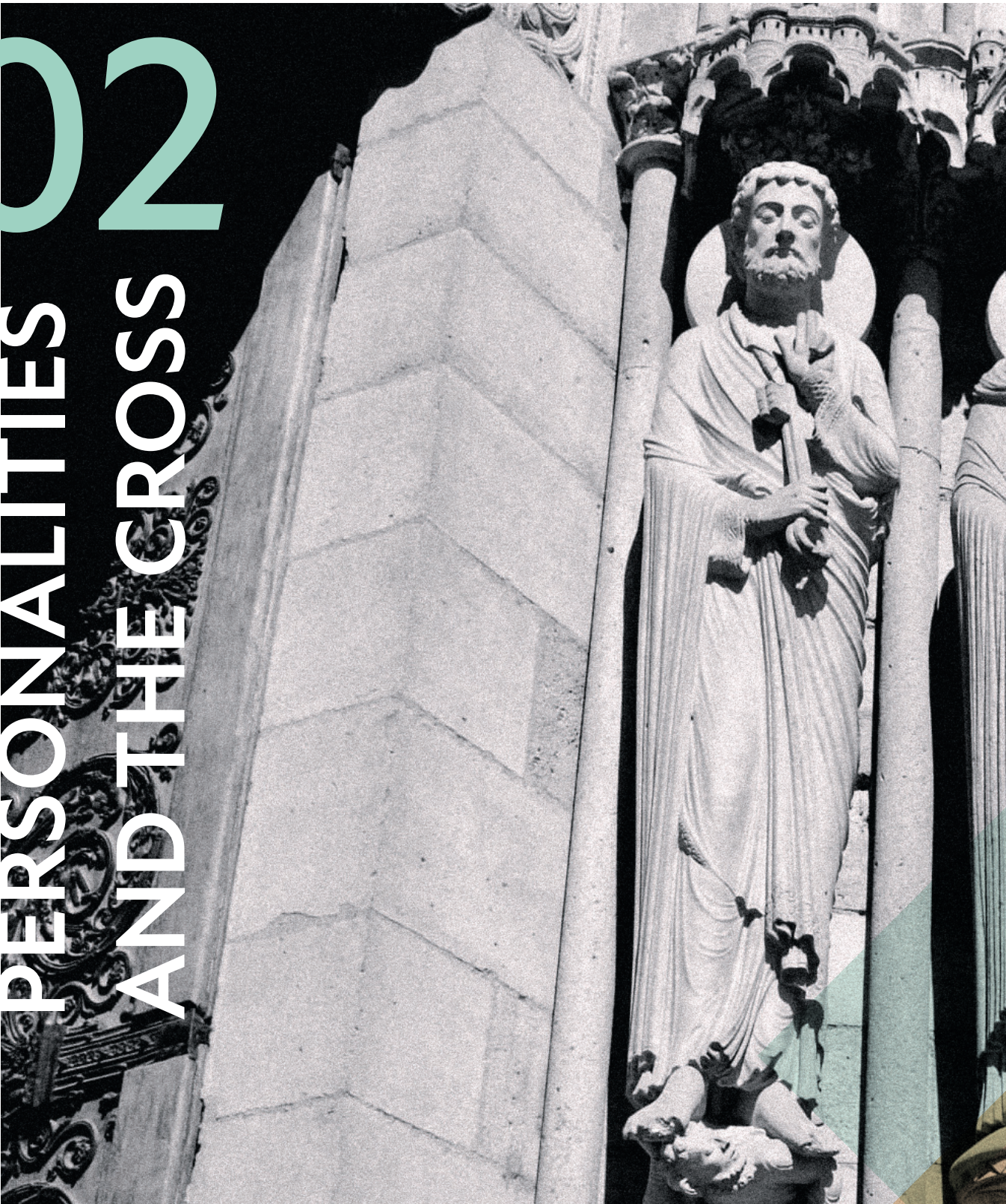
