



# *1 Corinthians, Part 1*

**A 28 WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY**

**SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES**

*By Lisa Hughes*

## Welcome

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

Nothing could be more true! There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig in to the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

*Scripture Paths Bible Studies* are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

### **HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES*:**

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.
  
6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming at. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger.

~Charles Spurgeon

## **THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE STUDY**

John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and for anyone else who wants to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is utilizing those truths to your life.

As you study this book of the Bible it is my prayer that you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as the source of life and godliness, and you will accept it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom, knowledge, godly conduct, that you overcome sin and grow daily in your love for Christ.

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Lisa Hughes*

## HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. I explain how to use those resources in an Addendum at the end of the study. These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig in to each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him.

*And what could be better than that?*

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.  
 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.  
 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.  
 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.  
 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.  
 Psalm 119:129-133

# How to Do a Chapter Observation<sup>1</sup>

Begin with prayer, asking God to show you how His Word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His Word as you approach it. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to see the truths in His Word.

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1. Read straight through the chapter using the *Bible Text Handout*. This will show you the flow of the chapter. *Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears.* This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Mark *repeated* words or phrases. Mark any other words that seem *important* to the chapter or are strongly *emphasized*.
2. Next, *list* the phrase containing the key words on a separate sheet of paper. *This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words.* Be sure to *cite* the verse references when you list your key word information. For example, in James chapter 1, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned in James. For Chapter 1, it would start with a list like this: Vs. 1—James, a bond-servant of God or God has bond-servants Vs. 5—ask God for wisdom. Vs. 5—God gives wisdom generously, without reproach.
3. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.
4. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.
5. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find these words or phrases.
6. Mark *contrasting* words: light/dark, love/hate; the word “but.” Look for phrases or thoughts that are being contrasted.
7. Now list what you discovered from the comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using or at the side or bottom of the *Bible Text Handout*.

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<sup>1</sup> This process for Bible study originated from the Precept Inductive Bible Studies method. Through the years, other people have adapted it or come up with similar methods on their own, just as I have for my studies. The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor, as we stop, observe, and consider every one of His recorded Words, in their context, during Bible study.

8. Mark *transition* terms: *therefore, for, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms.
9. Mark expressions of *time*. Look for words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
10. Look for *lists* of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in James 1:5-6 we find a list about how God responds when we ask him for wisdom. We discover 1) He gives wisdom generously; 2) He gives wisdom without reproach; 3) He desires that we ask in faith, without doubting. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in this chapter. You aren't making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this stage is to look for the treasures that God has put in the chapter.

## How To Do a Word Study

There's a couple ways you can do this. You can do your Bible word study using the internet or a Bible program like Logos. There are quite a few good Bible study websites available on the internet like [www.net.bible.org](http://www.net.bible.org); [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org); [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com); or [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). Each site is set up a little different but you should find a section on "word studies" for each of them.

Or you can do your Bible word study in the time-honored tradition of using books! Below you'll find a step-by-step guide in how to do a word study from the Bible.

### Starting with the basics

You will need an *Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* [Strong's or Holman's] that matches the Bible you study out of – like NASB or KJV. Then you will need *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*.

### Now what?

1. In the main part of the Concordance find the word you wish to define. Example: *consider* from Hebrews 3:1.
2. Write down the number assigned to it. You will need this number for the dictionary. In our example *consider* from Hebrews 3:1 is Greek word #2657.
3. Now flip to the back of the Concordance. This section of the concordance is divided into Hebrew words from the Old Testament and Greek words from the New Testament. You will need to make sure you are in the Greek section so you can find #2657. Once you locate the right number then you can see the Greek spelling of the word as well as the English transliteration of the word. You will need to write down the English transliteration of the word [for our example it is *katanoeo*. You will also find a short definition of the word here in the concordance.

**2657** κατανοέω [*katanoeo* /kat·an·o·eh·o/] v. From 2596 and 3539; **TDNT** 4:973; **TDNTA** 636; **GK** 2917; 14 occurrences; **AV** translates as "consider" seven times, "behold" four times, "perceive" twice, and "discover" once. 1 to perceive, remark, observe, understand. 2 to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon.

4. Now you are ready to look up your word in *Vine's Dictionary of Biblical Words*. Make sure you are in the Greek section if you are looking up New Testament words or the Hebrew section if you are looking up Old Testament words. Go to the back of the dictionary and look up your word using the English transliteration of the word, in our example it is *katanoeo*. This step will show you the different English words the Greek word has been translated into. For example: *katanoeo* has been translated into *behold*, *consider*, *discover*, or *perceive*.



5. Now, look up the English version of the word. In our example we look up *consider*. Find the right definition for the word by checking the English transliteration and the Strong's number assigned to it. Check to make sure that the Greek number is the same and then read away. Remember, that context is what gives a word its meaning and variation of meaning. The dictionary will supply you with all the meanings and translations of the word and how it is used differently in different verses.

### **CONSIDER** [from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words]

1. *eidon* (Aor. of ὀράω, 3708), used as the aorist tense of *horaō*, "to see," is translated "to consider" in [Acts 15:6](#), of the gathering of the apostles and elders regarding the question of circumcision in relation to the gospel.

2. *suneidon* (συνειδῶ, 4894), *sun*, with, and No. 1, used as the aorist tense of *sunoraō*, to see with one view, to be aware, conscious, as the result of mental perception, is translated "considered" in [Acts 12:12](#), of Peter's consideration of the circumstances of his deliverance from. See KNOW, PRIVY.

3. *katamanthano* (καταμανθάνω, 2648), lit., "to learn thoroughly" (*kata*, "down," intensive, *manthano*, "to learn"), hence, "to note accurately, consider well," is used in the Lord's exhortation to "consider" the lilies. [Matt. 6:28](#).¶

4. *noeo* (νοιέω, 3539), "to perceive with the mind" (*nous*), "think about, ponder," is translated "consider," only in Paul's exhortation to Timothy in [2 Tim. 2:7](#). See PERCEIVE, THINK, UNDERSTAND.

5. *katanoeo* (κατανοέω, 2657), "to perceive clearly" (*kata*, intensive, and No. 4), "to understand fully, consider closely," is used of not "considering" thoroughly the beam in one's own eye, [Matt. 7:3](#) and [Luke 6:41](#) (KJV, "perceivest"); of carefully "considering" the ravens, [Luke 12:24](#); the lilies, v. 27; of Peter's full "consideration" of his vision, [Acts 11:6](#); of Abraham's careful "consideration" of his own body, and Sarah's womb, as dead, and yet accepting by faith God's promise, [Rom. 4:19](#) (RV); of "considering" fully the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, [Heb. 3:1](#); of thoughtfully "considering" one another to provoke unto love and good works, [Heb. 10:24](#). It is translated by the verbs "behold," [Acts 7:31-32](#); [Jas. 1:23-24](#); "perceive," [Luke 20:23](#); "discover," [Acts 27:39](#). See BEHOLD, DISCOVER, PERCEIVE.¶

6. *logizomai* (λογίζομαι, 3049) signifies "to take account of," [2 Cor. 10:7](#) (RV, "consider," KJV, "think"), the only place where the RV translates it "consider." See ACCOUNT.

### Companion Volumes

*Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament*. This is arranged by book and moves through the text explaining and defining key words along the way.

*Wuest's Word Studies in the Greek New Testament*. Wuest died before he finished all the New Testament, but what is completed is a treasure for word studies. This is arranged in the same way as Vincent's book is arranged.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #1, Introduction to the Book

Read through the book of 1 Corinthians two times before answering the questions below. Even though we're only going to tackle chapters 1-8 this year, it's important to take the time to read through the whole book before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord to help you maintain interest and diligence.

Using only the text of 1 Corinthians, try to answer the following questions. Be sure to note the Scripture references to show where you found your answer from the Bible. *At this point in the lesson you may not be able to answer every question using only your Bible.* You will have an opportunity at the end of this lesson to come back and complete your answers using other Bible study sources.

1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom was it written?
3. When was it written?
4. Where was it written?
5. What's the general tone of the author in the book?
6. What's the author's purpose in writing this book?

7. What topics are included in this book?
  
8. What are the key words of the book? Key words are words that are repeated or carry an important thought.
  
9. What are the main themes of the book? A theme is the main idea, the overall message.
  
10. List 5 attributes of God that you see in this book. Attributes are those characteristics or qualities that are true of Him. They describe who He is.
  
11. List 5 attributes of Christ that you see in this book.

Now you can go back and add to your answers above using a Bible dictionary or Bible commentary.

12. What insights have you gained thus far into the book of 1 Corinthians?
  
13. What's one verse in the book that has caught your attention? How did it encourage or convict you, or make you want to study and think about it more?

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #2, Chapter 1 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 1 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 1. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-3).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 4-9).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-17).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 18-25).
  - e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 26-31).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.
  
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that best summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer. Your answer might look like this: God called Paul as an apostle (verse 1).
  
6. List five things you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.

7. What do you learn about the Corinthians in this chapter? Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.
  
8. What do you learn about the wisdom of man versus the wisdom of God in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.
  
9. What do you learn about the foolishness of man versus the foolishness of God in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.
  
10. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## **1 Corinthians Chapter 1**

1 Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and  
Sosthenes our brother,

2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in  
Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was  
given you in Christ Jesus,

5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,

6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,

7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord  
Jesus Christ,

8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus  
Christ.

9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that  
you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made  
complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that  
there are quarrels among you.

12Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.”

13Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

14I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.

16Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

17For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

18For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.”

20Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

23but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,



24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

29so that no man may boast before God.

30But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

31so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-9

1. Paul opens this epistle in his customary way. What information does he provide about himself that he considers important for the Corinthians to know? See verse 1.
  
2. What do you learn about who an *apostle* was and what he did from the following verses? See Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3:14-15; Acts 1:21-22; Galatians 1:1; 1 Timothy 2:7.
  
3. Paul says he was called by *the will of God*. How would that knowledge give Paul courage and determination in light of the many trials and persecutions he endured?
  
4. God didn't call you as an apostle, but *His will* is specific for you too. What are some aspects of your life you know to be clearly ordained as *the will of God*? See Matthew 22:35-38; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Peter 2:15.
  - a. What are some other specific ways you live out God's will in your life? For example: not being anxious, being faithful in your marriage.

5. How does knowing God's will for *you* bring peace in the midst of the many distractions, pressures, and choices found in the world?
  
6. Not much is known about the Sosthenes named here in verse one. There is a Sosthenes mentioned in Acts 18:17 who was a ruler in the synagogue in Corinth, but whether these men are one and the same cannot be determined. Yet what do we know for sure about the Sosthenes of verse 1?
  
7. Who was Paul writing to (verse 2)? What details do we learn about the recipients of his letter in verse two?
  
8. What does it mean to be *sanctified* [Strong's #37]? Now look up 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:26; 2 Timothy 2:21 for further insight into what this word means.
  
9. Every believer has been called by God to be a saint, but what does that mean? Look up *saint* [Strong's #40]. The first usage of the word *saint* in the Bible is found in Psalm 16:3, then in Psalm 34:9. How do those verses, along with Ephesians 2:19, give you insight into what it means to be called to be a saint?
  
10. How does that name—*saint*—affect your thinking and how you live your life for the Lord?

11. After Paul's greeting, he gives the Corinthian believers a special benediction. What is it (verse 3)?
  
12. When we desire someone to receive God's *grace*, what is it that we hope for them? See Psalm 84:11; Romans 5:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 2:7; Hebrews 4:16.
  
13. When we desire someone to receive *peace* from God, what is it that we hope for them as well? See Psalm 29:11; Isaiah 26:3; Luke 1:79; John 14:27; Ephesians 2:17-18.
  
