK BUT IN POWER

*God's kingdom does not rest on eloquent and persuasive words!

-2:4 "my speech and my message were **not in plausible words of wisdom**, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**"

-2Cor 12:12 "The signs of a **true apostle** were performed among you with utmost patience, with **signs and wonders and mighty works.**"



AS PAUL FINISHES ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF THEIR QUARRELLING AND DIVISIONS, HE DISCUSSES THE MOTIVATION FOR HIS HARSH WORDS:

14 I **do not write** these things to **make you ashamed**, **but** to **admonish you as my beloved children.**

WHY DOES PAUL CALL THEM HIS "BELOVED CHILDREN"?

15 **For** though you have **countless guides** in Christ, you do not have many **fathers**. **For** I **became your father in Christ Jesus** through the gospel.

HE IS TAKING HIS ROLE SERIOUSLY TO WARN THEM OF THE PATH AHEAD IF THEY DON'T CHANGE!

16 I **urge** you, then, be **imitators of me.**

1TIM 1:2 FAITHFUL
2TIM 1:2 CHILD

EXAMPLE AND TEACHINGS

17 That is why I **sent you Timothy**, my beloved and **faithful child in the Lord**, to remind you of **my ways in Christ**, as I **teach them everywhere** in every church.

IT IS CLEAR PAUL HAD OPPONENTS IN CORINTH

18 Some are **arrogant**, as though I were **not coming to you.**

<- "SEE, HE'S NOT A REAL APOSTLE!"

1 COR 9:1-3; 2COR 1:17;
10:10; 12:12

JAMES 4:13-15

19 **But** I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out **not** the **talk** of these **arrogant** people but their **power.**

I.E. TALK IS CHEAP! WHAT REAL POWER DO THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO CLAIM TO BE GREATER THAN PAUL?

20 **For** the **kingdom of God** does not consist in **talk** but in **power.**

POWER GIVEN BY GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

21 **What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?**

<- I.E. WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH MY ADMONITION

WHAT DO YOU WISH? - It depends on you how my visit will go. If you **lay aside** your **pride and divisions**, and give yourselves to **Christ alone**, I will come **"with love in a spirit of gentleness"**. However, if you **continue with your quarreling** from reliance on human wisdom, I will come **"with a rod"** ready to discipline my "beloved children" (Acts 20:2-3).

BECAME YOUR FATHER?

σύ γεννάω (sy gennaō)

Gave Birth / Begotten

*They had **many guides** or instructors, but **only one spiritual father.**

Lit. "ten thousand" (NIV84, KJV, NKJV)



Guides = παιδαγωγός (paidagōgos)

-A person who accompanied a child to school and was responsible for their safety and conduct

-Gal 3:24-25

*Paul **gave birth** to their faith through the **atonement work of Jesus**

-Acts 18:1-17; 2Co 10:14;
1Th 2:11-12; 1Tim 1:2;
2Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4

SENT YOU TIMOTHY

*Timothy was another "child" of Paul

-1Tim 1:2; 2Tim 1:2

*Likely Paul had **already sent** Timothy before writing this letter.

*Also...likely the reason Timothy is not mentioned in the greeting (1:1)

*Timothy and Erastus were sent by Paul to **Macedonia** (Acts 19:22) and then likely **continued to Achaia** (16:10-11).

*This means Timothy was **NOT** the one who delivered this letter (16:17-18).

KINGDOM OF GOD

*God's reign in their lives was **NOT** established by the "lofty speech" or "wisdom" of man, but by the **power of God's Spirit!** (2:6-16)



*Do these opponents come with the **power of God's Spirit** or just words?

Quarrelling Among You / Wisdom & Folly

1 Corinthians 1:10–31 (ESV)

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Became Your Father

5148 σύ (*sy*), σοῦ (*sou*), σοί (*soi*), σέ (*se*): prn. (personal, 2nd pers.); ≡ Str 4771 & 4571 & 4671 & 4675 & 5209 & 5210 & 5213 & 5216—**1.** LN 92.6 **you, your** (Mt 6:6; Lk 12:59); **2.** LN 88.78 **God forbid** (Mt 16:22+), see 2664; **3.** LN 92.7 **you**, implying emphasis (Ro 1:8; 1Co 4:10)¹

1164 γεννάω (*gennaō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 3528, 4580; Str 1080; TDNT 1.665—**1.** LN 23.58 **procreate**, bring into being, become the father of (Mt 1:2); **2.** LN 23.52 **give birth** (Lk 1:13); **3.** LN 13.56 **be born of**, involving of a radical change in the whole person (Jn 3:5); **4.** LN 13.129 **cause to happen**, produce, give rise to (2Ti 2:23); **5.** LN 41.53 γεννάω ἄνωθεν (*gennaō anōthen*), be born again or **be born from above** (Jn 3:3, 7+)²

Acts 18:1–17 (ESV)

¹ After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹² But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, ¹³ saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. ¹⁵ But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.” ¹⁶ And he drove them from the tribunal. ¹⁷ And they all seized Sosthenes, the

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

2 Corinthians 10:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

² To Timothy, my true child in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 1:4 (ESV)

⁴ To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Guides

4080 παιδαγωγός (*paidagōgos*), οὔ (*ou*), ὁ (*ho*): n.masc.; ≡ Str 3807; TDNT 5.596—LN 36.5 **guardian**, custodian, supervisor (1Co 4:15; Gal 3:24, 25+)³

Galatians 3:24–25 (ESV)

²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,

Urge

4151 παρακαλέω (*parakaleō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 5714; Str 3870; TDNT 5.773—**1.** LN 33.168 **ask for earnestly**, beg, plead (Ac 28:20), for another interp, see below; **2.** LN 33.315 **invite** (Lk 8:41); **3.** LN 33.310 **call together to** (Ac 28:20), for another interp, see above; **4.** LN 25.150 **encourage**, console, urge (Eph 6:22)⁴

³ Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁴ Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ I **appeal to you**, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Ephesians 4:1 (ESV)

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge you** to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (ESV)

¹ Finally, then, brothers, we ask and **urge you** in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

1 Thessalonians 4:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we **urge you**, brothers, to do this more and more,

Imitators of Me

1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Philippians 3:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Philippians 4:9 (ESV)

⁹ What you have **learned and received and heard and seen in me**—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 (ESV)

⁶ And **you became imitators of us and of the Lord**, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

1 Corinthians 2:1–4 (ESV)

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For **I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified**. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

Timothy

1 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

² To Timothy, my true child in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

Acts 19:22 (ESV)

²² And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

1 Corinthians 16:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. ¹¹ So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

1 Corinthians 16:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, ¹⁸ for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.

Paul's Opponents

1 Corinthians 9:1–3 (ESV)

¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? ² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³ This is my defense to those who would examine me.

2 Corinthians 1:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time?

2 Corinthians 10:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.”

2 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV)

¹² The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

If the Lord Wills

James 4:13–15 (ESV)

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

Not in Talk but in Power

1 Corinthians 2:4 (ESV)

⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

2 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV)

¹² The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

Kingdom of God

1 Corinthians 2:6–16 (ESV)

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

What Do You Wish?

Acts 20:1–3 (ESV)

¹ After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. ² When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. ³ There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.