



### **Engage Page: What Do You See?**

I remember a time when growing up when my brother Gary had cleaned his room and threw some things away that I thought were pretty cool. When he saw me reach in and take one of those things out of the garbage he quickly snatched it out of my hand, smiled and said, “I changed my mind!” What a sibling moment! But have you noticed that *the way you look at something changes the way you relate to that thing?* In one moment we decide we can do without something and in another moment we see great value in keeping and protecting it. If you can relate to that, you can now enter into the what the apostle Paul was trying to help us to see when we see those that make up the church.

### **Reflection and Discussion**

Have you ever discovered that something you did not think much of turned out to be something very special? How did that change the way you related to that thing? At a typical Sunday service, we can easily miss what is all around us and what is happening. We easily fall into the superficial – who our favorite speakers are, our personal preferences for worship, and even how we look at others in attendance. This is the norm. But what if God wants you to see more? What if seeing more changed how you relate to church?

Read aloud through 1 Corinthians chapter 1 (p.1303 *Christian Basics Bible*). Notice to the superficial ways people were relating to the church in Corinth and the ways God wanted to see things differently. As you read it, pay close attention to these thoughts:

- a) Called by God (to be His own)
- b) Invited by God (into partnership with Christ)
- c) Chosen by God (for a great purpose)
- d) United by God (with Christ Himself)

1. What behaviors or attitudes did the Corinthians exhibit that indicate whether they were being superficial in the way they looked at their church? Have there been times when you have done the same?
2. Take time to discuss each of the above 4 truths and how they are reflected in your own spiritual journeys. Take the time to listen, see and appreciate the beauty and power of God's work in one another.
3. How does hearing these stories from each other change the way you see one another and how you understand the community God is creating?

4. How could seeing the church as a community of living miracles of God and not merely as a service or a platform for our own personal preferences change the way we relate to the church?
  - a. How could it change how we experience worship?
  - b. How could it change the way we believe for God to do great things in anyone's life?
  - c. What steps can you take as you see others and your own priceless value as part of this community of miracles for the glory and praise of Jesus?

May we never see church the same way again.

**Memory verse:**

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose

**1 Corinthians 1:10**