

Before looking at the video, as a group take 15 minutes and talk through these two questions:

- Last meeting, I asked you to look around you and see how people live in community. Share what you observed. Remember community is not simply a Christian identity.
- Describe a birth experience you might have had. This could be a child, or it could be baby puppies. What happened? How did you feel?

Everybody has a birth, a beginning, and every organization has a birth or a beginning. We're looking at Corinth and their birth as a congregation.

Some backstory:

1. Paul arrived around \_\_\_\_\_ (yes, the date). in Corinth. This was 18-20 years after Jesus had died and resurrected.
2. Paul stayed in Corinth \_\_\_\_\_ months, appointed elders that led this new congregation.
3. He then returned to Antioch in Syria, his sponsoring congregation. This ended his second missionary trip.
4. After Paul left this newly birthed congregation went into substantial conflict. At this point, Paul was now on his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary trip and was actually in Ephesus (he stayed for 3 years) when news came to him of the mess.
5. Luther described it this way:

**“In Short, things got so wild and disorderly that everyone wanted to be the expert and do the teaching and make what he pleased of the gospel, the sacrament, and faith. Meanwhile, they let the main thing drop – namely, that Christ is our salvation, righteousness, and redemption – as if they had long since outgrown it. This truth can never remain intact when people begin to imagine they are wise and know it all.”**

6. Now open your Bibles to I Corinthians 1 (you can pause the video so everyone can get there)
7. In 1:1-10, Paul repeats the name of Jesus at least \_\_\_\_\_ times. Pause the video: Why would Paul be so repetitive? I know this may be a simple answer but obviously not understood by the folks in Corinth.

8. Vs. 2-3, Paul is clear that God has sanctified them which means:

---

9. The letter is written around \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.

10. Pause the video and read verses 4-9 out loud. What is the strong emphasis in the text?

11. The first major issue that Paul addresses: \_\_\_\_\_.

12. Paul gives the foundation of the congregation and then addresses a major issue. He doesn't want them to forget the foundation

13. In vs. 10 Paul says "that you may be \_\_\_\_\_ in mind and thought..." The literal Greek translation is "knit together as with bones being joined together after they are fractured."

14. As we move through chapter 1 and then into two, Paul contrasts wisdom and foolishness. The Greek world always saw themselves as wise (even the Corinthians) but Paul calls them to another way of life:

15. Vs. 18, **"For the message of the cross is \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God."**

16. You see, a faith community is not a human \_\_\_\_\_ but a \_\_\_\_\_ action of God.

17. God takes the unwise, fools, and the Holy Spirit crafts them into a community. It is his action and movement that transforms people and uses them within community. Take a look at vs. 26-31 (yes, you'll see it on the screen)

18. Now I want you to look at chapter 2:6-15. Here Paul makes a strong statement on the Holy Spirit moving in the lives of the new believers. Read this section out loud in your small groups.

19. Then talk through these questions:

- a. How have you seen cliques in your church? As noted there will always be cliques. How have you observed that they are good? Bad?
- b. Look at vs. 13, what are "spiritual truths" that are revealed?
- c. Ultimately, what does it mean to be foolish in the name of Jesus?

Next meeting:

Please read **I Corinthians 3-5**. Again, look for aspects of community. There is a lot of content in these chapters.

For discussion at the beginning of the next meeting, share a group where you have seen unity and resisting division. It is always easy to find division.