

# IS CHRIST DIVIDED?

Two-Page Sermon Handout

Mark 9:38-40; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 | Ed | Waupaca Church of Christ

**BIG IDEA** Christ is not divided, so His people must not build identity on men, parties, creeds, or denominational loyalties.

1. THE CROSS MADE ONE	2. OUR CIRCLE IS NOT THE STANDARD	3. HISTORY KEEPS PROVING THE DANGER
<p>Paul rebuked Corinth because party slogans denied the meaning of the cross. No preacher, party, or movement was crucified for us.</p>	<p>In Mark 9 the problem was not that the man opposed Christ, but that he was "not following us." Jesus corrected sectarian thinking.</p>	<p>Jewish parties, post-apostolic corruption, denominational fragmentation, and even restoration language can become rival banners.</p>

## WHAT IS A DENOMINATION?

A named religious body distinguished from other named religious bodies by separate organization, doctrine, heritage, or practice. In simple terms: division organized, named, and normalized.

## THREE HARD QUESTIONS

- Am I quicker to defend my group than to submit to Scripture?
- Do I ask first, "What does the text say?" or "What do our people say?"
- Am I satisfied with being only a Christian?

# KEY TEXTS | KEY TERMS | RESPONSE

<b>1 Cor. 1:10-13</b>	Christ is not divided. Party identity insults the cross.
<b>Mark 9:38-40</b>	The apostles wrongly made “us” the measure instead of Christ.
<b>Acts 11:26</b>	The New Testament gives one identity: Christian.
<b>Eph. 4:4-5</b>	One body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
<b>Gal. 1:8 / 2 John 9</b>	Rejecting sectarianism does not mean accepting false doctrine.

TERM	MEANING	PAYOFF
<b>schismata</b>	divisions, tears	Party spirit tears what Christ joined.
<b>memeristai</b>	has been divided	Christ cannot be cut into party portions.
<b>onoma</b>	name, authority	The issue is whose authority rules the conscience.

<p><b>COME TO CHRIST</b></p> <p>Hear - Believe - Repent - Confess - Be baptized for the remission of sins - Remain faithful.</p> <p>Key references:</p> <p>John 8:24   Acts 17:30   Romans 10:9-10</p> <p>Acts 2:38   Revelation 2:10</p>	<p><b>PERSONAL RESPONSE / NOTES</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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