



Life Application Notes

Sunday - 18th(West End)/25th (Lordhill/Central) March 2018

Speaker: Chris Kilby **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3:1-4:21

Title: 'A Great Church is United Behind Fathers'

Introduction:

- Ask each person in the group to name their favourite pizza topping.
- Now imagine as a group you were allowed to order just one pizza tonight. How would you decide the topping? (Most popular? Least offensive? Person paying chooses?!)
- Choice can lead to division - unless we become united! That's what these chapters are addressing - immaturity and division in the local church at Corinth.
- Ask someone to read 1 Cor. 1:10-12, someone to read 3:1-11, and someone to read 4:14-17

Questions for discussion:

- Re-cap - Why had these groups in the church become divided?
- Re-cap - What did Paul say about their division?

The **Paul** clique tended towards **nostalgia** (they would reminisce about Paul's ministry leading them to faith)

The **Apollos** clique tended towards **academic snobbery** (Apollos was a bright cookie and a great preacher)

The **Peter** clique tended towards **legalism** (they got hung up on aspects of Jewish practice).

The **Jesus** clique tended towards **independence** (we don't need leaders; we just follow Jesus!)

Be honest - have you ever had a leaning towards any of these patterns?

How did you handle it?

Rather than developing cliques, it is important to cultivate friendships and relationships in the local church. Friendship groups are not cliques! (unless they become exclusive and divisive).

- How could you help cultivate deeper friendships in the church?
- How could you include new people in such friendships?

The Bigger Picture:

At Life Church we are united behind Guy Miller and his team. We are part of their apostolic 'Commission' family. Can anyone remember the vision of Commission? Pray together that we at Life Church will increasingly serve this wider mission well as a 'resource church'.