



# *1 Corinthians, Part 1, Chapters 1-8*

**TEACHER'S GUIDE**

**A 28 WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY**

**SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES**

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# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #1, Introduction to the Book

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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?

Paul (verse 1); obviously someone who was a teacher and who had led them as seen in 1:10; 2:3-5; 3:5-9 (portrayed as God's servant). Names himself again in 3:5-6. The apostle Paul came to Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-18). Possibly AD 51.

2. To whom was it written?

The Corinthians 1:2; brethren 1:26; brethren who were struggling and not quite doing what they should be doing as seen in 3:1-3.

The church of God at Corinth, the saints 1:2  
brethren 1:10

Leon Morris said of Corinth, "It was an important city. It was intellectually alert. It was materially prosperous. It was morally corrupt."

3. When was it written?

Written after Paul had spent some time with them 2:1

Paul wasn't in prison when he wrote this letter 4:11-13; before they sent the love gift from the churches to the poor in Jerusalem 16:1-4; written before his intended visit to Macedonia 16:5-6; writing from Ephesus 16:8

Also the Spring of the year before Pentecost, in the early AD 50's

"Paul was able to establish a church in Corinth on his second missionary journey (3:6, 10; 4:15; Acts 18:1-7). Persecution in Macedonia drove him south to Athens, and from there he proceeded to Corinth. He made tents with Aquila and Priscilla and reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue. Silas and Timothy joined

him (they evidently brought a gift from Philippi; see 2 Cor. 11:8–9; Phil. 4:15), and Paul began to devote all his time to spreading the gospel. Paul wrote First and Second Thessalonians, moved his ministry from the synagogue to the house of Titius Justus because of opposition, and converted Crispus, the leader of the synagogue. Paul taught the Word of God in Corinth for eighteen months in A.D. 51–52. After Paul’s departure, Apollos came from Ephesus to minister in the Corinthian church (3:6; Acts 18:24–28).

When Paul was teaching and preaching in Ephesus during his third missionary journey, he was disturbed by reports from the household of Chloe concerning quarrels in the church at Corinth (1:11). The church sent a delegation of three men (16:17), who apparently brought a letter that requested Paul’s judgment on certain issues (7:1). Paul wrote this epistle as his response to the problems and questions of the Corinthians (he had already written a previous letter; 5:9). It may be that the men who came from Corinth took this letter back with them. Paul was planning to leave Ephesus (16:5–8), indicating that First Corinthians was written in A.D. 56.”<sup>1</sup>

4. Where was it written?

Possibly while Paul was in Ephesus 16:8

5. What’s the general tone of the author in the book?

Loving, yet a bit reproofing. Paul still very much the teacher in this letter to them. Yet, he encourages them. Has to keep reminding them of the things he taught them previously as in 3:16. Instructive, dealing with issues at hand.

6. What’s the author’s purpose in writing this book?

To remind of truth; to clear up misconceptions as in 4:1-5; to correct wrong attitudes on the part of the Corinthians 4:8-13.

To continue to shepherd and instruct this group of new believers in the way of Truth. He desired to get them thinking rightly in a number of areas.

Leon Morris said, “First and foremost 1 Corinthians is a letter directed at the reformation of conduct.”

7. What topics are included in this book?

Ch 1 Appeal to unity; the power of the gospel

ch 2 the foolishness of the gospel

ch 3 the interaction of members in building up the church

ch 4 Paul's integrity in ministering to them from pure motives

ch 5 instruction about prideful response to sin in the church

ch 6 instruction about not suing each other and fleeing immorality

ch 7 instruction about sexual purity and virgin daughters in light of the end times

<sup>1</sup> Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1983), 381–382.

- ch 8 instruction about eating things sacrificed to idols – Christian liberties
- ch 9 Paul's example of using his Christian liberties in the ministry and his reasons behind doing so
- ch 10 the example of those who sinned against the Lord leading into worshiping idols and then moving on to curbing your freedoms for the sake of others
- ch 11 head coverings for prayer, submission and headship, the Lord's supper
- ch 12 spiritual gifts and proper attitude toward them
- ch 13 love must undergird our service
- ch 14 tongues and prophecy
- ch 15 the gospel and why the resurrection is so essential
- ch 16 money gift collection and final words

8. What are the key words of the book? Key words are words that are repeated or carry an important thought.

Gifts, body, unity, judge, spirit, knowledge, profit, idols, glorify, mind

9. What are the main themes of the book? A theme is the main idea, the overall message.

Unity, spiritual gifts, order in the church, servanthood, the gospel, Christian liberties

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.

