SERMON NOTES

IMMANUEL CHURCH

DIVIDED WE FALL | 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

SPEAKER: AJ Ballesteros | **DATE:** November 1, 2026

OVERVIEW

1. Division Is At The Root

Paul's letter addresses multiple problems within the Corinthian church but he first focuses on division among the believers.

- Division hides behind other issues. Even if you solve the issue at hand, division causes us to actively find other problems.
- Jesus Himself prayed for all believers that we would be unified (John 17:20-23)

2. Paul Pleads With The Church (1:10-11)

- Paul does not use his own authority as leverage but rather encourages the Corinthian church to submit to Jesus.
- Unity is not forced compliance but rather it is coming together in harmony with a joined purpose.

3. The Corinthian's Disunity (1:12-13)

- Instead of coming from the same place and sharing the same purpose, each person chose a different leader to rally behind.
- Ironically, the leaders they chose to divide over were all on the same team.

4. Return To The Gospel (1:14-17)

- Paul understood that the eloquence of a preacher could rob the power of the cross and draw the church's attention away from Jesus.
- We can be tempted to covet what we like and divide over things that are supposed to unify us.

Healthy & Unhealthy Conflict

HEALTHY	UNHEALTHY
"We need to work this out"	"You need to work this out"
"How can we find middle ground?"	"How can I get you on my side?"
Listens to everyone	Shuts everyone down
Finding the truth together	Winning the fight

QUESTIONS

Use for community group discussion or personal reflection

GO DEEPER

1. Should pineapple be on pizza? Why or why not?
   Cats make better companions than dogs. Agree or disagree?
2. What stood out to you in the sermon this week?
3. Paul addresses division before dealing with any of the church's other moral or theological issues. Why do you think division serves as the root cause rather than just a symptom?
4. Paul asks, "Is Christ divided?" Why is this such a powerful question when considering division in the church?
5. Why do you think Jesus placed such importance on the unity of His followers in John 17:20–23?

MOVE FORWARD

1. In what subtle ways can division "hide" behind other surface-level disagreements in a church today?
2. What does it look like to actively protect unity rather than simply avoiding conflict?
3. When you find yourself in a disagreement with another believer, what practical test or mental question can help you determine if you are engaging in healthy conflict or merely defending a personal preference/opinion? (Refer to the chart if needed)