

The background of the slide is a soft, watercolor-style illustration of a winter scene. It features several evergreen trees, likely pines or firs, covered in a light layer of snow. The trees are rendered in various shades of light blue and white, creating a serene and cold atmosphere. A small, bare, deciduous tree stands out on the right side of the image. The overall composition is gentle and evocative of a quiet winter day.

Apostolic Faith Services and Their Purpose

By Reverend John Baros

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

- **Verse 10**
A Call to Unity
- **Verses 11-12**
A Description of Disunity
- **Verses 13-17**
The Basis of Unity = Christ & His Cross

Our Approach for this Session

- **Part 1:** Take a closer look at our text and consider a number of general lessons that apply to the **manner** in which we conduct our services and to the **purpose** of our services
- **Part 2:** Briefly look at the components of our meetings.

A Call to Unity

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all **speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions** among you; but that ye be **perfectly joined together** in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**.”

1 Corinthians 1:10

The Early Church functioned as one church with members dispersed at various locations.

“Unto the **church of God** which is at **Corinth**, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be **saints, with all that in every place** call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.”

1 Corinthians 1:2

We also enjoy such beautiful unity.

“One of the unique characteristics of the Apostolic Faith organization is our global unity and consistent manner of worldwide operation. All branches of the organization, both domestic and international, are under the leadership and direction of the headquarters, and uphold the same Bible doctrines. They are also one in purpose and in practice with the headquarters church. Those who travel to our branch churches throughout the world feel at home spiritually, even though surroundings, languages and cultures may be vastly different.”

Minister's Manual (page 330)

Our services are designed with a purpose.

The principle in our text captures this purpose.

Be **unified** in promoting an **atmosphere** where:

- **Christ** is glorified.
- The preaching of the **Cross of Christ** can effectively transform lives.

A Description of Disunity

“For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that **there are contentions among you**. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, **I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.**”

1 Corinthians 1:11-12

The Basis of Unity: Christ & His Cross

“Is **Christ** divided? was **Paul** crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the **name** of **Paul**? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: **not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ** should be **made of none effect.**”

1 Corinthians 1:13-17

“ . . . not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (verse 17).

- **The wisdom of words** (the persuasive words) that the Greek culture demanded **could render the Cross ineffective.**
- **The human wisdom**, which was highly prized by the Greek culture, threatened to **rob the Cross of its power.**

Religious and cultural pressures can bleed into the church.

“For the Jews require a sign [**religious pressure**], and the Greeks seek after wisdom [**cultural pressure**]: but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

The principle in our text informs our church culture in so many ways.

- **Our Logo:** Jesus, the Light of the World (**Christ glorified**)
- **Our Moto:** “Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (**Not transitory ideas and philosophies.**)
- **Our Name:** Apostolic Faith = The **system of beliefs** the **apostles** taught, which also brought on the **Latter Rain**.
- **Our Mission:** Pray, Preach & Publish the pure Gospel. (**Not trending religious buzz words or secular wisdom.**)

The principle in our text also informs every aspect our church services.

Our meetings are designed to go forward with a purpose (end-goal) in mind.

- To **glorify Jesus** during the service and ensure there is a **holy, reverent spirit** in the church sanctuary.
- To **create** an **atmosphere** where the **work of Calvary** will have its **transforming effect** in every life.

The product we offer in our services is the Latter Rain holiness Gospel.

We preach a powerful Gospel:

- Power to deliver from sin and transforms lives
- Power to eradicate carnality
- Power to live a consecrated, holy life
- Power for service through the infilling of the Holy Spirit
- Power to heal the body and the soul
- Power to make restitution
- Power to keep a marriage together for life

We are intent to guard the purity of the message in our services.

In an attempt to be more “relevant,” some substitute in their services:

- Action for unction
- Programs for power
- Entertainment for real joy
- Happiness for holiness
- Comfort for the Cross

Components of an Apostolic Faith Service

- Prayer Room
- Musical Prelude
- Welcome
- Congregational Singing
- Public Prayer
- Announcements
- Special Song
- Testimonies or Scripture Reading
- Last Special
- Sermon
- Invitation Song
- Benediction
- Altar Service/
Postlude

Prayer Room

- “My house shall be called the house of prayer.” **Matthew 21:13**
- Preparation, intercession, thanksgiving



Musical Prelude

- Instrumental/vocal
- Atmosphere of worship
- Focus hearts on spiritual matters



Welcome

- Warmth
- Anticipation
- Connection



Congregational Singing

- Opportunity for everyone to offer praise to God
- Participation vs. observation
- Hymns/choruses



Public Prayer

- On behalf of the entire group
- **“In Jesus’ Name” vs. “In Your Name”**



Announcements

- Brief
- Necessary



Special Song

- Vocal ensemble or soloist
- Selections should focus on glorifying God
- Talent vs. spiritual qualification



Scripture Reading

- Reverence and care
- Review the Scripture reading in advance
- KJV (word-for-word translation of the original)



Personal Testimonies

- Glorify God
- Victorious and encouraging
- Inspiring and unifying



Last Special

- Tempo change
- Springboard to the sermon



Sermon

- Open by reading the text
- When the Word of God speaks, God speaks
- All texts lead to Christ and His Cross



Invitation Song

- Encourages people to pray
- It is helpful if the song is familiar



Benediction

- Brief
- Thankful
- Inviting



Altar Service

- Climax of the meeting
- Pray through to real experiences with God



Postlude

- Soft and subdued (not a piano concert)
- Encourages a spirit of prayer