14. A blessing like this in verse 3 sums up all the good things we desire for others to have. How can you use this blessing or a similar one in your life this week?

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Grace! tis a charming sound, harmonious to the ear; Heav'n with the echo shall resound and all the earth shall hear.

'Twas grace that wrote my name in life's eternal book; 'twas grace that gave me to the Lamb, who all my sorrows took.

Grace taught my wand'ring feet to tread the heav'nly road; and new supplies each hour I meet, while pressing on to God.

Grace taught my soul to pray, and made mine eyes o'er-flow; 'twas grace which kept me to this day, and will not let me go.

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# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #4, Chapter 1:10-21

Review chapter 1 before beginning this lesson.

1. After encouraging the Corinthians in the opening verses of the book, what does Paul intend to do next according to the beginning of verse 10?
2. What does *exhort* (ESV and NIV *appeal*; NKJV *plead* [Strong's #3870]) mean?
3. When Paul adds *by the name of our Lord Jesus* to his exhortation in verse 10 what is he communicating when he uses that phrase?
4. What is it that Paul so earnestly desires to convey to the Corinthians in verse 10?
5. The reason for Paul's exhortation in verse 10 is now revealed in verse 11. What did Paul hear about the Corinthians (verse 11)?
6. What kinds of quarrels and divisions were popping up among the Corinthians according to verses 12-13?



7. Verse 12 reveals that besides Jesus Christ, there were three men who had built into the lives of the Corinthians in some way. We know Paul lived and taught in Corinth about a year and a half, though Peter's (Cephas') influence among the Corinthians is unknown. We do know something more about Apollos' ministry to the Corinthians. Look up the following verses and tell us what you learn: Acts 18:24-28; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; 16:12; Titus 3:13.
  
8. How could quarrels and divisions like the ones described in verses 11-13 get started?
  
9. Could anything like that happen at your church? How?
  
10. The way to overcome or prevent divisions and quarrels is found in verse 13. How does Paul begin to bring the Corinthians around to right thinking in verse 13?
  
11. How are those insightful questions in verse 13 helpful for us when we are tempted to polarize and prefer one leader over another?

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“Humility is the secret of fellowship, and pride the secret of division.” ~ R. C. Chapman<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Robert C. Chapman, *Choice Sayings*, Gospel Tract Publications: Glasgow, Scotland, 1988. Pg. 86.

12. Being able to say the Apostle Paul had baptized you surely would have catapulted you into celebrity status and it seemed that some were boasting about it. Yet what is Paul's attitude toward it in verses 14-17?
  
13. Corinth was a city that seemed to thrive off of man's wisdom and it would have been tempting for any preacher to win the Corinthians with powerful arguments refuting their beliefs and way of life, instead how did Paul come to them according to verse 17?
  
14. What was his reasoning for this kind of preaching according to verse 17? See also 1 Cor. 2:1-4.
  
15. Paul's focus to preach the gospel without relying on man's wisdom or eloquence was founded upon what fact? See verse 18.
  
16. What did Paul know and emphatically believe about God's word? See Jer. 23:29; 1 Pet. 1:24-25.
  
17. How can those same truths help us the next time we are talking with someone about Christ?

18. When we're sharing the gospel with someone we need to remember Paul's example—that the simplicity of the gospel message is more powerful than carefully packaged sermons or artful logic leading someone to Christ. Can logic and apologetics save someone? Can arguments about social issues save someone? Can a presentation of the inaccuracies of evolution save someone? Can emotional appeals save someone?
  - a. At the root of our conversation must be our firm conviction that a person can only be saved by hearing the simple message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What can save us? Explain the essential truths of the gospel message here. Consider Acts 17:30-31; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:4-10; Titus 2:11-14 as you form your answer.
  
19. What are some dangers of placing your faith in the wisdom of man to win others to Christ? See 1:17, 18, 31; 2:5 to get started.
  
20. What do you learn about God's wisdom versus man's wisdom in verses 19-21?
  
21. What is God's purpose for His kind of wisdom according to verse 21?
  
22. Are you well-pleased with God's “foolish” message of salvation? Is there any way you need to adjust your thinking to see God's “foolish” message as wise?

.....  
He [Paul] did not depend upon mere human oratory or rhetoric, but on the power of the Holy Spirit enabling him in all simplicity to present to the people a crucified, risen, ascended, and returning Christ, that all hearts might be taken up with Him and men be brought to put their trust in Him. That is the thing that unifies. As Christ is presented to the hearts of God's people they are drawn to Him, they are occupied with Him, their glorious Head.<sup>2</sup>  
.....

How foolish then, how wicked it would be of us, if we should simply entertain you when we know, as Archibald Brown once said, “There is only the thickness of your ribs between your souls and hell.” How guilty before God we should be if we sought the admiration and praise of our hearers instead of endeavoring to bring them face to face with their sins before God and seeking to get them to flee to the cross for refuge.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Harry A. Ironside, *I Corinthians*, Loizeaux Brothers: New Jersey, 1938 first printing, 1973 eleventh printing. Pgs. 52-53.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* Pgs. 56-57.

# **1 Corinthians Part One**

## **Lesson #5, Chapter 1:22-31**

Please read chapter 1 again before beginning this lesson. Make sure you spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to teach you from His Word.

1. Our lesson begins in the middle of a paragraph, so let's review a bit to refresh our minds. What do we learn about the gospel message from verses 18-21?
  - a. What contrasts are made about wisdom and foolishness?
  
2. What do we learn about the Jews and Greeks from verse 22?
  
3. How is that related in thought to what Paul has already written in verses 18-21?
  
4. While the Jews and Greeks are looking for some other means to know God, what is Paul doing according to verse 23? How do the Jews and Greeks respond to that message?
  
5. Why is Christ a stumbling block to the Jews? See Deut. 21:23; Acts 13:38-41, 45; Rom. 9:30-33.

6. Why do the Gentiles consider the gospel message foolishness? See Acts 17:17-18; 26:22-24; 1 Cor. 2:14.
  
7. How do those who are called respond to the message of Christ according to verse 24?
  - a. See Acts 2:37-41; 13:48; 1 Thess. 1:6-7 for some examples.
  
8. What do you learn about God's foolishness and weakness in verse 25? Is God's plan *really* foolishness and weakness?
  
9. What is God's purpose in providing a way of salvation that seems foolish or weak in the eyes of the world? See 1 Cor. 1:18-19, 29; Eph. 2:8-9.
  
10. Verse 26 begins with the phrase, *For consider your calling*. What does Paul mean when he uses the term *calling* in verse 26 or *called* in verse 24? See Rom. 8:28; Eph. 4:1-6; 2 Tim. 1:9.
  
11. What are we to consider about our calling according to verses 26-28?

12. How is it that God's calling of the foolish and the weak could shame the wise and mighty of the world? See also 1 Cor. 2:3-5; 2 Cor. 3:4-5; 4:7; 12:7-10.
  
13. What a motley bunch we are! By the world's standards we aren't wise or mighty or noble; we are even considered foolish, weak, base, and some are even despised, and yet, God chose you and me to display His grace, power, and mercy. How have you seen the Lord display His glory through your weakness, foolishness, and sinful past?
  
14. What is God's purpose in calling *the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are*? See verse 29.
  
15. Talk about putting us in our place! Even when we might be tempted to think we're really *something*, what do verses 26-29 remind us?
  - a. How is that good for us to know and meditate upon? See Ps. 138:6; Is. 57:15; James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5-6.
  
  - b. What are some practical ways you can remind yourself not to boast or grow proud about yourself or being a Christian?

16. Though we come from humble roots, we have also been given a gift that far outshines any applause or commendation from the world. What is true of every believer according to the first part of verse 30?
- a. Who did this for us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. See Eph. 1:3-12 for one example of what has been done for us. Briefly list what you discover.
17. What does it mean to be *in* Christ Jesus? First, consider what it's like if you are *in* anything. What kinds of things are true about you if you're *in* a pool or *in* a club or *in* trouble?
- a. So, if you're *in* Christ what is true about you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Now look up the following verses to learn more about what it means to be *in* Christ Jesus. Briefly describe what you learn. See Jn. 17:21-23; 1 Cor. 1:2, 4, 30, 2 Cor. 5:17; 2 Tim. 1:1.
18. What did Christ become for us according to verse 30?



19. The emphasis here in verse 30 is that God showed His wisdom through the righteousness, sanctification and redemption we have in Christ. In other words, those three attributes showcase God's wisdom revealed in Christ. Explain the righteousness we have in Christ. See 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9.
- a. Now explain the sanctification we have in Christ. See Rom. 6:19; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 2:10.
- b. Finally, explain the redemption we experience in and through Christ. See Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
20. Why is the admonition of verse 31 particularly appropriate after learning the truths of verse 30?
21. Your salvation, growth, and future are all maintained and initiated by God. How should that affect your response to times of fear, guilt, temptation, or sin?
22. Verse 31 brings us back to the Corinthians. Review chapter 1 then answer: What were the Corinthians tempted to boast about concerning their new life in Christ?

23. We are very much like the Corinthians and can unwittingly begin to think we have something to add to our salvation and growth in Christ. What is the reminder from this chapter?
24. Why is that an important truth for every believer to review often?

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“As we draw this section to a close (1:10-2:5), let us learn the folly of internal division; the futility of human wisdom in its inability to save a soul; the power of the cross to accomplish salvation; the pre-eminence of Christ as God's power and wisdom; the glory of divine sovereignty in His choice of us; and finally that our message and preaching can be in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” ~Jack Hunter<sup>1</sup>

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“The sinning was ours, the disobedience was ours, the curse, the wrath, the judgment—all were our desert [what we deserved]. The holiness is His, the perfect obedience unto death is His. He became a curse for us, He drained the cup of wrath, He bore the judgment. Thus He has become in very truth our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, and to Him belongs all the glory now and through eternal ages.” ~Harry A. Ironside<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jack Hunter, *What the Bible Teaches*, John Ritchie, Ltd.: Kilmarnock, Scotland, 1986. Pg. 26.

<sup>2</sup> Harry A. Ironside, *I Corinthians*, Loizeaux Brothers: New Jersey, 1938 first printing, 1973 eleventh printing. Pg. 77.



3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer. Your answer might look like this: God predestined wisdom before the ages (verse 7).
  
6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.
  
7. What do you learn about Paul in this chapter? Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.
  
8. What do you learn about the wisdom of man versus the wisdom of God in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.



## **1 Corinthians Chapter 2**

1And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

2For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

3I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

4and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

6Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;

7but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

8the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

9but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."

10For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

# **1 Corinthians Part One**

## **Lesson #7, Chapter 2:1-5**

Read through chapter 2 before you start this lesson. Make sure you spend time in prayer asking the Lord for help as you study His Word.

1. How did Paul describe his coming to the Corinthians according to verse 1?
2. What was the focus of his preaching according to verses 1 and 2?
3. Why is this an effective method for evangelism?
4. Though Paul was more than able to engage the philosophers and wise men of Corinth, he stuck to his message about Christ. How can that simple game plan help you the next time you talk with someone about the Lord?
5. Briefly explain how you could put Paul's evangelism methodology into practice if you were trying to share with a friend and they tried to move the conversation into the creation versus evolution (or "All believers are hypocrites" or "How can I believe the Bible when there's so many different translations?").
6. Briefly explain the gospel message of Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. Try to simplify it to its most basic elements. You can use any of the following texts



to get you started: 1 Cor. 15:1-5; Acts 17:3, 30-31; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Eph. 2:1-10; Titus 2:11-14 (or use the Romans Road – Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9; 10:13).

7. Not only did Paul come with simple and direct message, but he also describes how he came to the Corinthians in verse 3. What do you learn?
  
