

Sermon Discussion Guide
Brian Bales - We Over Me: *Same Car, Same Direction*

April 12, 2026



This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes. ² I am writing to God’s church in Corinth,^[a] to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus,^[a] just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.³ May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.⁴ I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. ⁵ Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. ⁶ This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. ⁷ Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. ⁹ God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.¹⁰ I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. ¹¹ For some members of Chloe’s household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹² Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of Paul.” Others are saying, “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,^[a]” or “I follow only Christ.”¹³ Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! ¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ for now

no one can say they were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don't remember baptizing anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ 1 Corinthians 1:1–17

*Resurrection Sunday reminded us to celebrate an empty tomb and what that means for us today. Because Jesus rose, everything changes. We now live with a new identity, a living hope and power for everyday life because the Holy Spirit lives in us. But this raises a question. **How do we live out this new story together?***

Think about a road trip... What's one funny or stressful memory you have from traveling with your family, your college friends, or maybe during a work trip with colleagues? What created friction and how did you navigate it?

Key Idea - The Church is not a building, *it's people*. The Greek word is *ekklēsia*, meaning an assembly or gathering. But it's not just any gathering. It's the gathering of people whose lives have been changed by Jesus. You see the church is designed to be a group of people following Jesus that say they love God with all their heart, soul, and mind and that love their neighbor in the way that they love themselves.

Big Idea

The church is designed to be a group of people moving together toward one destination—becoming more like Jesus.

1. Look at what was happening in Corinth in the church that compelled Paul to write his letter.
 - How had the church and its people been influenced by culture: pride, division, self-focus?

 - Who were they aligning themselves with?

Discuss

1. Where do you see a “*me over we*” mindset in today's culture?

2. How can culture subtly shape how we view church and relationships?

Truth: *When another agenda becomes more important than God's, problems will follow.*

2. Remembering Who We Are (vv. 4–9)

Paul reminds them of their identity: Saved by grace | Made holy in Christ | Gifted and equipped
Sustained by God | Called into fellowship together

Key Insight: God sees them as unified—even when they aren't living that way.

Discuss

1. What stands out to you about how God views His church?
2. Why is it easy for our daily behavior to drift from living out our identity in Christ?

Truth: *Our position in Christ is often not reflected in our practice.*

3. The Call to Unity (vv. 10–17)

There is only one Messiah, but the Corinthians said: *"I follow Paul"* | *"I follow Apollos"* | *"I follow Cephas"*

1. What are some modern examples of "following personalities" in the church?
2. When do preferences become spiritually dangerous?
3. Where have you seen the enemy attempting to divide the Church and Christ Followers?

Key Insight-The issue wasn't preferences—it was misplaced loyalty.

Discuss

1. Why do we tend to attach ourselves to leaders or styles?

2. How can that subtly shift our focus away from Jesus?

4. Bringing It Home - We may not say “I follow Paul,” but we may say:

- “I like this pastor more...”
- “I prefer this style of preaching over ...”
- “This is how church should be, not...”

Discuss

1. Where have you seen division over preferences in church settings?
2. How can differences become personal instead of purposeful?

5. Living focused on “*We Over Me*”. How can we keep our preferences in their proper place?

1. Where can you learn from different voices moving beyond one perspective?
2. How can we appreciate different styles without ranking them spiritually or making comparisons?
3. How does our church community encourage you to remain aligned with the Gospel message choosing to follow King Jesus?

Personal Reflection

- Where is my focus right now, on the destination or on my preferences?

- Have I elevated a person, style, or opinion above Jesus?

- How am I contributing to unity within the church body and in my relationships?

Pray: For unity in the church | For humility in our preferences | For a renewed focus on Jesus

A Closing Thought: Our purpose is clear: To love God, love others, and become more like Jesus—together.