

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

The Scandal of the Denominational Scramble

Every time I examine this passage, I wonder how godly people can read it without feeling ashamed of religious divisions. Why do they not want to immediately remove certain signs and symbols on the church buildings where they worship God through Christ. I refer to the identifying signboards that appear to be the modern equivalents of Paul, Apollos, and Cephas.

Few would attend a church named after a Daisy Scraggs, Jack Smith, or Hubert Grubb. Nonetheless, many folks who identify themselves as Christians feel no hesitation attending church groups named after reformers that lived 1500 years after Jesus.

What keeps a fiery contemporary leader from forming a new denomination after himself or herself? The same result occurs; an assemblage named after a human being, and not after Christ. If a handful of schisms scandalized Paul in his day, the countless denominations and their offshoots today would mortify him. “What I mean is that each of you says, ‘I belong to Paul,’ or ‘I belong to Apollos,’ or ‘I belong to Cephas,’ or ‘I belong to Christ.’ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

Can anyone explain how naming denominations or movement after Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, John Wesley, etc. differs from promoting Paul, Apollos, or Cephas?



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