God is faithful 1:9

God's wisdom 1:21

God's power 2:5

God is judge 5:13

God is sovereign 7:17

11. List 5 attributes of Christ that you see in this book.

Jesus Christ is God's son 1:9

Jesus Christ is Savior 1:23

Jesus Christ is wise, righteous, set apart, and redeemer 1:30

Jesus Christ is judge 4:5

Jesus Christ is One with the Father 8:6

12. List any attributes of the Holy Spirit you see in this book.

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

13. What insights have you gained thus far into the book of 1 Corinthians?  
That Christian liberties are not to be waved under people's noses.  
The extent we need to go to preserve unity
14. 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?  
12:31 I want to know which translation is to be preferred!

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #2, Chapter 1 Overview

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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).  
Paul's greeting to the Corinthians.

b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 4-9).  
Paul thanks God for the Corinthians, who have been richly blessed by the Lord, not lacking in any gift. He reminds them of their faithful God.

c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-17).  
After rejoicing in their calling, Paul then gets down to business and exhorts them to quit disagreeing with one another. There were divisions over their preferences of their shepherds and who was the best teacher.

Paul exhorts the Corinthians to get along and not allow divisions to creep in by lining up after the different Bible teachers. Paul affirms that the pastors are only servants of God and not the ones the Corinthians should owe their allegiance to.

d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 18-25).  
After reminding the Corinthians that he only wanted to preach the gospel, Paul spends time explaining God's wisdom in saving men through the gospel.

Paul reminds them that the gospel message is not fancy or clever, and in the world's eyes is seen as foolish, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God.

e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 26-31).

God's wisdom is seen in choosing the weak and unimportant of the world in which to showcase His life-changing power.

Paul reminds the Corinthians to consider the condition in which they were called. They weren't the mighty or the noble or the strong. Instead, God chose the weak things of the world to shame the wise so that no man could boast about his part in salvation.

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.

The main point of this chapter is to diffuse the conflict by reminding the Corinthians of the who God saves and how, that there would be no room for boasting.

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.

Verses 17, 18, 26 all appeal!

I'm going to choose verse 17 because it seems to sum up the reasons why Paul launches into an explanation of the gospel and refers a bit to the troubles plaguing the Corinthians.

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.

No Boasting in Salvation

God's Wisdom Means No Boasting

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).

Verse 1 God called Paul called as an apostle

Verse 1 Paul's calling was God's will

Verse 2 God has a church at Corinth

Verse 2 God sanctified them in Christ

Verse 3 God gives peace

Verse 4 God extends grace to the Corinthians

Verse 9 God is faithful

Verse 9 God called them into fellowship with Jesus

Verse 18 God's power is seen in the gospel—the word of the cross

Verse 20 God has made the world's wisdom into foolishness

Verse 21 God's wisdom is seen even in the world's reactions to the gospel

Verse 21 God is pleased that the message is "foolish" in the world's eyes.

Verse 24 God's power is seen in the gospel message

Verse 24 God's wisdom is seen in the gospel message

Verse 25 God's foolishness is wiser than man's wisdom

Verse 25 God's weakness is stronger than man's strength  
Verse 27 God has chosen foolish things  
Verse 27 God's choosing is to shame the wise  
Verse 27 God's choosing is to shamed the strong  
Verse 28 God has chosen the base things and the despised  
Verse 28 God's choosing was to nullify the things that are—the things the world counts as worthy  
Verse 30 God put us in Christ

6. List five things you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.

Verse 1 Paul is Christ's apostle  
Verse 2 Christ is our Lord  
Verse 3 grace and peace come from Him  
Verse 4 grace comes through Christ  
Verse 7 Christ will be revealed in His glory  
Verse 9 Christ is God's Son  
Verse 9 we fellowship with Him  
Verse 13 Christ is not divided or claimed  
Verse 17 Christ didn't send Paul to baptize, but to preach  
Verse 23 Christ crucified is a stumbling block to some  
Verse 24 to others Christ is the power and wisdom of God

7. What do you learn about the Corinthians in this chapter? Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

The Corinthians had been richly blessed spiritually by the Lord.  
They were not lacking in any gift.  
They had divisions among them.  
They were quarreling.  
The Corinthians shouldn't boast as they are part of the "not many noble and base and despised" group.

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.

Verse 19 God intends to destroy man's wisdom  
Verse 20 God has made the world's wisdom foolish  
Verse 21 the world's wisdom does not lead to salvation  
Verse 21 God's wisdom leads to salvation  
Verse 22 the world's wisdom looks for signs and "wisdom"  
Verse 23 God's wisdom preaches Christ crucified—a stumbling block and foolishness  
Verse 24

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.

Verse 18 the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing



Verse 18 the word of the cross is power for those who are being saved

Verse 23 Christ crucified seems foolish to the Greeks

Verse 25 God's foolishness is wiser than man's wisdom

Verse 27 God has chosen the foolish of the world to shame the strong

10. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

The absolute opposite way God does things from the world. His ways are completely different—more different than we even understand at times.

## **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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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.

