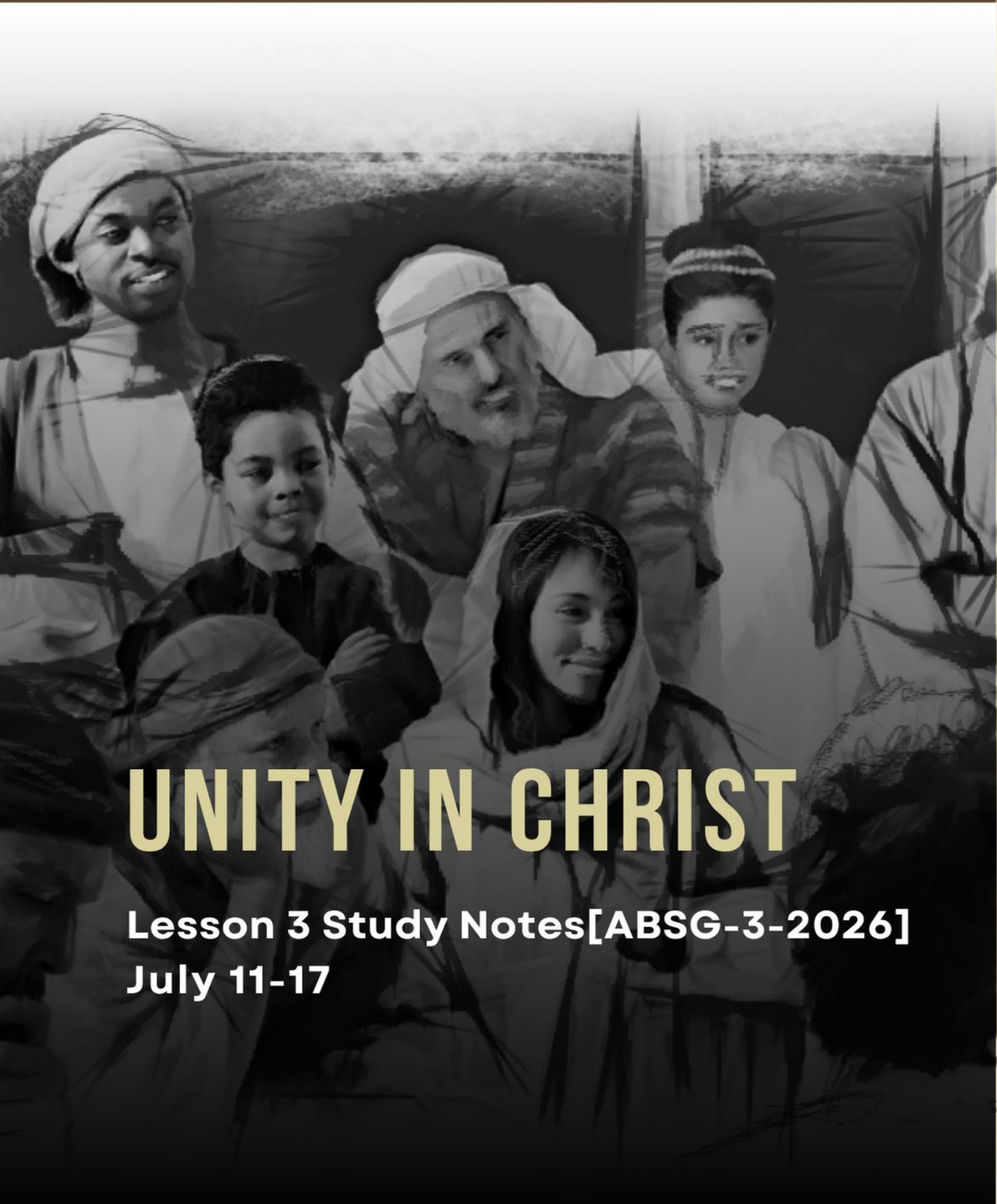


Adult  
Sabbath School  
Bible Study Guide  
July | Aug | Sept 2026

# FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



## UNITY IN CHRIST

**Lesson 3 Study Notes[ABSG-3-2026]  
July 11-17**



# **Disclaimer**

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. While written with care and in harmony with Scripture, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the Spirit of Prophecy, they are not an official publication of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Reader is encouraged to rely first on the Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the Spirit of Prophecy writings.

