

📖 Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Slow down and read the passage carefully — **at least two or three times**. Consider reading it out loud once. You’re looking to **notice what’s there**, not explain it yet.

🔍 Tips for Observation:

- Who is speaking?
 - Who is being spoken to?
 - Are there repeated words or ideas?
 - What key people, places, or events are mentioned?
 - Are there any contrasts, comparisons, or commands?
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Read 1 Corinthians 1:1–17 and take note of the following:

1. Who are the key people mentioned?

2. What do you learn about Paul’s relationship to the church in Corinth?

3. List repeated words or phrases. (Hint: look for “called,” “name,” “Christ,” etc.)

4. What concerns does Paul begin addressing in this opening section?

5. Are there any surprising or confusing phrases?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

This is where you begin to dig into the *why* and *how*. Interpretation is about **understanding the message** — in context. We don't want to interpret based on our thought but the goal is to allow God's word to interpret itself.

Historical & Literary Context:

- Paul planted the church in Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18).
 - Corinth was morally corrupt, culturally diverse, and religiously confused.
 - This letter is written to **correct division and disorder** in the church and to remind them of their **identity in Christ**.
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Questions to Explore:

1. Why do you think Paul starts by reminding them they are “called to be saints”? (v.2)

What does “saint” mean in this context?

2. What do verses 4–9 tell us about God's work in the Corinthian believers?

How does Paul affirm them before correcting them?

3. Look closely at verses 10–13. What kind of division is happening in the church?

Why does Paul bring up “I follow Paul,” “I follow Apollos,” etc.?

4. What does Paul mean in verse 17 when he says Christ did not send him to baptize but to preach the gospel “not with eloquent wisdom”?

What contrast is Paul making here?

5. What is the heart of Paul’s message in this section?

 **Word Study Suggestions (Optional for deeper study):**

- **“Called”** (v.1, v.2): Greek *kletos* — invited, chosen, appointed.
- **“Saints”** (v.2): Greek *hagios* — holy ones, set apart for God.
- **“Divisions”** (v.10): Greek *schismata* — schism, split, tear.

♥ **Step 3: Application – How should I respond?**

God’s Word isn’t just for information — it’s for transformation.

This is where you ask, **"What do I do with this?"**

🔄 **Personal Reflection:**

1. What stood out to you the most in this passage? Why?

2. Is there any way you’ve let pride, preferences, or personalities create division in your relationships or church life?

3. What would it look like for you to “be united in the same mind and judgment” (v.10) in your family, small group, or church?

4. How can you keep the focus on Christ instead of people or performance?

5. What action step can you take this week to pursue unity and humility?

Summary Truths:

- Our calling as believers is rooted in **God's grace**, not our performance.
 - **Unity in Christ** is essential — divisions weaken our witness.
 - The **cross, not cleverness**, is the center of our faith.
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Optional Memory Verse:

“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.”

— **1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)**

Prayer Prompt:

“Lord, thank You for calling me into Your family. Help me to live in unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Show me where pride or preference has taken root, and help me to fix my eyes on Jesus above all.”

For Further Study:

- Read Acts 18 for background on Paul's time in Corinth.
- Read John 17:20–23 for Jesus' prayer for unity among His followers.
- Journal your thoughts or share with a friend what you've learned.