8. Acts 16:22-24 and 17:5, 13 record events that took place just prior to Paul arriving in Corinth. What happened?
  
9. It's possible that those experiences affected Paul to such a degree that he wrote in verse 3, "And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling." Though Paul was struggling on the inside what is important to note that he did? See 1 Cor. 2:1-2.
  
10. Often we may find ourselves in similar circumstances—afraid, demoralized, or physically weakened for some reason—yet how can we learn from Paul's example and press on to obey the Lord? See 1 Cor. 4:9-13; 15:9-10; 2 Cor. 4:7-15; 12:7-10.
  
11. Paul wasn't the only godly man who struggled with weakness and fear and trembling as he endeavored to carry out the Lord's will. Who were these men and what do you note about how they overcame their weaknesses? See Josh. 1:6-9; Ps. 55:4-5, 16-17, 22; Jer. 1:5-8; Heb. 13:5-6.

12. How can those same truths help you when you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, unprepared, and weak?
  
13. Based on what you've learned from questions 10 and 11, what do weakness and fear cause us to do? See also 1 Cor. 1:26-31 and 1 Pet. 5:5-7.
  
14. Again in this section, Paul emphasizes the humble and simple way he first preached among the Corinthians. What do you learn in verse 4?
  
15. Why did Paul preach to the Corinthians that way according to verse 5?
  
16. How could the simple preaching of the gospel be a means to showcase the power of the Holy Spirit? See Acts 16:14 and 1 Thess. 1:5-7 as examples.
  
17. Why would this be essential for any believer to understand, embrace, and believe?
  
18. Why is it essential that we understand that salvation cannot come through human wisdom, but as the result of the Lord drawing us to believe in Him? See Jn. 6:63-65; Rom. 3:10-11; 4:2-8; 5:8; 2 Cor. 4:3-6; Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13.

19. How have the truths from this lesson emboldened you to speak about Christ even when you feel weak and fearful?
20. Write down the names of those you hope to talk to about Jesus Christ this week. Now go to the Lord in prayer asking the Lord to provide the opportunity as you step out in faith and in the power of God

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Just a Word for Jesus  
by Fanny Crosby

Now just a word for Jesus;  
Your dearest Friend so true;  
Come, cheer our hearts and tell us  
What He hath done for you.

Now just a word for Jesus;  
A cross it cannot be  
To say, "I love my Savior  
Who gave His life for me."

Now just a word for Jesus;  
And if your faith be dim;  
Arise in all your weakness  
And leave the rest to Him.

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# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #8, Chapter 2:6-16

Review chapter 2 before you start this lesson. Come to the Lord expecting Him to teach you through His Word.

1. As he did in chapter 1 Paul continues to contrast human wisdom versus God's wisdom in this chapter. Verse 6 begins with *yet* or *however*, which tells us he is introducing some new information. What contrast is being made about *wisdom* in verses 4-6?
  
2. Paul says he speaks wisdom among those who are *mature* [Strong's #5046]. What does that word mean? Note how Paul uses the same word (also translated *complete* or *perfect*) other places in his epistles: 1 Cor. 14:20; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28; 4:12.
  
3. The writer of Hebrews found himself in a similar situation in Heb. 5:11-15 and Heb. 6:1-2. Explain his thinking about the differences in teaching babes in Christ and those who are more spiritually mature.
  - a. How did the Apostle John describe the need for different levels of teaching in 1 Jn. 2:12-14?
  
  - b. What do you learn about growth in spiritual maturity from 1 Cor. 3:1-3 and 1 Pet. 2:2?

- c. How do all the passages you've just looked at provide insight into Paul's statement about speaking wisdom to the mature?
  
4. What do you learn about the hidden wisdom of God from verses 6-9?
  
5. Who is God's wisdom *hidden* from?
  
6. What is God's intended purpose for His wisdom (verse 9)?
  
7. What is the wisdom message that God desires us to know and understand? See Rom.16:25-27; 1 Cor. 2:8-9; Eph. 3:4-11; Col. 1:25-27; 1 Pet. 1:10-12.
  
8. Verse 10 indicates the Holy Spirit revealed something. What was it according to verse 10 and verses 6-9?
  
9. What dilemma is presented in verse 11?

10. What solution is given in verse 12?

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What a joy it is to sit before the pages of the Bible and let the Spirit reveal God's truth. The trouble is, many Christians are too busy for this kind of quiet meditation. What enrichment they are missing!

The Holy Spirit is like a householder who "bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old" (Matt. 13:52). The new always comes out of the old and helps us better understand the old. God gives us new insights into old truths as we compare one part of Scripture with another. Jesus based His teaching on the Old Testament, yet people were amazed at what He taught because it was so fresh and exciting.

I suggest that you make time every day to read the Word and meditate on it. Follow a regular schedule in your reading and give yourself time to pray, think, and meditate. Let the Spirit of God search the Word and teach you. The study and application of basic Bible doctrine can transform your life. ~ Warren Wiersbe<sup>1</sup>

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11. What are *some* things that have been freely given to us by God? See Rom. 8:32; Eph. 1:6; Phil. 4:19; 1 Tim. 6:17; James 1:5; 2 Pet. 1:3.
12. Verse 12 tells us that God gave us His Holy Spirit so we would know what God has given to us. What are some other things the Bible tells us about the Holy Spirit aiding and teaching believers? See Rom. 8:26-27; 1 Cor. 2:12-13; 6:18-19; Eph. 4:3; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Jn. 3:24 for a sampling of the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of believers.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, ILL.: Victor Books, 1996), 1 Cor. 2:10.

13. How does Paul explain how the Holy Spirit aids him in preaching according to verse 13?
  
14. Verse 13 isn't telling anything new or different than what Paul has already penned in verses 6-13. The psalmist speaks about this same insight when he proclaimed, "I have more insight than all my teachers...[and] I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Your precepts (Ps. 119:99-100)." Paul goes on to explain why that kind of wisdom is possible in verse 14. What do you learn?
  
15. What do you learn about the *natural* man, also known as an unbeliever in verse 14?
  - a. Now look up Rom. 8:5-8; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 1 Jn. 4:5. What else do you learn about an unbeliever's spiritual state?
  
16. What insight does that give you about the differences between an unbeliever and a believer when it comes to understanding spiritual truths?
  
17. Define *appraised* (ESV, NKJV, NIV *discerned, judges* [Strong's #350]) as used in verses 14-15.





24. How were those truths an encouragement to Paul? How can they encourage you each day?

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Come, Divine Interpreter  
by Charles Wesley

Come, divine interpreter,  
Bring me eyes Thy book to read,  
Ears the mystic words to hear,  
Words which did from Thee proceed,  
Words that endless bliss impart,  
Kept in an obedient heart.

All who read, or hear, are blessed,  
If Thy plain commands we do;  
Of Thy kingdom here possessed,  
Thee we shall in glory view  
When Thou comest on earth to abide,  
Reign triumphant at Thy side.

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# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #9, Chapter 3 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 3 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-4).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 5-9).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-15).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 16-17).
  - e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 18-23).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
  
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer. Your answer might look like this: We fellow workers [Paul and Apollos] belong to God (verse 9).
  
6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.
  
7. What kinds of men are discussed in verses 1-5?



### **1 Corinthians Chapter 3**

1And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

2I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

3for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

4For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?

5What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

6I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

7So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

8Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

9For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

10According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

11For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones,  
wood, hay, straw,

13each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to  
be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

14If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

15If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved,  
yet so as through fire.

16Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God  
dwells in you?

17If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of  
God is holy, and that is what you are.

18Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is  
wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

19For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is  
the one who catches the wise in their craftiness";

20and again, "The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless."

21So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,

22whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things  
present or things to come; all things belong to you,

23and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #10, Chapter 3:1-15

Ask the Lord to help you glean the most spiritual benefit from today's lesson. Ask Him to help you apply it to your life in some specific ways this week.

1. Briefly summarize what Paul was talking about at the end of chapter 2 in verses 14-16.
2. What was Paul unable to do with the Corinthians according to 3:1?
3. Instead, how did he have to deal with them according to verse 1?
4. What do we know about those who are *spiritual* from the following verses: 1 Cor. 2:15; 3:1; Gal. 5:16-25; 6:1?
5. How does Paul describe the Corinthians' spiritual state in verses 1 and 2?
6. What kind of teaching is *milk* teaching compared with *solid food* teaching from these verses? See also Heb. 5:12-13; 1 Pet. 2:2.

7. Why aren't the Corinthians able to receive solid spiritual food (verse 3)?
  
8. What example does Paul give to show their spiritual immaturity in verse 4? See also 1 Cor. 1:10-13.
  
9. Paul counters their fleshly mindset with a biblical one. How should they really be thinking about Paul and Apollos according to verse 5?

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“Elsewhere Paul will stress the dignity of the servant (4:1), but here in order to adjust the thinking of the Corinthians, he stresses they were but servants of the Lord. Imagine quarreling and dividing over servants, when they were only doing the job assigned to them!” ~ Jack Hunter<sup>1</sup>

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10. In verses 6-9 Paul uses a gardening metaphor to describe the spiritual work conducted among the Corinthians. What do you learn about those who plant and water in these verses? What is God's role in this process (verses 6-9)?
  
11. How can that information protect you from a critical spirit as you consider those who minister to you each week?

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<sup>1</sup> Jack Hunter, *1 Corinthians: What the Bible Teaches*, Ritchie New Testament Commentaries. Scotland, John Ritchie Ltd., 1986. Pg. 34.





19. And what things will take place on *that day* that spiritual builders need to always remember according to verses 13-15? See also 2 Cor. 5:9-10.
  
20. What kind of judgment will believers be subject to on that day? See Rom. 5:1; 8:1, 33-34; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Jn. 4:17.
  
21. Paul was keenly aware that there would come a day when the Lord would test the quality of his work and it pervades his writing in his epistles. How was that future judgment for rewards a motivation to him to remain faithful? See 2 Cor. 6:1-3; Phil. 2:16; 1 Thess. 3:5 for a few examples.
  
22. What kinds of “materials” will stand the test of God's judging of our service to Him?
  
23. What are some specific ways *you* can build in God's kingdom so that it will stand the test of fire?

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“A great deal that is called Christian work may be only the energy of the flesh. It is not done for the glory of God at all. What motives actuate us? How do we feel if others are preferred before us? This is a good way to test ourselves as to whether what we are doing is for the Lord. Only that which is done for Christ will be rewarded in that day.” ~ H. A. Ironside<sup>2</sup>

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“Here is a good searching question for a man to ask himself as he reviews his past life: Has there been anything immortal in it, which will survive the speedy wreck of all sublunary things? The boys inscribe their names in capitals in the snow, and in the morning's thaw the writing disappears. Will it be so with my work, or will the characters that I have carved outlast the brazen tablets of history? Have I written in the snow?” ~ Charles Spurgeon<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> H. A. Ironside, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. Loizeaux Brothers: Neptune, New Jersey, 1938. Pg. 129.

<sup>3</sup> Charles Spurgeon, *The Quotable Spurgeon*. Harold Shaw Publishers: Wheaton, Illinois, 1990. Pg. 192.

# **1 Corinthians Part One**

## **Lesson #11, Chapter 3:16-23**

This portion of Scripture closely follows all Paul has written in the previous verses. Please take the time to read through chapter 3 before you begin this lesson. If you have time review the chapter from the beginning of the book through the end of chapter 3. Take note of the ribbon of thought Paul weaves through these chapters. Ask the Lord to guide you into a greater understanding of His Word. And may God bless you according to your faithfulness!

