

## **Voicing Lament and Nurturing Community: A Study of Lamentations and 1 Corinthians**

University Baptist Church – Online Bible Study  
Session 4: October 25, 2020

**To prepare:** This week, we return to 1 Corinthians and take a look at a few passages where Paul addresses the divisions we create between ourselves as people of the Church. Because we will only look at a few bits of his larger section of instruction, you might want to take time before Sunday morning to watch [THIS VIDEO](#) about 1 Corinthians and to read through all of 1 Corinthians 1-4 without stopping. As you read, consider the frequently quoted verses like 3:16-17 and 3:21-23 – how are these verses part of the larger conversation?

### **Sunday morning session outline:**

Last week we read Lamentations 1:18-20 and discussed our own complicity in behavior that causes polarization, and the ways that we sometimes cause our own suffering. As we discuss today, consider how this section of 1 Corinthians relates to last week's discussion.

#### **1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

- Paul opens the letter with traditional words of greeting and praise for the recipients, then immediately dives into the subject of division. Why does the subject of baptism matter in the discussion of divisions within the community?
- What might be our 2020 equivalents to this passage? Who are the Apollos and Cephas and Paul of our own day, and what might we be using as a sign of our division, like the Corinthians and baptism?
- We are living in a time when it is easier to point to the Christians who align themselves most closely with political candidates than those who align with certain preachers or teachers – what do you think that says about the 'Big-C-Church' in our generation?

#### **1 Corinthians 3:10-17**

- We frequently hear 1 Cor. 6:19-20 quoted as a reason for working out, eating healthy, and otherwise respecting your own body. How does reading 3:10-17 influence our understanding of Paul's words later in this letter?
- Remember that the city of Corinth was full of many different temples to gods from across the ancient world – Rome, Greece, Egypt and more. How does this affect your understanding of what it means to be God's temple, both individually and collectively?

#### **1 Corinthians 3:21-23**

- "All things are yours" – that feels like a big statement! What is Paul teaching? How is Paul's instruction in this passage different than the instruction of worldly teachers? How do you think this relates to the Baptist tradition of "priesthood of all believers"?