

“Schism: Its Source and Its Solution”

1 Corinthians 1:4–17

22 January 2023

INVITATION

1. Do you have any stories to share of misdiagnoses—medical or otherwise—which led to incorrect treatment? What were the results? How was the misdiagnosis (and therefore treatment) corrected?

RECOLLECTION

2. What stood out to you as you listened to the sermon preached Sunday morning? Was there anything said on which you require further clarity?

OBSERVATION

3. What does it mean to be baptised in someone’s name? What is the significance for unity of us being baptised in Christ’s name?

Informed by 1:13–17, the elders have taken a principled decision to do baptisms by roster rather than by request. Discuss why this matters.

APPLICATION

4. We easily jump to criticising the mess in the Corinthian church without giving them the credit Paul does. What characteristics made the Corinthian congregation shine like a diamond? What were they doing that made them look like a lump of coal?

5. Where do we find personality-driven divisions in the broader church, and possibly even in our own church, today? What steps can we take to overcome such schism?

Aside from personality-driven schism, what other contemporary things tempt us to unnecessary schism in churches in our day and age? How can we avoid allowing these stress fractures from displacing and becoming complex fractures?

6. How should we think about celebrity preachers? How should we think about cancel culture? To what degree must we agree with a teacher or theologian before we can read and/or quote them?
7. What does it look like to display the gifts of God without the grace of God? What danger does this pose to the unity of the church?
8. Keeping our focus on Jesus Christ is essential for pulling in the same direction as a church. Practically, what does mean?

SUPPLICATION

9. Write down some prayer requests mentioned in your Group and pray for them throughout this week.

Term 1 2023: 15 Jan–12 Mar	Term 2 2023: 16 Apr–18 Jun
Term 3 2023: 23 Jul–24 Sep	Term 4 2023: 15 Oct–26 Nov