

“Through him, God has enriched your church in every way— with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1:5, 7 NLT

[lectio] // 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-17

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

This one translated word could have made all the difference. God has enriched your assembly, your gathering - NOT church building. That's what really happened. God didn't enrich the house they met in, he enriched the people that gathered in that house! Later Paul writes about unity, harmony and division. "Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." Then he followed with, "Has Christ been divided into factions?" I don't think pastors and denominational leaders take this seriously! If I'm "right" in my theology and doctrine, then you're "wrong" and either I break away or you do. There is no discussion about unity. Paul (and Jesus) just could not have meant that we have to stay together in disagreement!

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,
Oh, what have we done with the assembly you intended? How have we drifted from being a bride, to being a bridezilla? How do we get back to the model that displayed your love that overcomes division? How do we model love in a family that despises each other? It so grieves me! Your assembly, your called ones are so beautiful and necessary in this culture. This is literally what attracted me to stay a believer after making a decision to give you my life - the church, the family, the assembly of God's people. What can I do? I am just a failed ladder-climbing, 2nd chair forever kind of guy. I pray someone takes my book and figures out a way to beckon, plead and woo the assembly to return to being unified, under one God, one Christ, one body.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root