

I. Identifying the Problem

1. To be a follower of Christ, I must deny myself ([Lk. 9:23](#)).
 - a. This must be a daily task ([1 Cor. 15:31](#)).
 - b. I am crucified with Christ ([Gal. 2:20](#); cf. [Php. 1:21](#)).
2. When self is not denied, then division is sure to ensue.
 - a. This is what was happening at Corinth ([1 Cor. 1:10-13](#)).
 - b. Carnal thinking will be present ([1 Cor. 3:1-4](#)).
 - c. Some will elevate themselves and others will be deemed as unnecessary or unimportant ([3 Jn. 9-10](#)).
3. When division within the church takes place the body of Christ ceases to function properly.
 - a. Sin is tolerated ([1 Cor. 5](#)).
 - b. Brotherly love is shattered ([1 Cor. 6:1-8](#)).
 - c. Worship is corrupted ([1 Cor. 11:17-34](#)).

II. The Solution to Division

1. In the plant and the human body, every part is needed for proper function.
2. Every member of the church is needed ([1 Cor. 12:12-14](#)).
 - a. One Spirit, one baptism, one body ([Eph. 4:4-5](#)).
 - b. We are all one in Christ Jesus ([Gal. 3:28](#)).
 - c. Each must be esteemed better than self ([Php. 2:3](#); [Rm. 12:10](#)).
3. The human body illustration ([1 Cor. 12:15-27](#)).
 - a. Reminder, **God** set the members in the body ([1 Cor. 12:18](#)).
 - b. Mutual care will go a long way in preventing and mending division ([1 Cor. 12:25-27](#)).

III. The Ultimate Cure

1. Love must be my motivation for everything that I say and do ([1 Cor. 13:1-3](#)).
2. Love has very distinct identification marks ([1 Cor. 13:4-7](#)).
3. Love is the pinnacle attribute ([1 Cor. 13:13](#)).