1. Describe Paul's ministry of wise master builder from verses 10-15. Who did he minister to and what did he endeavor to do?
2. Paul is speaking to the collective group of believers when he addresses them in verses 16-17. And though everything he says pertains to the individual as well, the context of these verses and the use of plural pronouns reveal that he is addressing these believers as a group—as the church. How are we all as believers described in verse 16? Ephesians 2:19-22 explains this truth in much the same way. How does Eph. 2:19-22 give you insight into what Paul means in 1 Cor. 3:16?
3. Who lives in the dwelling according to verse 16?
4. What do you learn from the following verses about the Holy Spirit, believers, and His indwelling? See Ezek. 36:27; Jn. 14:23; Rom. 8:9, 11; 1 Jn. 4:15-16.

5. What do you learn could happen if a man isn't wise in how he builds upon Christ's foundation? See verse 17.
  
6. How could a man destroy this kind of temple? See 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 6:20-21; Titus 1:10-12; 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 17.
  
7. What kinds of people would do this? See Gal.1:6-8; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; Jude 4, 16-19.
  
8. What are the consequences of this very unwise kind of building (verse 17)?
  
9. What can you conclude about the spiritual state of someone who would destroy the faith of others through false teaching or by leading them into sin? See 1 Cor. 3:17; 2 Cor. 11:15; Jude 10-13.
  
10. Paul transitions to a new paragraph and opens it with the admonition: Let no man deceive himself. What are we not to be deceived about according to verse 18?



18. Now look up the following verses to discover just what Paul meant when he listed a portion of the things that belong to every believer.
- a. The servants of Christ: 2 Cor. 4:5; Eph. 4:11-12.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. The world: Matt. 5:5; Rev. 5:10.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Life: Phil. 1:21; 2 Pet. 1:3-4.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Death: 1 Cor. 15:54-57; 2 Cor. 5:4.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - e. Things present: Mark 10:28-31; 1 Tim. 4:8-10.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - f. Things to come: 2 Tim. 4:8; Titus 2:11-13.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - g. All things: Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 8:28, 32.

19. By verse 23 Paul leaves us perched on the pinnacle of wonder and spiritual blessings, yet what precipitated this off-road excursion into the heavens? In other words, how did 1 Cor. 3:1 lead us to verse 23?
  - a. How did chapter 2 lead us into 1 Cor. 3:1?
  - b. How did chapter 1 lead us into 1 Cor. 2:1?
20. How would you summarize in a sentence or two this lengthy discussion found so far in 1 Corinthians?
21. What kinds of wrong thinking plagued the church at Corinth that needed correcting?
22. How can we fall prey to similar kinds of thinking? What truths do we need to remember so we won't be tempted toward divisions and partiality?
23. What attitudes are necessary for us to have if we are going to help our leaders maintain a biblical perspective on their part in God's kingdom church?



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In any building there is a purpose, a meaning in it; or there ought to be. I suppose there are buildings that have no purpose. But the general idea is if a building is put up, it is for some purpose. That is what was in the apostle's mind. The Corinthians had not only been misunderstanding the function of Christian ministry, they had not only misunderstood the function of Christian ministers, they had also been forgetting the real meaning of the Church, and her true function. ~ G. Campbell Morgan<sup>1</sup>

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Do you not know that you are the temple of God, His dwelling place? Let us listen to those three words, "Know ye not?" Are you ignorant of the fact, or have you forgotten it, or failed to respond to it, so that it has no living power with you? Do you not know? There could have been no divisions in that church at Corinth, or there can be none anywhere if that truth had been, and is known, or remembered. The lost sense of the marvel of the Church as the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit is what has alienated us, and caused our divisions, and paralyzed our powers. It has caused divisions and disputings. "Know ye not?" Oh, for a practical rediscovery of this fact that the Church is the sanctuary of the living God! ~ G. Campbell Morgan<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> G. Campbell Morgan, *The Corinthian Letters of Paul*, Fleming H. Revell Company. London and Edinburgh, 1946. Pg. 63.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Pg. 67.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #12, Chapter 4 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 4 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 4. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 4. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-5).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 6-7).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 8-13).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 14-21).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
  
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. What do you learn about God in this chapter? Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer. Your answer might look like this: Regard us [Paul and Apollos] as stewards of the mysteries of God.
  
6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ and any references to "the Lord" in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.
  
7. What do you learn about Paul in this chapter?
  
8. What do you learn about the apostles from this chapter?



## **1 Corinthians Chapter 4**

1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

3 But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.

4 For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.

5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

7 For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

8 You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.

9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;

12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;

13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

14 I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

15 For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

16 Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

18 Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you.

19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power.

20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.

21 What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #13, Chapter 4:1-5

Read through chapter 4 before you begin this lesson. Ask the Lord for His grace to learn from and apply His Word to your life.

1. Paul opens the chapter with an admonition about “us.” Who does Paul include in that plural pronoun? See 1 Cor. 3:5, 22; 4:9.
  
2. What does Paul desire for himself and his co-workers according to verse 1?
  
3. What issues have been plaguing the church that would make this mindset necessary? See 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:3-7, 21-23.
  
4. What does Paul mean when he says he desires others to view him as a servant? Luke 1:2; 4:20 (uses the word *attendant*); 17:10 and Acts 13:5 (uses the word *helper*) provide the sense in which Paul uses this word here.
  - a. See what you can find out about the meaning of the Greek word Paul uses here for *servant* (Strong's #5257-*hyperetes*).
  
5. What is Paul a *steward* of according to verse 1?

6. What do you learn about a *steward* from the following verses? See Luke 12:42-43; 16:1-2; Titus 1:7; 1 Pet. 4:10.

The Greek word for steward is *oikonomos* that literally means to be a “house manager.” In Titus 2:5 when talking about a woman's priorities, Paul coined the word *oikourgos* which means to be a “worker at home or a keeper of the home” and carries with it the idea of running or overseeing the home in a manner similar to that of a steward as we've seen from the verses above. What we learn is that the home is a woman's *stewardship* given to her by God.

7. In light of 1 Cor. 1:10-13 and 3:5 why would Paul desire others see him as a steward of the mysteries of God?
8. What mysteries were the apostles stewards and proclaimers of? See Rom. 16:25-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-53; Eph. 3:3-7; Col. 1:25-27.
9. What do you learn about stewards in verse 2? Define that quality.
10. How does the requirement of a steward as found in verse 2 *relate* to Paul's calling to preach the gospel and train up disciples of Jesus Christ?



11. You haven't been called as an apostle to proclaim the mysteries of God, but you have been called to be a steward of the gospel, of your calling in Christ, and your spiritual gifts. To what degree have you been faithful and found trustworthy in your stewardship in these areas?
  - a. Based on your past history, would the Lord entrust you with more areas of stewardship today? Why or why not?
  - b. If you find room for improvement in any area (and who doesn't) what are the first steps you must take to grow in faithfulness? See 1 Jn. 1:9; Luke 16:10; 2 Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20; 5:22-25; 2 Thess. 1:11-12; 3 Jn. 5.
12. In verses one and two Paul asks that others view him as a servant and steward of Jesus Christ. In effect, he is asking others to examine his life and see if it qualifies for those titles. Yet, how does he counter that invitation with some startling information in verse 3?
13. If Paul were to examine his life what would he find according to verse 4?
14. What weight does Paul place upon the judgments of men or even his own assessment of himself (verse 4)?

15. Verses three and four show us how completely Paul puts verses 1 and 2 into practice in his own life and heart. He is a *servant of Christ*. He is God's *steward*. He serves the Lord—not himself, not others. Consider your attitudes in your areas of service. To what degree do you seek the approval of men or even from yourself? And how does knowing the Lord examines your motives for service encourage you?
  
16. What command does Paul give at the beginning of verse 5?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. What will happen at the proper time—the time of judgment—according to verse 5? See also Rom. 2:16; 2 Cor. 5:10; 10:18.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. What kind of judgment will believers face? See Rom. 8:1; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:6-10.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. What were the Corinthians guilty of concerning their spiritual leaders according to verses 1-5? See also 1 Cor. 9:3-7.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
20. The believers at Corinth weren't the only ones to engage in this past-time. What do you learn happened in Thessalonica? See 1 Thess. 2:3-6.

21. What warnings are contained in this portion of Scripture (verses 1-5) for us today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
22. How have you been tempted to judge the leaders in our church, compare them with one another, or prefer one leader over another to an extreme? Why does the Lord want us to refrain from these practices and attitudes? See 1 Cor. 3:5-9.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
23. This section of Scripture contains the answer to this problem within our churches. Review verses 1-5 and identify how we can think rightly about our church leaders.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
24. Then each man's praise will come to him from God. How is that phrase a motivation for you when it comes to being a servant of Christ? Of being a faithful steward? Of considering whom you work for and why? Of maintaining a right attitude toward those who minister the Word of God to you?

Do we sufficiently realize that the great master force in any life is desire, not intellect, not volition, not emotion, but desire? What do we want? What are we after? What is that inner counsel of the heart—which all the time is illuminating or darkening our understanding, or inspiring our action? There is coming a day when the hidden counsels of the heart will be made manifest, and in that day “each man shall have his praise from God.” That will be the day of vindication for very many misjudged people. We go around judging, and we do not know anything, and had better shut our mouths. There is a day coming when the inner counsels of the hearts will be brought to light, and Paul says all opinions wait for that great day. ~ G. Campbell Morgan<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>G. Campbell Morgan, *The Corinthian Letters of Paul*, Fleming H. Revell Company. London and Edinburgh, 1946. Pgs. 72-73.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #14, Chapter 4:6-13

Review chapter 4 before beginning this lesson. Don't forget to spend time in prayer asking the Lord for His help and grace to study His Word.

1. Paul continues to counsel the Corinthians out of their ungodly attitudes toward their leaders. At the beginning of verse 6 Paul states, *Now these things*. The “things” being referred to can be found in the clue given in verse 6 when Paul states that he has applied these things figuratively to himself and Apollos. What figurative language did Paul use in the previous verses to describe himself and Apollos? See 1 Cor. 3:6-8, 10-15; 4:1-2.
2. Why did Paul write in figurative language according to the first part of verse 6?
3. What wrong thinking and poor attitudes did Paul desire to correct in the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:6)?
4. Who were the Corinthians supposed to learn from according to verse 6?
5. Explain the power of that teaching tool. See also John 13:12-17; Phil. 1:29-30; 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:7-9; Heb. 13:7.

6. What does Paul mean when he states in verse 6, that you might learn not to exceed what is written? What has already been written and communicated that makes Paul object to the way the Corinthians were exceeding it? See 1 Cor. 1:12-13; 2:5; 3:5; 4:1.
  
7. The Corinthians took their respect and admiration for their pastoral leaders to an unhealthy level, yet how can we regard those who minister the Word of God to us in a healthy way? See 1 Cor. 9:7-14; Gal. 6:6; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17-18.
  
8. How have you communicated that regard to your pastors and leaders recently?
  
9. Why is it important to bless and encourage those who teach and preach God's Word to you?
  
10. In verses 7-10 Paul's tone changes somewhat in order to make a point. First, who are the two different groups that Paul is contrasting in verses 7-10? What are the differences in their situations as described in verses 7-10?
  
11. Explain how the Corinthians' unhealthy fascination with their spiritual leaders led to pride in the Corinthians.

12. How were the Corinthians living according to Paul (verse 8)? What does he mean by that? See 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 5:10.
  
13. How are we supposed to live while still here on earth? See Matt. 20:24-28; 2 Cor. 4:5; Gal. 5:13.
  
14. What important spiritual truths does Paul remind the Corinthians about in verses 7-10?
  - a. See also 1 Cor. 1:10, 30-31; 3:9, 21-23.

