

**1/22/23**

**Sermon: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9**

**Pastor David Uth**

**The Church Divided**

**Passage:** 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 - “I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, **5** that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— **6** even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— **7** so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **8** who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Sermon Notes:**

## **Instructions:**

This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Belong** section as well as give you a recap from the week before. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Believe** section where you will read the key passage and answer suggested questions based on the sermon. Feel free to use some or all of these questions or add your own. Finally, in the **Become** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together.

**Week 1 Recap:** Last week Pastor David started our series through the book of 1 Corinthians by giving us a brief overview from Acts 18 of how the church started in this city. He also shared with us that we can live in the world as followers of Christ and have an impact because we have everything we need. In Christ we don't have to be afraid, we are not alone, and we have grace and peace. This week, Pastor David continues through 1 Corinthians chapter 1 and focuses on verse 4-9 where Paul shares his gratitude for this church that he cared so much about.

**Belong:** Gratitude helps set our hearts and minds on Christ Jesus. What is a simple joy that you are grateful for today? What is something significant that you are thankful for?

**Believe:** Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 - In these verses how many times does Paul mention Jesus by name? What do we learn about Jesus from these references? What do we learn about how Paul sees Jesus?

In verses 4-9, Paul moves towards gratitude. What is the source of his gratitude? Name 3 things Paul says he is thankful for in the lives of the Corinthians. Why do you think Paul mentions this at the beginning of his letter?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:8 in a couple of different Bible translations. What is Paul confident of? What does he base this on? Put your own name in that verse, (ie, "He will also keep *John* firm to the end, so that *John* will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." What does this bring to mind?

Cross References on God's Faithfulness: Deuteronomy 7:9, Isaiah 25:1, Lamentations 3:22-23, 2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 10:23. What else do you learn about God's faithfulness in these verses?

It can be easier for us to look at the problems around us (even at church) and focus on them rather than the good that is happening. How does Paul's example of starting with thanksgiving and reminding them of what they have because of the grace of Jesus Christ inspire you?

**Become:** Think about First Orlando, your life group, your leaders, and the ministries you serve in every week. What are you thankful for today? Is there someone you could send a note of thanks, text, or call to this week to communicate your gratitude? Start a gratitude list on your own or with your family. Display it in a place where you can see it everyday. Add one thing you are thankful for each day for a week.

Prayer: Ask God to show you what he is doing in the lives of those at First Orlando. Pray for your church and thank God for the work he has been doing, is doing right now, and will continue to do in the future.