## Lesson 3 [July 11-17]: Understanding the Memory Text

*"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."*  
— 1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)

- The church is made up of people from different backgrounds, personalities, and experiences.
- Because of this, misunderstandings and disagreements can easily arise if we are not careful.
- This week's lesson reminds us that our unity does not come from following the same person or sharing the same opinions.
- It comes from keeping Jesus at the center of our lives and allowing Him to shape our hearts.

### "I appeal to you, brothers..."

- Paul speaks with love, not with anger.
- He reminds the believers that they belong to one family in Christ.
- When we remember that we are brothers and sisters in God's family, we learn to treat one another with kindness, patience, and respect.
- Even when we disagree, we should never forget that we are serving the same Savior.

### "...by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

- Paul points everyone to Jesus instead of himself.
- Jesus alone is the Head of the church and the One who gave His life for us.
- When our attention is fixed on Christ, we are less likely to become divided by human opinions or personalities.
- Our loyalty should always be to Jesus before anyone else.

### "...that all of you agree..."

- Paul is not saying that every believer must think exactly the same about everything.
- He is calling us to stand together on the truth of God's Word and to work together for His mission.
- God gives different gifts to different people, but every gift should help strengthen the church.
- When Christ is our focus, we can work together even when we have different ideas.

## "...and that there be no divisions among you..."

- The church in **Corinth** allowed **pride** and **favoritism** to separate them.
- Some believers **chose sides** and followed different **leaders** instead of following **Christ**.
- The same thing can happen today if we allow personal **preferences** or group loyalties to become more important than our **love** for **Jesus**.
- **God** calls us to **build bridges**, not walls.

## "...but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."

- **True unity** begins when we allow **Jesus** to **change** the way we think.
- Instead of asking, "**What do I want?**" we begin asking, "**What would Jesus want?**"
- As we grow closer to **Christ**, His **Spirit** helps us become more **humble**, **forgiving**, and **willing** to work together.
- That kind of unity becomes a **powerful witness** to the world.

## What This Means for You

- Maybe there is someone in your church with whom you find it **difficult** to get along.
- Ask **Jesus** to help you **see** that person through His eyes.
- **Choose love** instead of pride, **forgiveness** instead of resentment, and **cooperation** instead of competition.
- As each of us puts **Christ first**, our homes, our churches, and our **witness** will become stronger.

## A Final Thought

- **Jesus** prayed that His followers would be **one**.
- When we live in **unity**, we show the world what His **love** can do.
- **Keep your eyes** on **Christ**, serve others with **humility**, and let His **love** bring **peace** wherever you are.

# July 11: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

## Summary

- **God** wants His **church** to be **united** in **Christ** instead of being **divided** by personal preferences or human leaders.
- **Division** begins when people **focus** more on individuals than on **Jesus**, who **alone** is the **Head** of the church.
- **True unity** does not mean everyone is the same, but that everyone is **centered** on **Christ** and His **truth**.
- **Spiritual maturity** helps believers **overcome jealousy**, **pride**, and **competition** that destroy church unity.
- Christian leaders are **servants** of **Christ**, not people to be worshipped or placed above others.
- **Jesus** is the **perfect example** of **humility**, **selflessness**, and **servant leadership** for every believer to follow.
- **Faithful service** for **Christ** often involves **sacrifice**, **suffering**, and putting the needs of others before our own.
- Every member has a role in **strengthening** the church by promoting **peace**, **love**, and **cooperation**.
- The **Cross** teaches us to **die to self**, **value** others, and **work together** for **God's mission**.
- When **Christ** is at the **center** of our lives, our churches become **stronger**, **healthier**, and **better witnesses** for the gospel.

## Main Points to Learn This Week

**Sunday:** We will learn why **divisions** and **cliques weaken** the church and why our **loyalty** should always belong to **Christ**.

**Monday:** We will discover that **true unity** comes from **keeping Jesus** at the **center** of our thoughts, decisions, and relationships.

**Tuesday:** We will understand how **spiritual maturity** helps believers **overcome pride**, **jealousy**, and unhealthy dependence on human leaders.

**Wednesday:** We will learn what it means to have the **mind of Christ** and **serve** others with **humility** and **faithfulness**.

**Thursday:** We will see how **faithful Christian leadership** reflects the **Cross** through **sacrifice**, **humility**, and **love** for God's people.

This week we will discover that **lasting unity** comes only when every believer **keeps Christ** at the **center** of life and service.

