

# Second Hand Preacher

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time*

January 22, 2017

## **1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17**

When I was an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin River Falls, I learned a little bit about fraternities. I never belonged to one, but I was courted by several. Each one had good points and reasons not to belong as well. I remember those fraternities and how they competed for me wanting me to join all these different factions of Greek Life. Which one to choose, who to follow? After much consideration I decided not to join but to put my efforts into Food Science Club, dorm government, and the Catholic Newman Center.

Deciding among these rivals is a little like what the Christians from Corinth are doing. St. Paul was not the only missionary to appear in the city and it sounds like some of the leadership among the Corinthians had been given some power. These rivals are seemingly trying to help this church, but there are differences and this worries Paul. I believe what worries Paul the most is that some seem to be putting Jesus on the same level as the rivals. Among Christians, Jesus has no rivals. Perhaps an outsider may see Paul competing with Jesus, but this isn't so for the true Christian. Paul uses much of this letter to stress the divinity of Christ and how we are to form a body of unity under him.

Who do we follow? Is our love Jesus based solely on the talents of a priest or other religious leader? Being inspired by someone of faith is great, but this devotion should always be for Jesus. We are one body in Christ and we do not stand alone. All the actions we take should never be for our own glory, but for our continued devotion to the one who loved us first; that one being Jesus Christ.