



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Is Christ Divided?
Speaker: Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor
Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

A Church Divided Over Leaders

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,[a] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas[b]"; still another, "I follow Christ."

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, we will start a new three-week series on Faith and Politics. Pastor Rich will open the series, having us focus on what it means to bear the mark of Christian maturity in a culture of political division.

Sermon Questions:

1. Pastor Rich shared this quote – *“The Church is not to be found at the “center” of the left/right political world. The Church is to be a species of its own kind, confounding left, right, and middle, and finding its identity form the “center” of God’s life”*. What do you think it could look like to live as Christians who are a species of our own kind, finding our center in God? - in engaging politics or other areas of life?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 - 17. Have you experienced such divisions in the church or felt such a pull to identify with a party within the Church?
3. How do you feel about the upcoming elections? In light of this message, what practice or truth could help you release your anxiety or fears?
4. Pastor Rich shares - 7 Marks of Faithfulness to Jesus in a Politically Hostile World:
 - ❖ You're not paralyzed with anxiety because of the election.
 - ❖ You pray for those with whom you disagree.
 - ❖ You confess your limits and blind spots.
 - ❖ You don't anoint a candidate or party as God's candidate and party.
 - ❖ Jesus' ethical concerns become your concerns.
 - Review this list.
 - Which do you struggle with and why?
 - What invitation, if any, do you sense from God in being faithful to Jesus in a politically hostile world?