

# 1 Corinthians 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

## Analysis

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**Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ**—Paul identifies four factions centered on human personalities. The **Paul party** likely boasted of their founder's apostolic authority. The **Apollos party** (Acts 18:24-28) probably preferred his eloquence and philosophical sophistication—Apollos was "mighty in the scriptures" and "an eloquent man." The **Cephas party** (Peter's Aramaic name) may have claimed superiority through connection to Jesus' original disciples or favored a more Jewish Christianity. The **Christ party** sounds pious but may have been the most divisive, claiming direct spiritual insight that bypassed human teachers—a form of super-spirituality Paul will critique throughout the letter.

Each slogan—**I am of Paul, I am of Apollos** (ego men eimi Paulou, ego de Apollō, ἐγὼ μὲν εἰμι Παύλου, ἐγὼ δὲ Ἀπολλῶ)—mirrors the factional rhetoric of Greek philosophical schools, where students pledged loyalty to a master. Paul rejects this entirely: Christian identity is in Christ alone, not human teachers.

## Historical Context

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Apollos arrived in Corinth after Paul's departure (Acts 19:1) and impressed many with his rhetorical skill and scriptural knowledge. This unintentionally created comparison and competition. Cephas (Peter) may have visited Corinth or had followers there who valued Jewish tradition and apostolic precedent. These were

godly men, but their admirers turned them into factional mascots. Paul later insists he and Apollos are merely servants through whom they believed (3:5).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do modern Christians form personality cults around favorite preachers, authors, or theological traditions?
2. Can you claim to follow "Christ alone" while actually being devoted to a particular teacher or movement?
3. How does competition over eloquence, theological sophistication, or spiritual credentials mirror the Corinthian factions today?

## Interlinear Text

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λέγει	δὲ	τοῦτο	ὅτι	ἕκαστος	ὑμῶν	λέγει	Ἐγὼ	μέν	εἰμι
<b>I say</b>	<b>Now</b>	<b>this</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>every one</b>	<b>of you</b>	<b>I say</b>	<b>I</b>	G3303	<b>am</b>
G3004	G1161	G5124	G3754	G1538	G5216	G3004	G1473		G1510

Παύλου	Ἐγὼ	δὲ	Ἀπολλῶ	Ἐγὼ	δὲ	Κηφᾶ	Ἐγὼ	δὲ
<b>of Paul</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Now</b>	<b>of Apollos</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Now</b>	<b>of Cephas</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Now</b>
G3972	G1473	G1161	G625	G1473	G1161	G2786	G1473	G1161

Χριστοῦ  
**of Christ**  
G5547

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 1:42** (Parallel theme): And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

**1 Corinthians 4:6** (Parallel theme): And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

**1 Corinthians 7:29** (Parallel theme): But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

**1 Corinthians 9:5** (Parallel theme): Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

**1 Corinthians 15:5** (Parallel theme): And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

**1 Corinthians 15:50** (Parallel theme): Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

**1 Corinthians 16:12** (Parallel theme): As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

**2 Corinthians 9:6** (Parallel theme): But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

**Galatians 3:17** (References Christ): And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

**Galatians 2:9** (Parallel theme): And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