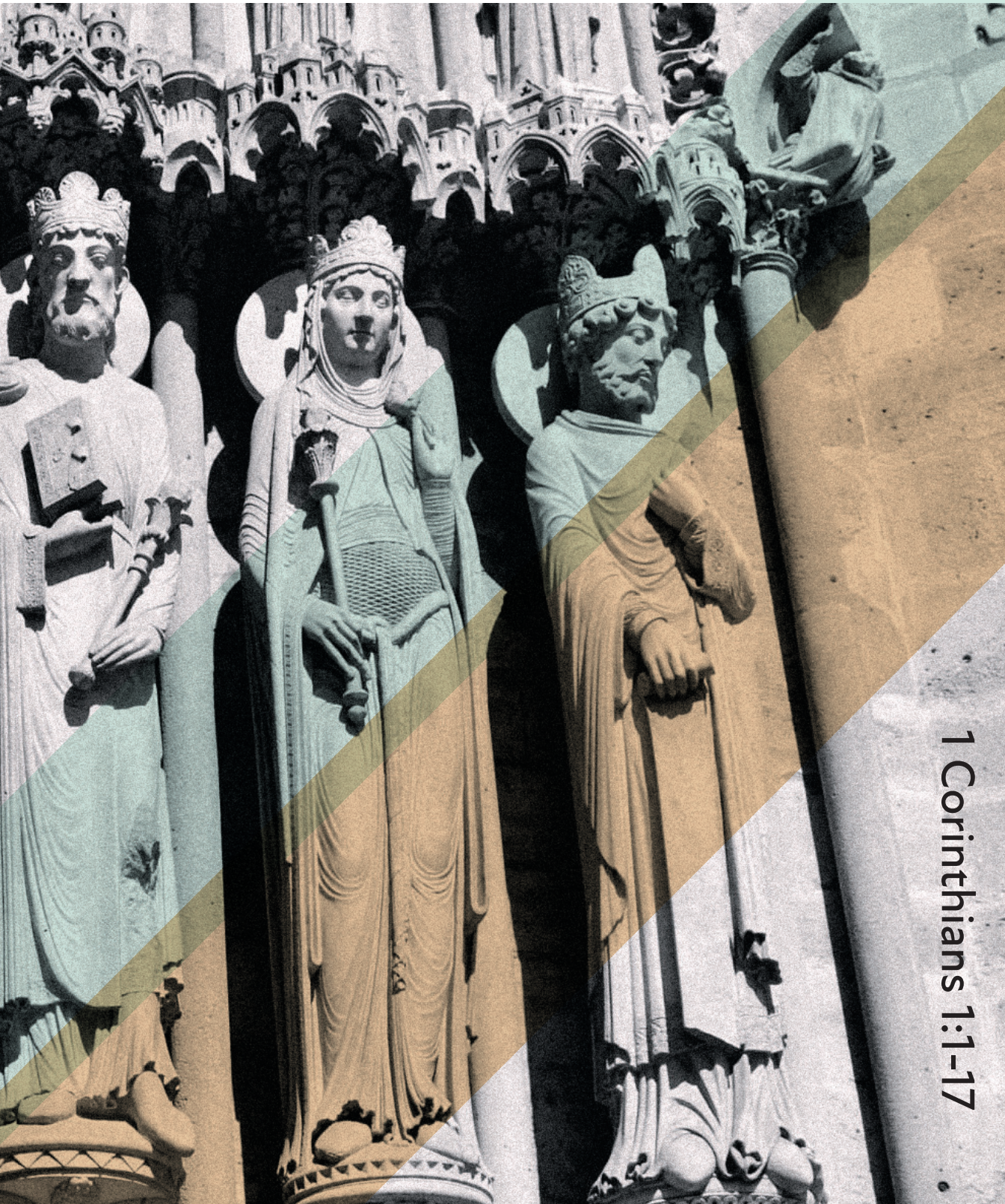


PERSONALITIES 02 AND THE CROSS





1 Corinthians 1:1-17

Daily Readings

- 01 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- 02 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
- 03 Philippians 1:9-11
- 04 2 Corinthians 13:11-14
- 05 Philippians 1:27
- 06 Ephesians 4:1-10
- 07 Ephesians 4:11-16

WEEK 2

Personalities and the Cross

The letter opens with three main sections: a greeting (1-3), a thanksgiving (4-9), and an appeal (10-17). The greeting highlights the writer and the recipients, providing context for the whole letter. Paul is an apostle by God's will, and the readers are those who are made holy in Christ and called to be His holy people. Holiness means to be set apart for a special purpose. This letter gives direction from God's chosen leader on how a church can engage culture as God's chosen people. The church of Corinth is to be different than the surrounding culture because they belong to Jesus.

Paul is thankful to God for the Corinthians' giftedness, but he is concerned about their division. They are aligning with personalities, championing which leader they will follow. This is inconsistent with how holy people live. They are behaving like the rest of the city and world. This division threatens to undercut everything God is doing in the church. What matters is not personalities or personal agendas, but the gospel.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

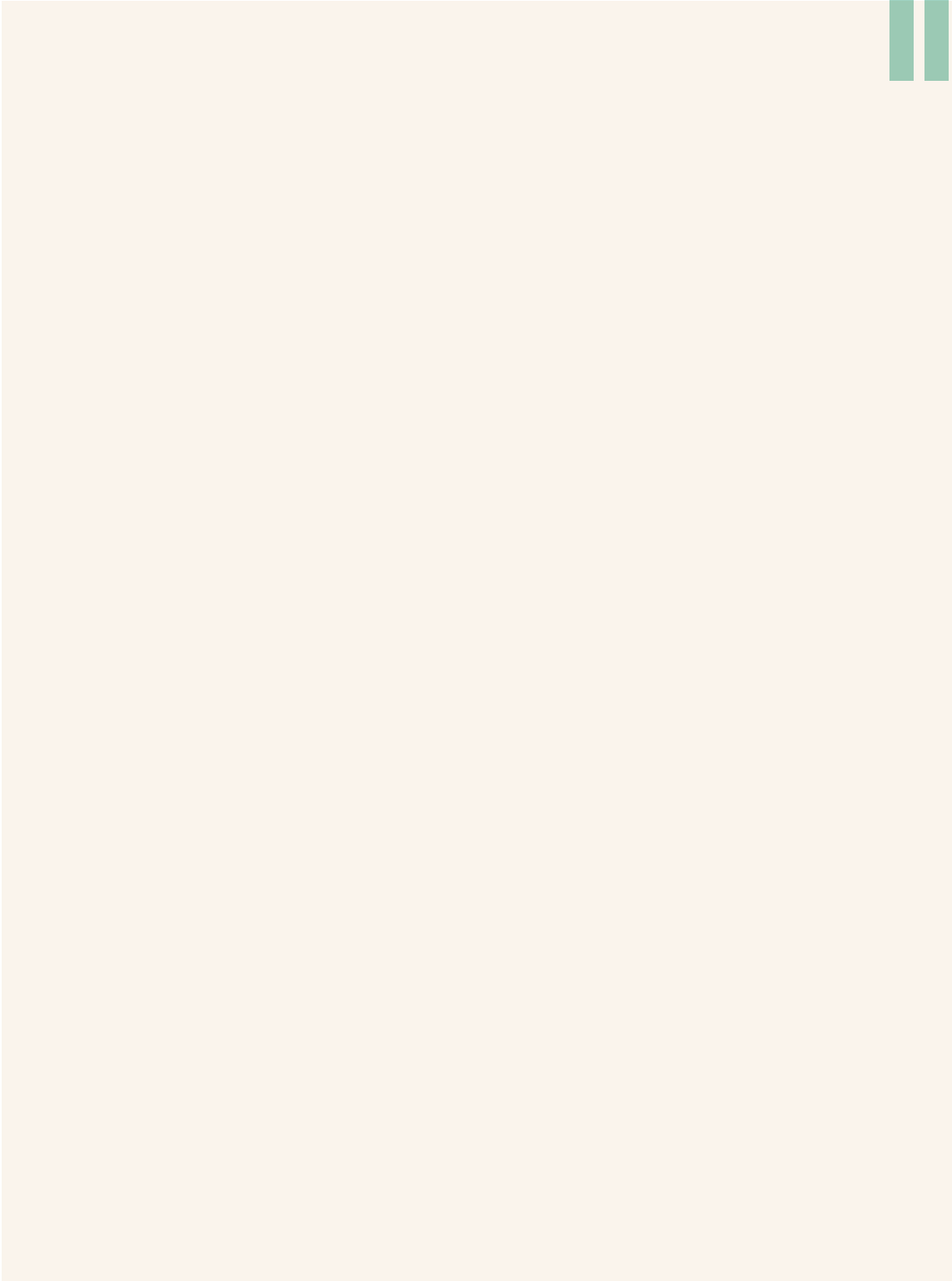
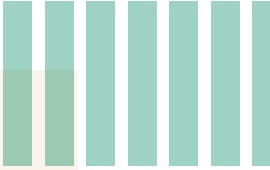
THANKSGIVING

