

**Parson to Person**  
**1 Corinthians 3 (Part 2)**  
**(Unity and Division)**

*“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, ‘I am of Paul,’ and another, ‘I am of Apollos,’ are you not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

*For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

*Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness'; and again, 'The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.' Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's" (1 Corinthians 3:1–23 NKJV).*

## **Unity and Division**

Inasmuch as Paul desires that members of the Church be united and in harmony with one another, and, inasmuch as Paul explained to the Corinthians that they were carnal (descriptively by way of their disunity through sectarianism), I feel the need to address our need for unity in the church while necessitating division over error in doctrine and rebellious sinful practice.

## **The Spirit of Babylon**

The Church in America (and around the world) is being infected by the "Spirit of Babylon." One only need look around and see the present push for "unity through diversity," "coexist" messaging,

subjective “truth,” and religious compromise at every corner of society—and now in many churches.

## **Mystery Babylon**

Mystery Babylon has troubled many Bible interpreters and Theologians for years. Even now there is a lack of understanding of what or who is the *“woman who rides the beast”* (Revelation 17:4).

For our purposes herein we need no exhaustive description of all included by the Biblical references to Babylon. We do know there is the literal city of Babylon (in present-day Iraq), and the future political Babylon—the revived Roman empire that will serve as the “Kingdom” of the Antichrist. However, for our purposes herein I do need to briefly describe *“Mystery Babylon,” “the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth”* (Revelation 17:5).

Mystery Babylon is a conglomerate of all false religions. She has often been associated with the Roman Catholic Church, but, *“the woman who rides the beast”* (Revelation 17:1-4) is more than a single entity. She is the unified clustering of all false religious systems who join in error and rebellion against the one and only truth described in the Holy Scriptures.

Therefore, in order to maintain unity in the church we must address the reasons for division in order to maintain Biblical purity.

Let us therefore consider the following:

## 1. The Poema

### a. Trusting the Lord with His Sheep: Hands off!

*“If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (1 Corinthians 3:17).*

### b. Entrusting the Sheep to the Lord: Hands on!

*“Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned” (Titus 3:10–11)*

## 2. Justified Division

### a. Heretical Doctrine

#### I. The Nature of the Godhead

*“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one” (1 John 5:7).*

#### II. The Gospel

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

### b. Rebellious Sinful Behavior

*“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person... Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person” (1 Corinthians 5:11–13).*

## 3. Non-Justified Division

a. Matters of Conscience

*“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things”* (Romans 14:1).

b. Personality (Attraction or Repulsion)

*“‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos’”* (1 Corinthians 1:12)

c. Communications: Selfishness, Pride, and Unforgiveness

*“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him”* (Luke 17:3–4).

**4. Unresolved Conflict and the Cross We Are Called to Bear**

*“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me’”* (Matthew 16:24).

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul-