

1 Corinthians 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

Analysis

For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you (emenythe gar moi, ἐμηνύθη γάρ μοι)—The verb menyomai (μηνύω, "to inform, report") indicates Paul received credible intelligence, not vague rumors. **The house of Chloe** (ἡ Χλόης) likely refers to a household that included slaves, freedpersons, and family members—possibly a house church or business contacts who traveled between Corinth and Ephesus. That Paul names them publicly suggests they were willing to be identified, lending weight to the report.

That there are contentions among you (erides en hymin eisin, ἔριδες ἐν ὑμῖν εἰσιν)—The noun eris (ἔρις, "strife, quarrel, contention") appears in Paul's vice lists (Rom 1:29, Gal 5:20) alongside jealousy, anger, and dissension. These were not theological debates but sinful quarrels—the "works of the flesh" manifesting in a Spirit-filled church. Paul addresses this as sin, not legitimate diversity.

Historical Context

Chloe was likely a woman of some means (possibly a businesswoman or patroness) whose household had contact with both Corinth and Ephesus. In a culture where women rarely appeared in public documents, her naming is significant. That her household reported the factions suggests they were concerned Christians, not gossips—and Paul trusted their account enough to act on it.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's willingness to name his source (Chloe's household) model transparency and accountability in addressing church conflict?
2. What is the difference between healthy theological debate and sinful "contentions" or factions?
3. How do we discern when church conflicts are worth addressing publicly versus handling privately?

Interlinear Text

ἐδηλώθη	γάρ	μοι	περὶ	ὑμῶν	ἀδελφοί	μου	ὑπὸ
it hath been declared	For	unto me	of	you	brethren	my	by
G1213	G1063	G3427	G4012	G5216	G80	G3450	G5259
τῶν	Χλόης	ὅτι	ἔριδες	ἐν	ὑμῖν	εἰσιν	
them which are of the house	of Chloe	that	contentions	among	you	there are	
G3588	G5514	G3754	G2054	G1722	G5213	G1526	

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 3:3 (Parallel theme): For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Proverbs 18:6 (Parallel theme): A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

1 Timothy 6:4 (Parallel theme): He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

Galatians 5:26 (Parallel theme): Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

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