The questions in 1 Corinthians 4:7 ought to make all of us stop and think. I like the New American Standard Bible's translation of the first question: "Who regards you as superior?" A young preacher once said to a friend of mine, "Please pray that I will stay humble." My friend replied, "Tell me, what do you have to be proud about?" Why would anybody regard us as superior? Perhaps it is our own biased opinion that makes us feel so important. The best commentary on 1 Corinthians 4:7 is the witness of John the Baptist, "A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven ... He [Christ] must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:27, 30). ~ Warren Wiersbe<sup>1</sup>

15. We aren't immune from this kind of spiritual pride cropping up in our church body. What are some ways it might manifest itself among us?

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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996), 1 Co 4:7.

16. How can we protect ourselves from this subtle sin of the heart?
  
17. What do we learn about our beloved apostle in verse 11?
  
18. It's hard to imagine Paul being in such circumstances but this wasn't the only time. See also 2 Cor. 6:4-6; 11:23-29; Phil. 4:10-14; 2 Tim. 3:10-11.
  
19. Why would God allow His choice servants to undergo such mistreatment and trials? See Matt. 8:19-20; Luke 6:40; 2 Cor. 4:7-12; 12:7-10; 2 Tim. 2:3, 8-10; 1 Pet. 2:19-20.
  
20. 1 Corinthians 4:9 contains a further reason for the sufferings of the apostles. First look up the word *exhibited* (NIV, NKJV *displayed* [Strong's #584]) and define.
  
21. Now look up the word *spectacle* [Strong's #2302] and share what you discover. Also see Heb. 10:32-33 where it's used in a similar way.



22. One commentary writer stated, "We can only admire such deep devotion to Christ, such sacrificial living, such amazing loyalty, such willing acceptance of suffering, deprivation and loss, such humility and spirituality. One wonders what the reaction of the apostle would be to present-day affluence and Christian living."<sup>2</sup> It does make you wonder doesn't it? What would Paul say about how you are living? Are you trying to live as though you were reigning with Christ already or are you living as Christ did, as Paul did—as a servant?
23. What encouragement for servant living did you gain from today's lesson?

### Hast Thou No Scar?

Hast thou no scar?  
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?  
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,  
I hear them hail thy bright, ascendant star,  
Hast thou no scar?

Hast thou no wound?  
Yet I was wounded by the archers, spent,  
By ravening beasts that compassed Me, I swooned:  
Hast thou no wound?

No wound? No scar?  
Yet, as the Master shall the servant be,  
And pierced are the feet that follow Me;  
But thine are whole: can he have followed far  
Who has no wound nor scar?  
~ Amy Carmichael

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<sup>2</sup>Jack Hunter, *What the Bible Teaches: Ritchie New Testament Commentaries* (Kilmarnock, Scotland: John Ritchie Ltd., 1986), pgs. 50-51.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #15, Chapter 4:14-21

Review chapter 4 to refresh your mind about its contents. Then ask the Lord to guide you as you study His Word.

1. What is Paul's purpose in writing to the Corinthians according to verse 14?
2. What “things” has he written to them about that could be a source of shame? See 1 Cor. 4:1-13.
3. Define *admonish* (NKJV and NIV *warn* [Strong's #3560]).
4. What observations can you make about *admonishment* and its purpose in our lives? See Acts 20:31-32; Rom. 15:14; Col. 1:28; 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:14-15.
5. What's the difference between writing and speaking to someone to cause shame rather than to admonish them? How did Paul's view of the Corinthians (“my beloved children”) influence him to communicate like this?
6. Paul further explains in verse 15 why he sought to admonish the Corinthians as he did. What do you learn?

7. Explain the difference between a tutor and a father as Paul is using those terms in these verses.
  
8. What characteristics of a father do you discover from verses 14-21?
  
9. As a spiritual father, what does Paul encourage the Corinthians to do according to verse 16?
  
10. What does Paul's exhortation to "imitate me" prompt him to do? Why? See verse 17.
  
11. What do you learn about being an *imitator* from the following verses? See 1 Cor. 11:1-2; Eph. 4:32-5:2; 1 Thess. 1:5-6; Heb. 6:12; 13:7.
  
12. What are some ways you have imitated others? And how have those examples produced good qualities in your life?
  
13. What comes to your mind when you think about someone else imitating you?

14. What is happening with some of Paul's spiritual children according to verse 18?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. Define *arrogant* (NKJV *puffed up* [Strong's #5448]).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. What do you learn about the word *arrogant* from the following verses? See 1 Cor. 5:2; 8:1; 13:4; Col. 2:18.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. What will happen when Paul comes to check on the church at Corinth? See verse 19.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. What issues are revealing this arrogant and rebellious spirit in some of the Corinthians? See 1 Cor. 4:6, 17; 5:2, 6, 13.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. In verses 19-20 Paul emphasizes that some in the Corinthian church were talking big, but had no power to back up their words. What does have *power* according to verse 20? See also Rom. 1:16; 1 Thess. 1:5; 1 Cor. 2:1, 4.

20. Explain how 2 Cor. 10:7-11; 11:12-15 help clarify what Paul means in 1 Cor. 4:19-20.
  
21. The Corinthians' spiritual father has some training to do in his children. What situation is Paul hoping to curtail according to verse 21?
  
22. How will the Corinthians' response determine how Paul comes to them?
  
23. What parenting and/or counseling principles for dealing with wayward people can you extract from verses 14-21?
  
24. "The kingdom of God is not expressed in talk but in power. Paul challenges them (and us) as to the reality of profession. Reality is seen not in words, assertions, empty show, arrogant claims, but in lives that evidence power from on high, the power of the grace of God, the power of the Holy Spirit."<sup>1</sup> Paul challenges each one of us to consider our responses to the Word of God. Are our words and actions devoid of power because we are not walking in the Spirit according to the will of God?

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<sup>1</sup> Jack Hunter, *What the Bible Teaches: Ritchie New Testament Commentaries* (Kilmarnock, Scotland: John Ritchie Ltd., 1986), pg. 53.



# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #16, Chapter 5 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 5 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 5. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 5. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-2).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 3-5).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 6-8).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 9-13).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all

- these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
  4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
  5. What do you learn about God in this chapter?
  
  6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ and any references to "the Lord" in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.
  
  7. The terms *immoral* and *immorality* are used in this chapter. List what you learn each time they're used. Be sure to include the verse references.
  
  8. What observations can you make about *leaven* and how it's used in this chapter?



9. Along with leaven, we have other baking kinds of terms like lump, dough, and bread. List what you learn when those terms are used in this chapter.
  
10. What terms are used to describe *believers* in this chapter?
  
11. What terms are used to describe *unbelievers*?
  
12. Write down at least one thing that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 5

1It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

2You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

3For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.

4In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

5I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

7Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

8Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;

10I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.

11But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

12For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?

13But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #17, Chapter 5:1-8

Review chapter 5 before you begin your lesson. Ask the Lord to help you see any areas of sin you might not be aware of as you do your lesson.

1. Review Paul's last comments from chapter 4:14-21. Summarize his final thoughts in that chapter.
  
2. What is reported about the Corinthian church according to chapter 5 verse 1?
  
3. What terms or phrases does Paul use in verse one to communicate his surprise and indignation about their current spiritual state?
  
4. It's generally understood that the man in question married his stepmother. It's obvious from Paul's response that the sin alluded to here was worse than adultery for the Gentiles regularly engaged in that sin. What was this sin that even the Gentiles considered it taboo? See Lev. 18:8; 20:11; Deut. 22:30; 27:20.
  - a. What is the difference between Lev. 18:7 and Lev. 18:8?
  
  - b. For some examples of this abhorrent sin, see Gen. 35:22; 49:4 and 2 Sam. 16:21-22.

5. One wise pastor once said regarding R-rated movies, "Should a Christian go see a movie that has so much bad stuff in it that *even the pagans* have given it an "R" rating?" There's something to be said about that. If even unbelievers are shocked by certain sins then what does it say about believers who aren't shocked by the sin, and sometimes justify the behavior?
  
6. Not only did the Corinthians allow this sin to remain in their midst, but they were also guilty of more sin. According to verse two, what do you learn it was?
  - a. What did their pride cause them to do?
  
  - b. What should their response have been? See also Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:11; 15:33-34; Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Thess. 3:6.
  
7. Read Rev. 2:20-22 to discover what the Lord thinks when we don't deal with sin among believers. What did you discover?
  
8. What was Paul's response to the man in sin? See verse 3.
  
9. Paul exercises his authority as an apostle and shepherd and instructs the church on how to honor the Lord. What instructions does he desire the Corinthians to carry out according to verses 4-5?

10. Review Matt. 18:15-17 and see 1 Cor. 5:12-13; Eph. 5:11 for further instructions about what Paul intends for them to do.
  
11. What does Paul mean when he says that he decided *to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh*? See 1 Cor. 11:27, 30-32; 1 Tim. 1:20; Rev. 3:19.
  
12. How would the sinning man's his spirit possibly be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus? See 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 2 Tim. 2:13; Jude 22-23.
  
13. Apparently the Corinthians were boasting about this "situation" according to verse 6. What are some possible reasons they might conjure up to boast about?
  
14. What does Paul think about their boasting (verse 6)? Why?
  
15. What is leaven? Explain how it works.
  
16. In verses 7-8 Paul uses Old Testament references to make his point. What Old Testament feast does he allude to in these verses?
  
17. What were the Israelites supposed to do about leaven in preparation for this feast? See Ex. 12:15, 39; Deut. 16:3.

18. What is the connection between the Passover and Jesus Christ? See Ex. 12:1-13; Jn. 1:29; Heb. 9:13-14.
  
19. What leaven do we need to make sure is cleaned out of our hearts and lives (verse 8)?
  - a. What kind of “bread” should we have in our homes and lives?
  
20. Explain what Paul desired the Corinthians to understand about holy living in light of their new life in Jesus Christ based on verses 7-8.
  
21. It doesn't take much leaven to permeate the whole batch of dough. And only a little sin can affect our lives in much the same way. What's the answer to stopping the spread of sin in our lives? See 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Pet. 1:15-16.
  
22. How can what we've studied in these verses help quicken our hearts toward the wickedness of sin and tenderize our consciences so that we're shocked by the grievousness of sin?

“Preservation from sin lies in our always being shocked by it.”<sup>1</sup> ~ Jack Hunter

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<sup>1</sup> Jack Hunter, *What the Bible Teaches: Ritchie New Testament Commentaries* (Kilmarnock, Scotland: John Ritchie Ltd., 1986), pg. 55.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #18, Chapter 5:9-13

Review chapter 5 before you begin this week's lesson. Lean on the Lord for wisdom and a teachable spirit.

1. Summarize the contents of verses 1-8.
2. In verse 9 Paul states that he previously wrote to the Corinthians, yet the book we're studying is "First" Corinthians. See what you can learn about the letters of Paul to the Corinthians from a study Bible, commentary, or Bible dictionary.
3. What did Paul write in his earlier letter to the Corinthians according to verse 9?
4. How does this new topic fit in with what Paul has already been discussing in verses 1-8?
5. Define *associate* (NKJV *keep company* [Strong's #4874]). See verse 11 and 2 Thess. 3:14 where it's also used.
6. Define *immoral* [Strong's #4205]. Also see what you learn from its use in Eph. 5:5 and Rev. 21:8.



7. Paul explains in verse 9 that he wrote in his letter *not to associate with immoral people*, which seems fairly straightforward, yet how does he clarify himself in verse 10?
  
8. What's another name for “people of this world?” See also 1 Jn. 4:5 and 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2.
  
9. Define *covetous* (ESV, NIV *greedy* [Strong's #4123]). See 1 Cor. 6:10 and Eph. 5:5 where the word is also used. Now look up Luke 16:14 and 2 Tim. 3:2 for a synonym of the word.
  