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

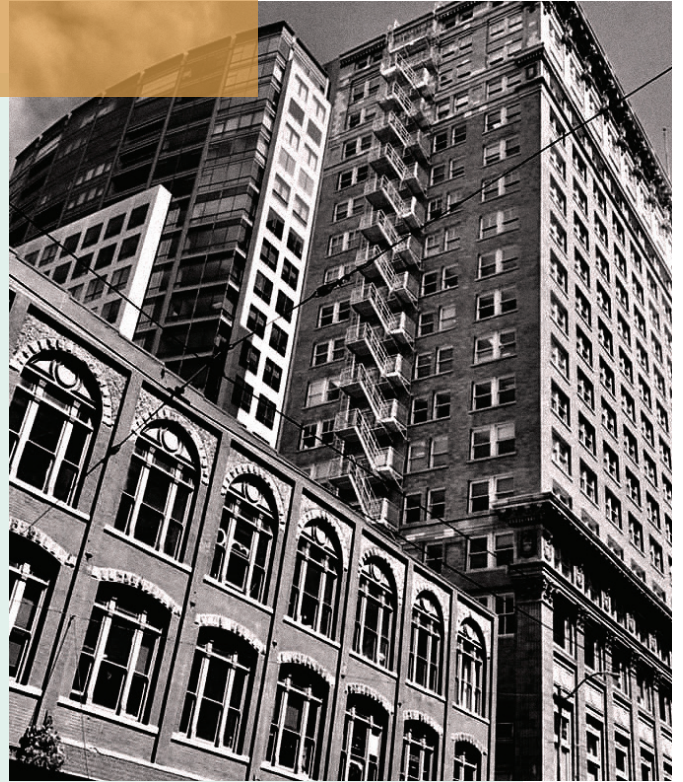
A CHURCH DIVIDED OVER LEADERS

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.



Discussion Guide



Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
or you will be just like him.

PROVERBS 26:4

CONTEMPORARY ADAPTATION:

“Don’t argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level
and beat you with experience.”

ANONYMOUS

WARM UP

Which imaginary superhero was your favorite as a child, and why did you pick that one?

Even superheroes had sidekicks who helped them accomplish their mission; they were a team. Name some of those sidekicks who were indispensable to heroes.

Who have been essential teammates in your life, helping you accomplish tasks and goals?

Have you ever considered the importance of “team” where the church is concerned? How important are relationships and teamwork to the church?

EXPLORING 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-17

In verse 2, Paul identified the Corinthian church as “those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people.” Does that description apply to us? If so, how do we live that out practically?

In verse 3, Paul brings up the subject of spiritual gifts which we will explore in more depth later in this study. What do you think your spiritual gifts may be and how does it fit in the context of the church?

In verses 10-17, Paul addresses a concerning issue in the Corinthian church – division. Have you ever been part of a church struggling with disagreements and discord? Was the ministry of the church negatively affected?

Paul addresses the dangers of personality-driven ministry. What are some pitfalls of emphasizing personalities, rather than God?

APPLICATION

What are some ways you can be a more effective teammate (church member), using your spiritual gifts to edify and encourage others?

Identify at least one way you can more purposefully pursue holiness this week.

Engage in conversations where both parties can seek truth together. Don’t argue.

PRAYER

List one or two prayer concerns to share with your group.