

## UNITY IN CHRIST – PART 2

Introduction – On His last night on earth, Jesus prayed that His followers would be completely united so that the world would believe in Him.

- A. Conflict over personalities has been at the heart of divisions in the church from its beginning.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

1. Paul planted the Corinthian congregation and some felt a strong loyalty to him and his original teaching.
2. Apollos was a dynamic communicator in contrast to Paul's preaching and many admired his rhetoric skills.
3. Cephas was the Jewish name of Peter. This group probably emphasized circumcision and adopting Jewish traditions.
4. The party that said that they were of Christ probably refers to the charismatic, tongue-speaking advocates.

- B. What does it mean to be perfectly united in mind and thought?

1 Corinthians 2:16b: *...but we have the mind of Christ.*

1. This unity does not require conformity of thought on all subjects.
2. This is only a Christ-centered unity of thought.
3. We will have different opinions about what the Bible teaches on a variety of subjects, but we must not let this divide us.

- C. The mind of Christ leads to freedom and flexibility in our approaches to win as many as possible to Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

1. We should not expect people in the community to conform to us. We must be willing to accommodate to them without compromising.
2. Example of Joseph Shulum's outreach to Jews in Jerusalem.
3. Notice after we become all things to all people and use all possible means that we will only save some.

Conclusion – When we have great diversity among a congregation as we do in Princeton, we must recognize the need to break into small homogeneous groups to reach all our peers. One approach will not reach everyone. We can do this without compromising our convictions or our unity in Christ.