10. Paul states that in order for believers to stop associating with immoral people they would have to leave the world. What did he mean by that? See John 13:1 and Gal. 2:12.
  
11. Apparently, leaving the world isn't an option for believers. Why not? See Matt. 5:14-16; Eph. 5:8-13; Phil. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:11-12.
  
12. Paul further clarifies his statement about not associating “with the immoral people of this world” in verse 11. What kind of people are we not to associate with? Why? What's one way to put this into practice according to verse 11?

“The church has no right to tolerate evil on the ground of broad-mindedness.”<sup>1</sup>  
~ G. Campbell Morgan

13. What attitudes or actions would call into question the validity of someone's profession that they are a follower of Jesus Christ, and so gain the title “so-called brother?” See verse 11 and Matt. 7:15-20; 2 Pet. 1:8-11; 1 Jn. 2:4-6.
  
14. Apparently the Corinthians thought Paul told them not to associate with “sinners.” What did this misunderstanding prompt them to do? See verse 12.
  
15. Why shouldn't believers spend time judging unbelievers? See verse 13a and Heb. 10:30-31; 1 Pet. 4:17.
  
16. Who are we permitted to judge according to verse 12?
  
17. What is the purpose of a believer judging another believer? See verse 13.
  
18. What are some practical ways to do this? See Prov. 27:5-6; Matt. 18:15-18; Luke 17:3-4; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 5:11; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Titus 3:10-11; James 5:19-20; 1 Pet. 3:1-2.

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<sup>1</sup> G. Campbell Morgan, *The Corinthian Letters of Paul* (London and Edinburgh, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1946), pg. 84.

19. Explain the difference between James 4:11-12 and 1 Cor. 5:12-13 when it comes to judging. Be sure to read all of James chapter 4 for the context of those verses.
  
20. Summarize what you've learned in this lesson about *unbelievers* and how we should respond to them.
  
21. Summarize what you've learned in this lesson about *so-called brothers* and how we should respond to them.
  
22. First John 3:10 reminds us, "*By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*" How can a love of holiness and a love for our brethren help us to apply the lessons from 1 Cor. 5:9-13? Which area (holiness or love of the brethren) is a greater challenge for you to apply? And what are some ways you can grow in that area?
  
23. We do have a responsibility to help turn a brother or sister caught in sin back toward the Lord, and yet what must we attend to first? See Lam. 3:40; 1 Cor. 10:12; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 6:1. Do this important task well, my sisters, and *let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God* (2 Cor. 7:1).

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #19, Chapter 6 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 6 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 6. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-6).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 7-8).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 9-11).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 12-20).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all

these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. *Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter.* Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. What do you learn about God in this chapter?
  
6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ and any references to "the Lord" in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.
  
7. Record what you learn about the Holy Spirit in this chapter.
  
8. The word *judge* is used frequently in this chapter. List what you learn along with the verse references.

*Discovering the Treasures of the Word*

9. The terms *brother* and *brethren* both refer to believers. Record what you learn each time those terms are used in this chapter.
  
10. List what you learn each time the word *body* is used. Be sure to include the verse references.
  
11. Write down *at least one thing* that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## **1 Corinthians Chapter 6**

1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?

3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

4 So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?

5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,

6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?

7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

8 On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren.

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

13 Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be!

16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.



# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #20, Chapter 6:1-11

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9 to 1 Corinthians 6:20 before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord for insight into His perfect Word.

1. What issue is introduced in verse 1 of chapter 6?
2. Explain how 1 Cor. 5:9-13 connects with chapter 6 verse 1.
3. What kind of words or phrases in chapter 6 verse 1 indicate that what the Corinthians were doing was not a good idea? Why isn't their course of action a good idea?
4. Paul makes a distinction between the *unrighteous* (NIV *ungodly*) and the *saints* in verse 1. What are some other names for these two groups of people in verses 1-11?
5. What information is added in verse 2 that gives weight to Paul's concern over these practices?
6. What do you learn about judgment and a believer from the following verses? See Dan. 7:22; John 5:22; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:4.

7. What action is implied in response to Paul's question from verse 2, *And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?*
8. Who else are we going to judge according to verse 3?
9. What impact should that have upon our lives according to verse 3?
10. We have some clues about how we might put verse 3 into practice. What do you learn from 2 Pet. 2:4 and Jude 6?
11. To further persuade believers from taking each other to court, what is Paul's next line of reasoning according to verse 4?
12. Why should we consider these circumstances as shameful as Paul does according to verses 4-6?
13. Why is it so important that we take care of family disputes "within the family?" See verse 6; Rom. 2:24; Phil. 2:14-15.
14. What should our frame of mind be when it comes to disputes with other believers and our witness to a watching world? See verse 7; 1 Pet. 2:12, 19-20.

15. Beyond even taking other believers to court, what does Paul reveal is the even worse state of the Corinthian believers in verse 8?
  
16. What is the connection between *doing wrong* and *defrauding* fellow believers and verses 9-10?
  
17. What is Paul saying about those who continue to engage in sin after professing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? See verses 9-10 and 2 Pet. 1:2-11.
  
18. What crucial point does Paul make in verse 11? What do you learn from Rom. 6:17-19; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:1-3; 5:8; Col. 3:5-7?
  
19. Why is that a significant point in his pleading for believers to quit engaging in these sinful behaviors?
  
20. What does Paul mean when he says we were washed [Strong's #628]? See also Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10:22.
  - a. What does it mean to be *sanctified* [Strong's #37]? See also Rom. 6:22; 15:16; 2 Tim. 2:21.

- b. What does it mean to be *justified* [Strong's #1344]? See also Gal. 2:16; Titus 3:7.
21. What do these verses teach you about the culture in which the Corinthians lived? What are some warnings we can take away from these verses for ourselves?
22. When we desire to cling to our “rights” and “get justice” for ourselves what do we need to remember? How would remembering those truths help mend any strained relationships we may have with our brothers and sisters in Christ?
23. Is there anyone you need to go to initiate healing and peace? Do you have any situation in which you may need an arbitrator from among your brothers and sisters in the Lord to bring about reconciliation and restoration? What steps will you take this week to apply the truths from 1 Corinthians 6:1-11?

Do we really win, if in our desire to maintain our rights, the kingdom of God suffers?  
Let us remember to follow the example of our dear Lord Jesus Christ who gave up  
all His rights to provide redemption for us.

24. We've learned some valuable principles about treating one another in a God-honoring way, yet we need to make sure we remember Paul's main purpose in writing this way to the Corinthians. What is the connection between believers learning to judge matters of sin in the church from 1 Cor. 5:1-2, 12-13 and 1 Cor. 6:9-11? How do the truths about believers and unbelievers in verses 9-11 aid us in judging sin in the body of Christ?

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #21, Chapter 6:12-20

Please read through Chapters 5 and 6 before beginning your lesson. May the Lord bless you with insight into His Word!

1. The key to understanding this passage begins in Chapter 5 verse 1. Explain Paul's flow of thought from 1 Cor. 5:1 to 6:11.
2. Paul writes to correct the Corinthians' wrong thinking about how Christians can live and how we should treat one another. What were some specific areas in their thinking that needed correction?
3. Quickly read through 1 Cor. 6:12-20. What's the connection between the Corinthians being willing to put up with someone else's sin from 5:1-2 and the contents of 1 Cor. 6:12-20?
4. The Corinthians were big on using their liberties, yet they didn't know how to use those liberties wisely. How does Paul bring balance to their thinking in verse 12?
5. When Paul says, "all things are lawful" does he really mean *all*? See verses 13 and 18; Rom. 6:12-13; 7:4-6 to help form your answer.
6. What are some possible dangers of using our liberties, as Paul alludes to in verse 12?

7. To what degree can we enjoy our liberties or freedoms given to us through Christ? See Rom. 14:15-23; 1 Cor. 10:24, 31-33; Eph. 5:3-4; Col. 3:18.
  
8. Based on your answers above, now explain how a freedom might not be *profitable* and could even *master* us.
  
9. What are some freedoms you enjoy? What are some dangers inherent in those freedoms that you need to watch over?
  
10. In verse 13 Paul makes a connection between the stomach and the body. What distinctions does he make between them in verse 13?
  
11. Explain how the Corinthians view of food and the stomach justified engaging in immorality. What's wrong with that thinking?
  

“Freedom in eating food does not equal freedom for immorality.”<sup>1</sup>

12. What do you learn about our bodies from verses 13-16? And how should those truths keep us from engaging in immorality?

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<sup>1</sup> Robert B. Hughes and J. Carl Laney, *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary*, The Tyndale Reference Library (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001), pg. 551.

13. Why would *joining* yourself to someone in immorality be so offensive to the Lord according to verse 17?
  
14. What is the command for every believer to know, understand, and apply (verse 18)? Why (verse 18)?
  
15. What does it mean to commit *immorality* [Strong's #4202]? See also Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:3.
  
16. When we commit immorality how is it possible to sin against our own bodies? See verses 16-17.
  
17. What do we learn about our bodies in verse 19?
  
18. Explain how an understanding that our physical bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit should keep us from engaging in immorality, or any sin for that matter. See also 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.
  
19. Another reason not to engage in immorality is that our bodies are not our own. Why don't our bodies belong to us to do with as we please? See verse 20.

20. What price was paid for your body—for you? See Gal. 3:13; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9.
  
21. When we understand this what should our response be according to verse 20?
  
22. According to verses 12-20 how can you give God glory in your body?
  
23. Consider what things have “mastered” you this week or have been “unprofitable” for you (from verse 12). How does understanding you are to glorify God in your body, help you to live more profitably for the Lord?
  
24. Once Jesus Christ redeems us, we no longer get to decide how we want to use our bodies. In essence, we become stewards of our bodies because they are no longer our own; they belong to Him. Remember the little children's song: *O be careful little eyes (ears, hands, feet, mouth) what you see (hear, do, go, say), There's a Father up above and He's looking down in love, so, be careful little eyes what you see?* Would your Master commend you in how you watch over His body? What are some areas you feel the Master wouldn't be pleased in what you see, hear, and do? Consider what changes you need to make and list them here.
  
25. Our time here on earth is the only time when we can give God glory in our bodies by turning away from sin, for when we are in heaven with Him we will have perfect bodies and will no longer feel the pull of sin. How can understanding that truth help you say “no” to the desires of your flesh?



26. What do you think motivates you the most toward holiness and purity in your life?

With the same view he [Paul] declared a little ago, that not only our souls but our bodies also are temples of the Holy Spirit, that we may not think that we discharge our duty to Him aright, if we do not devote ourselves wholly and entirely to His service, that He may by His word regulate even the outward actions of our life.<sup>2</sup>

~ John Calvin

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<sup>2</sup> John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries: I Corinthians*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Calvin's Commentaries (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998), 1 Co 6:20

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #22, Chapter 7 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 7 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 7. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-7).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 8-9).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-11).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 12-16).
  - e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 17-20).

- f. Summarize paragraph 6 (verses 21-24).
  
  - g. Summarize paragraph 7 (verses 25-31).
  
  - h. Summarize paragraph 8 (verses 32-35).
  
  - i. Summarize paragraph 9 (verses 36-38).
  
  - j. Summarize paragraph 10 (verses 39-40).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all the details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that best summarizes the entire contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. *Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter.* Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. What do you learn about God and His Spirit in this chapter?
  
6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ and any references to “the Lord” in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.
  
7. What do you learn about *husbands* in this chapter? Be sure to include verse references.
  
8. Now list what you learned about *wives* from chapter 7.
  
9. What do you learn about how a *man* is to act toward a *woman* in verses 1-7?
  
10. *Married, marry, and marriage* are used in this chapter. Record what you learned each time those words were used.



## **1 Corinthians Chapter 7**

1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.

