



1. COME TOGETHER

Read 1 Corinthians 1.1-17

- What parallels do you see between ancient Corinth - materialistic, cultured, over-sexed – and our culture today? Is it encouraging or discouraging that the early church was just as dysfunctional and messed up as the church today?
- In what ways do you think the UK church is affected by contemporary culture – particularly this generation?
- **Optional** Extra Credit. Who was Sosthenes (v1) and what's his story? (Check out Acts 18.5-17)
- Have you had experience of division and quarrels in church? What was the cause and what was the outcome?

3 unhealthy responses of the Corinthians: **Idolising** (too much confidence in human personalities, gifts or styles); **Criticising** (setting one leader up against another, comparing one's weaknesses with another's strengths); **Spiritualising** (I'm the only one who knows what Jesus *really* wants).

- In what ways (if any) might you have been guilty of idolising, criticising or spiritualising things in church?
- How can we be focused as a church on the gospel, the simple message of the cross? What could that look like in our situation?

BIG IDEA: As a church we need to make sure we are not shaped by the culture around us. Instead, we need to repent of wordly thinking and build a church that truly reflects the Cross of Christ.

Break into smaller groups and pray for each other. Confess the times where we've not helped unity. Pray that we know what it is to be on the journey towards holiness and Christ-likeness.