# July 12: Sunday - The Problem of Cliques in the Church

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 1:10–17; 3:3; Romans 1:29; Romans 13:13; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:20

## Summary

- **God** wants His **church** to be **united** in **Christ**. **Division weakens** the church and **harms** its **witness**.
- The believers in Corinth **formed groups** around their favorite **leaders**. They **focused** on **people** instead of **Christ**.
- **Paul reminded** them that **no human leader** died to **save** them. **Only Jesus** was **crucified** for their **sins**.
- The **church belongs** to **Christ alone**. Every believer should find their **identity** in Him.
- **Contention** and **division** often **lead** to other **sins**. They **destroy love**, **peace**, and **trust** among God's people.
- **Pride** and **personal preferences** can **quietly create** divisions in any church. We should **guard** our hearts against these **attitudes**.
- **Unity** does not mean everyone is the same. It means we are **joined together** in **Christ** and His **truth**.
- When we **keep Jesus** at the **center**, our differences become **smaller**. His **love** helps us serve one another with **humility**.
- A **united** church **reflects God's character**. It also becomes a **stronger witness** to the world.

## Question

- Why did **Paul warn** the believers against **forming groups** around church leaders?

## Answer

- Because the **church belongs** to **Christ**, and all believers should be **united** in Him instead of **following** people.

## Reflection

- Am I **helping** to **build unity** in my church, or am I **allowing pride** and personal preferences to **create division**?

## Takeaway

- **Keep your eyes** on **Jesus**. When **Christ** is at the **center**, His people can **worship**, **serve**, and **grow together** in **unity**.

# July 13: Monday - Centered on Jesus

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 1:10, 13; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:27

## Summary

- God calls you to put Jesus at the center of your life so that His people can remain united in Him.
- The believers in Corinth began following different church leaders, and this caused arguments that divided God's family.
- Paul reminded them that only Jesus died for their sins, so no church leader should ever take His place.
- It is good to respect spiritual leaders, but your loyalty must always belong first to Christ.
- God has given every believer different gifts so that the church can grow stronger through cooperation instead of competition.
- You may not always agree with everyone in church, but you can still choose love, humility, and respect.
- Small groups should help people grow closer to Jesus and should never make others feel left out.
- Ask yourself whether your words and attitudes are helping to bring people together or pushing them apart.
- When Jesus remains at the center, love becomes stronger than pride and unity becomes stronger than personal opinions.

## Question

- How can I help keep my church united?

## Answer

- Keep Jesus first, value every believer, and choose love instead of division.

## Reflection

- Do my words and actions help people feel accepted, valued, and closer to Jesus?

## Takeaway

- Keep Jesus at the center of your life and help build a church where everyone feels loved, welcomed, and united in Christ.

# July 14: Tuesday - Wisdom and Maturity

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 3:1–4; 1 Corinthians 2:6–14; Hebrews 5:12–14; 1 Corinthians 3:9–17

## Summary

- **God wants** you to **grow** into a **mature Christian** whose **faith** is firmly **rooted** in **Jesus** instead of in human leaders.
- The believers in Corinth were acting like **spiritual children** because they **argued** over people instead of **keeping Christ** at the **center**.
- **Spiritual maturity** helps you **see life** through **God's wisdom** instead of **following** the thinking of the world.
- **God's wisdom** is **revealed** through the **life**, **death**, and **resurrection** of **Jesus**, and it teaches you to live by **faith** and **love**.
- A **growing Christian** learns more from **God's Word** each day and allows the **Holy Spirit** to **shape** their thoughts and decisions.
- Even faithful church leaders are only **God's servants**, so they should **encourage** your faith in **Christ** rather than **replace** Him.
- People may **disappoint** you because they are human, but **Jesus** will **never fail** those who **trust** in Him.
- When **Christ** is the **foundation** of your faith, you can **remain faithful** even when people let you down.
- **God** is **building** His church through every believer who is willing to **serve** with **humility**, **love**, and **unity**.

## Question

- What does **spiritual maturity** look like?

## Answer

- **Spiritual maturity** means **trusting Jesus** above everyone else and **allowing** His Word to **guide** your life each day.

## Reflection

- Is my faith **growing stronger** in **Jesus**, or am I **depending too much** on people to keep me **close** to Him?

## Takeaway

- **Build your life** on **Jesus** because He alone is the **sure foundation** that will **never fail** you.