3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

6 But this I say by way of concession, not of command.

7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

9 But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband

11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.

13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches.

18 Was any man called when he was already circumcised? He is not to become uncircumcised. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? He is not to be circumcised.

19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.

20 Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called.

21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.

22 For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave.

23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

24 Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called.

25 Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy.

26 I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is.

27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

28 But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

29 But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;

30 and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess;

31 and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.



32 But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord;

33 but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife,

34 and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

35 This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

36 But if any man thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his virgin daughter, if she is past her youth, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry.

37 But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin daughter, he will do well.

38 So then both he who gives his own virgin daughter in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better.

39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

40 But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #23, Chapter 7:1-7

Read all of chapter 7 before beginning your lesson. Ask the Lord for discernment and understanding of His Word.

1. What does the statement, “*Now concerning the things about which you wrote,*” from chapter 7 verse 1 tell us about what Paul intends to do in this section?
2. What kinds of topics is Paul going to be discussing in chapter 7?
3. What do you know about the Corinthians and their culture that would explain why the Corinthians asked the questions they did of Paul in their previous letter? [If necessary review background information about life in Corinth from your study Bible or introduction in a commentary.]
4. How does the previous instruction from 1 Cor. 5:1, 12-13; 6:9-11, 12-20 lead into Paul's discussion in chapter 7 verses 1-7?
5. What question from the Corinthians seems to have preceded Paul's opening answer in verse 1?
6. The NIV Bible and many commentators say that the phrase, *it is good for a man not to touch a woman* should be translated *it is good for a man not to marry a woman*. Yet in the other 38 times the Greek word *hapto* is used in the New Testament, it is never translated as marry. It's translated as *touch, light, kindle, cling, and handle*, but never as marry. That means it's time for us to dig deeper into the passage and really examine this section of Scripture.

Whenever we have a word translated a variety of ways we know the word has richness and depth to its meaning. So we need to discover what the Greek word *hapto* means and then seek to apply the nuances of its meaning *according to the context* of our own passage, for a word primarily derives its meaning from its context.

- a. First, what do you learn about the word from Matt. 8:3, 15; Luke 11:33; Acts 28:2; 1 Cor. 7:1; 2 Cor. 6:17; and Col. 2:21?
  
  - b. Second, how does the context help us define the word? See 1 Cor. 6:18-20 and 7:2, 5.
- 
7. Based on what you've just learned about the word *hapto*, what did Paul mean when he wrote, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman"? In other words, provide us with a definition of the word.
  
  8. When should a man apply this admonition not to touch a woman?
  
  9. What degree of responsibility do we as women have to help our brothers in Christ apply this command? And what will that look like in our daily lives?
  
  10. Verse 2 provides us with a reason for applying the command not to fan the flame of sexual desire. What is the reason according to the beginning of verse 2?

11. What is the answer to overcoming many of the temptations men and women face in an increasingly immoral world (verses 2-3)?
  
12. Define *fulfill* (NKJV *render*; ESV *give* [Strong's #591]).
  
13. Based on the context of verses 1-7 what is the *duty* that each husband and wife is to fulfill to their spouse?
  
14. How would fulfilling that specific duty help married believers overcome temptations toward immorality?
  
15. Based on verses 1-7, if a wife does *not* fulfill this duty toward her husband what are the potential consequences?
  
16. Is the solution found here in these verses the *only* way we can escape sexual immorality? See also Ps. 119:11; Gal. 5:19-24; Eph. 5:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:14; Rev. 2:21. Why is that balanced understanding about temptation and ways to overcome it helpful?
  
17. What kind of attitude should a wife have about fulfilling this “duty?”

18. If you're married, consider how well you're attending to these admonitions. Based solely on your responsibility toward your husband, would he say he's bulletproof or easy prey to sexual temptation? If you're not sure, why not ask him and come up with a plan for protecting him from sexual immorality.
  
19. If you're not married, consider ways you can apply this passage in your life. Try to think of at least three specific ways.
  
20. Verse 4 provides us with another aspect of the intimate side of marriage. What is that? How would understanding this truth help us to serve our spouses in this way? Give a practical way this could be applied.
  
21. What guidelines are given if the “special duty” is to be laid aside for a while (verse 5)?
  
22. Paul's statement in verse 6 might seem confusing until you read similar ones in verses 10, 12, 17, 25, and 40. What is Paul's purpose in making those distinctions between himself and the Lord?
  - a. What do you learn about the authority of the apostles to proclaim God's Word to us? See Luke 10:16; 2 Cor. 10:8; Titus 2:15.
  
  - b. What impact should that make upon us as we hear the Word of God proclaimed?

23. Verse 7 tells us Paul has a wish for everyone. What is it? See verses 7-8.
  
24. We'll spend more time on this subject in the next lesson, but what significant piece of revelation is revealed in verse 7?
  
25. As you think about these verses, what misunderstandings about sex, marriage, and spirituality did the Corinthians have which were harmful to their relationships in marriage, with one another, and with the Lord?

Sexual expression within marriage is not an option or an extra. It is certainly not, as it has sometimes been considered, a necessary evil in which spiritual Christians engage only to procreate children. It is far more than a physical act. God created it to be the expression and experience of love on the deepest human level and to be a beautiful and powerful bond between husband and wife.<sup>1</sup> ~ John MacArthur

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *I Corinthians* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1996), pg. 157.

# **1 Corinthians Part One**

## **Lesson #24, Chapter 7:8-16**

Read all of chapter 7 before beginning your lesson. Ask the Lord for discernment and understanding of His Word.

1. Summarize what Paul was discussing in verses 1-7.
2. What is the special gift from the Lord that Paul wishes everyone had according to verses 7-8?
3. What are some reasons given in chapter 7 for why Paul wants everyone to enjoy this state? See verses 26, 29, 32-35.
4. Though happily single, Paul is the first to concede that not everyone has the gift of singleness. What is his recommendation for those who don't have the gift of singleness according to verse 9? What reason is given for this counsel (verse 9)?
5. Why would marriage be the best solution for a single person who does not have the gift of singleness? See verses 2-4.
6. What options for purity are available for a single person, who desires to be married, but isn't married? See Job 31:1; Ps. 119:9-11; Rom. 6:11-14; 1 Cor. 7:1; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:3, 7; Heb. 4:16; 1 Pet. 1:13-16.

7. As Paul instructs the Corinthians in matters of marriage, singleness, and salvation we see in verses 6, 10, 12, 17, 25, and 40 that Paul makes distinctions between teaching given from the Lord and Paul's own direction. First, why would Paul make those distinctions between his instruction and the Lord's?
  - a. Second, is there any disagreement between what the Lord instructed and Paul's teaching to the Corinthians?
  - b. Third, is there any authoritative difference between instruction from the Lord and the instruction from the Apostle Paul? See Luke 10:16; 2 Cor. 13:10; 1 Thess. 4:2, 8; Titus 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:2.
  - c. Fourth, how should we understand and apply the instructions given to us in chapter 7, whether from the Lord or from Paul?
8. What instructions does the Lord have for those who are married? See verses 10-11.
9. What further clarification does Paul add to the Lord's instructions in verses 12-13?
10. What question or misunderstanding on the part of the Corinthians is behind the instruction given in verses 10-13?



11. Why would it be tempting for a believer to leave their unbelieving spouse or to send them away?
  
12. Paul explains the reasoning behind the instructions given in verses 10-13. What do you learn in verse 14?
  
13. Define *sanctify* (ESV *made holy* [Strong's #37]).
  
14. What do you learn from the following verses about the sanctifying influence of believers? See Gen.30:27; 39:5; Rom. 11:16; 1 Tim. 4:5.
  
15. How is it possible for a believer to *sanctify* their unbelieving spouse?
  
16. What kind of hope and encouragement does that give to anyone married to an unbeliever?
  
17. Before looking at any commentaries, try explaining what Paul means at the end of verse 14, *for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy*. The answer comes straight out of the context of this verse and the passage. Consider these questions as you compose your answer: What has Paul been discussing in the previous verses? What does he want believers to do? What effect should a believer have on unbelievers in their home?

18. The sanctifying influence of a believer in the home doesn't end with a spouse, but trickles down to the children as well. Though the home may not be united spiritually, how does God intend the believer to affect any children in the home? See verse 14 and Matt. 5:16; Acts 16:1; 2 Tim. 1:5.
  
19. What allowance is given for a spiritually mixed marriage according to verse 15?
  
20. What is the connection between God calling believers to peace and letting an unbelieving spouse leave the marriage? See also Rom. 12:18.
  
21. Explain how verse 16 ties in to the command given in verse 15.
  
22. What must every believer remember when it comes to the unbelievers, whether a spouse, a child, a friend, or a neighbor? See Eph. 1:4; 2:1-7; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:3.
  
23. No matter what our situation in life, like the Corinthians, we can glean some valuable lessons about the Lord. Review the following verses and summarize what you learn about God that would be a comfort anytime you find yourself in less than desirable circumstances: Ps. 33:6-12; Prov. 16:33; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11.

God of our strength, from day to day  
Direct our thoughts and guide our way;  
O may our hearts united be  
In sweet communion, Lord, with Thee.

God of our strength, on Thee we call;  
God of our hope, our light, our all,  
Thy name we praise, Thy love adore,  
Our rock, our shield, forevermore.  
~ Fanny Crosby

# **1 Corinthians Part One**

## **Lesson #25, Chapter 7:17-40**

Read all of chapter 7 before beginning this lesson. May the Lord bless you with insight and understanding as you study.

1. In a sentence or two summarize chapter 7:1-16.
2. How does Paul instruct the Corinthians in chapter 7 verse 17?
3. How does that command coincide with the previous information from verses 8-16?
4. Paul widens his instruction by giving some examples of those who should remain as they were called. What situations does he cite in verses 17-24?
5. Why would Paul keep reiterating his instruction to remain in the condition in which they were called? See verses 17, 20, and 24.
6. Verses 18-19 discuss circumcision as one of the “conditions” the Corinthians found themselves in. Why would the Corinthian men consider circumcision desirable even after coming to Christ? You can gain insight into their thinking by rereading Paul's exhortations to them in 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 2:5; 3:1-9.

7. What consolation does God provide concerning circumcision in verse 19?
  
8. What consolation does God give to those who are slaves according to verses 21-22? What does he have to say about those who called as free men in verse 22? What does he have to say to both groups in verse 23?
  
9. Though the Lord didn't specifically address the issues to follow in verses 25-40, Paul wisely counsels the Corinthians. How should they receive Paul's counsel in this matter? See Luke 10:16; 1 Cor. 7:17; 2 Cor. 13:10; 1 Thess. 4:2, 8; Titus 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:2.
  
10. What is Paul's counsel for men who desire to marry and for fathers who have daughters of marriageable age? See verses 26-28.
  
11. What reasons does Paul give for maintaining that position? See verse 26, 28.
  
12. What distresses and troubles does Paul anticipate for the believers? See Matt. 24:8-14; Luke 21:23-28; Jn. 16:2; 2 Tim. 3:10-12; 1 Pet. 4:12.
  
13. How should we all live in light of increasing persecution for believers and the Lord's anticipated and soon return according to verses 29-31?

14. What are some concrete ways you could put verses 29-31 into practice in your life?
  
15. Paul explains why he counseled believers to remain in the condition in which they were called. What are the reasons behind the practical advice according to verses 32-34?
  
16. Explain how Paul's statements about the unmarried and married are true in light of the increasing persecution of believers and Paul's firm belief that the Lord would soon return.
  
17. Paul summarizes his statements from verses 17-34 with one succinct declaration in verse 35. What were the goals of his communications to the Corinthians (verse 35)?
  
18. Before we leave this section let's take a closer look at the single life. What are some benefits an unmarried person can more easily enjoy than a married person according to verses 32-35? How can married believers help and encourage single believers to live out their calling as described in these verses?
  
19. If you are unmarried what are some ways you have applied verses 32-35 in your life and heart?

- a. For those who are married now, how can you live with a single person's undistracted devotion toward the Lord?
  
  - b. What are some hindrances in seeking and serving the Lord a married person faces that a single person does not?
- 
20. Verses 36-38 contain wise counsel for fathers who have marriageable daughters if you are studying from the NASB. If you are using the ESV, NKJV, or NIV then verses 36-38 contain wise counsel for men who desire to get married. What is Paul's attitude toward and advise for those fathers willing to let their daughters marry and also for those who feel it is best not to let their daughters marry? *Or* if you are reading from the ESV, NKJV, or NIV, what is Paul's attitude toward and advise for those men who desire to marry and also for those who don't?
- a. What is Paul's reasoning for this counsel? See verses 26 and 29-31.
- 
21. If a woman is married what important truths does she need to understand about the freedoms and limits of being married according to verse 39?
- 
22. Though a woman would be free to remarry a believer if her husband died, Paul believed that she would be happiest remaining single. Why is that? See verse 35 and Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:20-21; 3:7-11.

23. Paul's counsel is as relevant today as it was for the Corinthian believers. Persecution of believers is on the rise and Christ's return is even more imminent than it was during Paul's time. What *decision-making principles* can we apply today from the Word of God regarding things similar to the issues of getting circumcised, remaining a slave or getting married or remaining single?
  
24. What is the focus Paul desires believers to have—no matter what their circumstances or the time in which they live?
  
25. Would you say you are more distracted or single-minded in your focus on the Lord at this stage in your life? What steps do you find are necessary to move from distracted service to single-minded devotion to the Lord?

Since first Thy word awaked my heart,  
like new life dawning o'er me,  
where e'er I turned mine eyes, Thou art,  
all light and love before me.  
Naught else I feel or hear or see—  
all bonds of earth I sever—  
Thee O God, and only Thee,  
I live for, now and ever!  
~ Sir Thomas Moore



# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #26, Chapter 8 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 8 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 8. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-3).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 4-6).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 7-13).
  
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all the details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that best summarizes the entire contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. *Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter.* Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List what you learn about Jesus Christ and any references to “the Lord” in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.
  
6. Record what you learn about the word *knowledge* every time it's used in this chapter.
  
7. Along with knowledge are things we *know*. What things we *know* in this chapter?
  
8. The word *idol* is used frequently in this chapter. List what you learn each time its used.
  
9. What do you learn about *food* and *eating* in this chapter? List what you learn, along with the verse references to support your answer.

10. Record what you learn about the *conscience* in this chapter.
  
11. The word *weak* is used frequently. Look for what kinds of things are weak and what can contribute to its weakness. Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.
  
12. What other things did you notice in this chapter that you thought were interesting?

## **1 Corinthians Chapter 8**

1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;

3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.

5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords,

6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

7 However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

8 But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.

9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.

12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #27, Chapter 8:1-6

To prepare for your lesson please read all of chapter 8 and ask the Lord for His help as you study.

1. What indication do you have from the text that Paul is answering questions the Corinthians may have previously written to him? See 1 Cor. 7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1.
2. What dilemma are the believers facing in chapter 8?
3. According to verse 1, how do you know that Paul taught on this issue (or aspects of it) at some time in the past?
4. What do we learn about *knowledge* in verses 1-2?
5. What's the biblical solution to making sure our knowledge doesn't puff us up? See verses 2-3. Now look up Jer. 9:23-24; 1 Cor. 1:30-31.
6. What are some characteristics of knowledge tainted with arrogance? See 1 Sam. 2:3; 1 Cor. 4:5-6; 13:4; James 3:14.

7. What is one thing we can know for sure about knowledge according to verse 3? How is that an encouragement for the Corinthians after Paul's statements in verses 1-2?
  
8. By now you may be thinking that knowledge isn't a good thing to pursue, yet in and of itself is it bad? What do you learn about knowledge from Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 1:5; 2 Cor. 6:6; 8:7; Phil. 1:9?
  
9. What clues can you derive from 1 Corinthians 8:1 that tell you what kind of knowledge God desires for His children?
  
10. How do we attain to that kind-God's kind-of knowledge? See Prov. 1:7; 2:1-6; Col. 2:2-3; 3:10; 2 Pet. 1:2-8.
  
11. At this point in our study of chapter 8 how would you explain the connection between *knowledge, love, and eating things sacrificed to idols*.
  
12. As Paul opens the discussion about things sacrificed to idols how do his statements about knowledge prepare us for the discussion to come?
  
13. What are the things we *know* about things sacrificed to idols from verses 4-6?
  
14. What do we *know* about God from verses 4-6?

15. What point is Paul making about God's superiority over idols?
  
16. How should that knowledge solve the dilemma a Christian may have about eating meat sacrificed to idols?
  
17. Think of some modern day Christian liberty scenarios where our knowledge must be tempered with our love.
  
18. What are some practical ways we can join love and knowledge together when it comes to Christian liberties?

Christian liberties are like sharp pencils. If used in the right way they can be a blessing, but misused, they become a weapon to do us and others harm.

~ Jack Hughes

Anyone wanting to study Christian liberties further should listen to Jack Hughes' 4-part sermon series on "Your Liberties in Christ" at [www.calvarybiblechurch.org](http://www.calvarybiblechurch.org). He provides a helpful, balanced look at the topic, while furnishing a step-by-step guide to using our liberties with wisdom and love. Another great resource is from Warren Wiersbe in his excellent chapter on Christian liberties "Be Wise About Christian Liberties," *The Bible Exposition Commentary* from Victor Books.



# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #28, Chapter 8:7-13

Please read all of chapter 8 before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord for insight into His Word as you spend time with Him.

1. How would you summarize the contents of verses 1-6?
2. Was there anything in verses 1-6 to indicate that eating things sacrificed to idols was sin? How should that knowledge have influenced how the Corinthians related to one another?
3. Paul continues his discussion in verse 7 with the statement, *However not all men have this knowledge*. What knowledge is he referring to? See verses 1-6.
4. Some of the believers at Corinth didn't understand or hadn't received complete teaching on God's superiority over idols. How did that incomplete knowledge affect them according to verse 7?
5. Why was their conscience weak according to Paul's statements in this chapter?
6. Warren Wiersbe writes, "Conscience is that internal court where our actions are judged and are either approved or condemned (Rom. 2:14-15). Conscience is not the law; it bears witness to God's moral law. But the important thing is this: *conscience depends on knowledge* (italics mine). The more spiritual knowledge we know and act on, the stronger the conscience will become." What is the way to bolster a weak conscience? See verse 7; Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 1:12; 1 Tim. 4:1-6.

Your conscience is like a smoke alarm. It is that internal mechanism that God gives you to warn you of sin. It is adjusted by the screwdriver of truth to respond correctly or incorrectly to all thoughts, actions, and information. As we grow in the knowledge of God's truth, the Holy Spirit will constantly be adjusting our consciences. ~ Jack Hughes

7. So if someone has a weak conscience in an area of biblical freedom what is the best way to win him or her to a more biblical understanding? What are we often tempted to do instead? What do we need to remember any time we're discussing areas of liberty in the Christian life? See verse 9 and Rom. 12:10; 14:15.
8. Look up the following verses and summarize what you learn about the conscience: 1 Sam. 24:5; Acts. 23:1; 24:16; Rom. 13:5; 1 Cor. 8:7, 12; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; 4:2; Titus 1:15; Heb. 10:22.
9. Based on what you've learned, why is it so important to pay attention to our conscience?
10. How did the Corinthians' background of idol worship affect how they viewed God? See verse 8.
11. Paul's obvious concern for these young believers is seen in his comments to those whose consciences are more informed. What caution does he give them in verse 9?
12. In verse 10 Paul illustrates how a liberty could become a stumbling block. What scenario does he paint?

13. How does verse 11 help us answer the somewhat awkwardly worded question of verse 10? What is the answer to verse 10?
  
14. Similar situations are cited in Prov. 20:25; 1 Cor. 10:23-28; Rom. 14:14-15. What issues are at stake in these verses and in 1 Corinthians 8?
  
15. What does verse 12 tell us we are doing if we hold to our liberties without considering how our actions could affect weaker believers?
  
16. What does that understanding move Paul to declare in verse 13?
  
17. What does Jesus have to say about stumbling blocks? See Matt. 13:41 and 18:6-7.
  
18. What are some *liberties* Christians struggle with during our day and age?
  
19. Take any one of those liberties you just listed (especially if it's one you personally like to exercise) and insert it into the following somewhat modified verses from chapter 8:  
*But \_\_\_\_\_ will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not \_\_\_\_\_, nor the better if we do \_\_\_\_\_. But take care lest this liberty of \_\_\_\_\_ somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ causes my brother to stumble, I will never again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.*

20. How did that little exercise help you gain more clarity about your role and duties when it comes to Christian liberties and loving others?
  
21. My husband, Jack Hughes, has said, “Christian liberties are like sharp pencils. If used in the right way they can be a blessing, but misused, they become a weapon to do us and others harm.” How does that statement fit in exactly with what Paul is saying in verses 9-13?
  
22. How has the study of 1 Corinthians chapters 1-8 impacted you this year? What do you hope stays with you—whether doctrinal or practical in nature?

**Grace to you and peace from God our  
Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

First Corinthians Part 2 (Chapters 9-16) will delve even deeper into the issue of Christian liberties, but for now take a moment to read through Jack Hughes' *Christian Liberties Truth Grid* below. This handy guide helps believers sort through the tangled reasoning associated with a Christian's liberties.

### **Christian Liberties Truth Grid**

1. Are you fully convinced in your own mind that your liberty is acceptable to God and not contrary to the Scriptures (Rom. 14:5, 14, 23; I Cor. 8:1, 8)?
2. Can you engage in this activity and still guard your heart and keep it pure (Prov. 4:23)?
3. Are you exercising your liberty for the Lord and His glory (Rom. 14:6-8; I Cor. 6:20; 10:31)?
4. In exercising your liberty will you be in the presence of someone who thinks your liberty is forbidden in Scripture (Rom. 14:14)?
5. Will you be exercising your liberty in love, considering others before yourself (Rom. 15:1-3; 14:15; I Cor. 8:1; Phil. 2:3-4)?
6. Will you, by exercising your liberty, harm, destroy, or put a stumbling block before someone else's faith (Mt. 18:4-7; Rom. 14:13, 15, 20-22; I Cor. 8:7, 9-13)?
7. If you exercise your liberty, will it cause what is for you a good thing to be spoken of as evil (Rom. 14:16)?
8. In exercising your liberty will it edify and build others up (Rom. 15:1-3; 14:19; I Cor. 8:1)?
9. Is exercising your liberty going to help or hinder your ability to win others to Christ (I Cor. 9:19-22)?
10. Will exercising your liberty tempt you to sin or put you in a position to be easily tempted to sin i.e., will it cause you to live on the edge of the cliff (Prov. 27:12; Gal. 5:13; I Pet. 2:16)?
11. Can you exercise your liberty and still maintain peace (Rom. 14:17-19)?
12. Is it wise for me to exercise this liberty if I am, or have been enslaved or mastered by it (I Cor. 6:12; Gal. 5:13; I Pet. 2:16)?
13. Are you taking into consideration your position and influence in the body of Christ? Leaders need to be extra careful in the exercise of their liberties as they are high profile examples to all (Lev. 10:8-9; Prov. 31:4-5; Eccl. 10:16-17; I Tim. 3:3-7; Tit. 1:5-9)?