# July 15: Wednesday - Christlike Servanthood

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 4:1–2; 2:16; Philippians 2:1–8

## Summary

- **God calls** every believer to **develop the mind of Christ** by **living** with **humility**, **love**, and a **desire** to **serve** others.
- The believers in Corinth were **influenced** by the world's way of thinking, and this caused them to **compete** instead of **serving** one another.
- **Jesus** showed a **completely different way** of living by **choosing humility**, **obedience**, and **sacrifice** instead of **seeking honor** for Himself.
- **Following Christ** means **putting aside** selfish **pride** and **looking** for ways to **encourage**, **help**, and **bless** other people.
- Church leaders are **servants** of **Christ** who have been **trusted** to **care** for God's work, not people who should **seek power** or **praise**.
- Everything we have **belongs** to **God**, so we should **use** our **gifts**, **time**, and **abilities** faithfully for His **glory**.
- The church grows **stronger** when every believer chooses to **serve** with the same **unselfish spirit** that **Jesus** showed.
- Each day **God invites** you to **set aside self** and allow **Christ's love** to **shape** your thoughts, words, and actions.
- When you **follow** the **example** of **Jesus**, your life becomes a **blessing** to others and **brings honor** to **God**.

## Question

- What does it mean to **have the mind of Christ**?

## Answer

- It means **choosing humility**, **serving others** with love, and **putting God's will** before your own.

## Reflection

- Am I **seeking recognition** for myself, or am I **serving others** with the **humble spirit** of **Jesus**?

## Takeaway

- **Follow the example** of **Jesus** by **choosing humility**, **faithful service**, and **love** in everything you do.

# July 16: Thursday - A Lifestyle That Reflects the Cross

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 4:1–13; John 17:4; 2 Corinthians 11:23–28; Colossians 1:24

## Summary

- **God calls** every believer to **live** in a way that **reflects** the **humility, love**, and **sacrifice** shown by **Jesus** on the **Cross**.
- Faithful church leaders **deserve** our **support** because they **serve** God with **humility** and **seek** His glory instead of their own.
- **Jesus** gave all the **glory** to His **Father**, and His **followers** should have the same **attitude** in every area of ministry.
- The **Cross** teaches that **true greatness** is found in **serving** others instead of **seeking power, praise**, or **recognition**.
- **Serving Christ** may bring **hardship, rejection**, or **suffering**, but God uses these **experiences** to **strengthen faith** and **build character**.
- **Paul accepted** suffering because he **loved Jesus** and wanted more people to **receive** the **gift of salvation**.
- **Pride** and **selfish ambition** **divide** God's people, but **humility** and **faithful service** bring **unity** and **strengthen** the church.
- When you **serve** others with the **spirit of Christ**, your life becomes a **living witness** to the **power of the Cross**.
- **God** does not **measure** your success by **popularity** or **comfort**, but by your **faithfulness** to Him each day.

## Question

- What does it mean to **live a life** that **reflects** the **Cross**?

## Answer

- It means **serving God** with **humility**, **giving Him** the glory, and **remaining faithful** even when following **Jesus** is difficult.

## Reflection

- Am I **seeking recognition** for myself, or am I **willing** to **serve Christ** faithfully whatever the **cost**?

## Takeaway

- **Follow the example** of **Jesus** by **serving others** with **humility**, **giving God** the glory, and **remaining faithful** through every trial.

# July 17: Friday - Further Thought

**Read:** The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 17–24; Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 17

## Summary

- **Jesus** prayed that His **followers** would be **united** because their **love** for one another would help others **believe** in Him.
- **God** wants His **church** to **grow** in **unity** by **removing pride**, **selfishness**, and anything that causes **division** among His people.
- **Unity** does not happen by **chance** because every believer must **choose** to **love**, **forgive**, and **work together** for **God's mission**.
- The apostles showed that **true spiritual leadership** is **marked** by **humility**, **sacrifice**, and **faithful service** instead of **power** or **recognition**.
- **God's way** of leading is very different from the world's because He **values faithfulness** more than **position**, **success**, or **popularity**.
- **Paul encouraged** believers to **follow** his example because his life **reflected** the **character** and teachings of **Jesus**.
- Every Christian should **live** in a way that **points** others to **Christ** instead of **drawing attention** to themselves.
- When the church is **united** in **Christ**, it becomes a **living witness** that **God** has **sent Jesus** to **save** the world.

## Question

- How can I **help strengthen** the **unity** of **God's church**?

## Answer

- **Choose humility**, **support** faithful leaders, and **live** in a way that helps others **see the love** of **Jesus**.

## Reflection

- Do my **words**, **attitudes**, and **actions build unity** in **God's church** or **create barriers** between God's people?

## Takeaway

- **Live each day** with the **humble spirit** of **Christ** so that your life helps **strengthen** His church and **lead** others to Him.