He starts out by identifying himself—Paul. Then he describes himself as Paul, who was called as an apostle, specifically of Jesus Christ. And all this happened by and according to God's will.

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.

*"It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; and Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor."* (Lk 6:12–16) Jesus called them. Spent night in prayer before doing so. Chose them.

*"And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons."* (Mk 3:14–15) The apostles were appointed so they could learn from Jesus and be trained by Him, and then be sent out to preach. They were also given the authority to cast out demons.

*"Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."* (Ac 1:21–22) In choosing a disciple to take Judas' place, the other apostles looked at men who had been with them while Jesus was among them, from His baptism until He rose to heaven. Had to have been a witness of His resurrection.

*"Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),"* (Ga 1:1) Paul was called as an apostle again directly by Jesus (unlike Matthias who was chosen after Judas)

*"For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth."* (1 Ti 2:7) Paul is very sure of his calling—that he had been appointed a preacher and an apostle to the Gentiles.

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?

He knew it was God's will for him to do this in the way he came to salvation in Christ and then by the way that Jesus personally disciplined him in the desert. [Galatians 1:17] Just knowing something is God's will for you gives you the extra umph you need to do it, especially when it gets hard. Knowing it was God's will for him to suffer (see Acts 9:15-16) helped him to endure the suffering and sorrows given to him.

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.

*"One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "This is the great and foremost commandment." (Mt 22:35–38) God's will is for me to love Him only, wholly, and completely.*

*"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Ro 12:1–2) God's will is for me to present my body to Him in holiness and service. To not be conformed to this world. To be transformed. This proves, tests, and reveals God's will.*

*"For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Ga 5:14) God's will is for me to love my neighbor as myself.*

*"For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;" (1 Th 4:3) God's will is for me to abstain from sexual immorality.*

*"For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men." (1 Pe 2:15) God's will for me is to do right and thus silence the foolish talk of men.*

- 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.

I will "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Th 5:16–18)

I will "In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the

heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.” (1 Pe 3:1–6)

I will “When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.”” (Ps 27:8)

“Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.” (Ps 27:14)

I will “Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.” (Tt 2:3–5)

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?

It helps me to sort through and sift out the unnecessary. It helps me live without feeling guilty all the time that I am not doing what I ought to be doing.

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?

He is a brother in the Lord. He is traveling with Paul and ministering with him. He serves faithfully enough that he is included in the opening greeting—quite possibly functioning like a co-pastor with Paul.

7. Who was Paul writing to (verse 2)? What details do we learn about the recipients of his letter in verse two?

He was writing to “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:” (1 Co 1:2)

They belong to God. They are in Corinth. They have been sanctified. Sanctified in Christ Jesus. They are saints by their calling. Just like all those who in every place call on the name of the Lord Jesus. He is their Lord as well as the Lord of other saints in other places.

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.

To be or become as dedicated to the Lord, either in distinction, devotion, or moral purity.

Perfect [point in time and continues into the present], passive [action done to them],

To make holy, to set apart as holy for the Lord.

“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.” (1 Co 6:11)

“so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,” (Eph 5:26)

“Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.” (2 Ti 2:21)

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?

Saint: a person of God; a person dedicated to God.

*“As for the saints who are in the earth, They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.”* (Ps 16:3)

*“O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want.”* (Ps 34:9)

*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,”* (Eph 2:19)

the saints are living on the earth (not just those who have died like the Catholics believe). Even in the Old Testament there were saints—those who belonged to God. And they feared God just like we do today. Saints are of God’s household, brought in. Not shut up outside the gate.

10. How does that name—*saint*—affect your thinking and how you live your life for the Lord?

Or maybe, how should it affect your thinking. I am one who has been called by God. I have been set apart for His use. I am made holy already by the blood of Jesus. It should affect everything I do, everything I think, everything I say. The privilege of it should govern me much more than it does. Forgive my pride, Lord and my sense of entitlement. I am nothing without You. Thank you for saving me.

11. After Paul's greeting, he gives the Corinthian believers a special benediction. What is it (verse 3)?

He tells them “Grace to you” “Peace to you” from God, our Father AND the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.



We desire these things for them: “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” (Ps 84:11) **THE LORD GIVES GRACE.**

“The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Ro 5:20–21) **GOD’S GRACE ABOUND WHERE SIN REIGNS. IF IT DIDN’T WE WOULD ALL BE LOST.**

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.” (1 Co 15:10) **ONLY BY GOD’S GRACE CAN WE CLAIM ANY GOODNESS. HIS GRACE WORKS IN US AND WITH US AS WE SEEK THE LORD.**

“And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.” (2 Co 12:9) **GOD’S GRACE THAT HE GIVES US IS SUFFICIENT. IT IS ENOUGH; COMPLETE; FULL.**

“so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” (Eph 2:7) **HIS GRACE IS SURPASSING IN RICHEST KINDNESS.**

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16) **GOD’S THRONE IS A THRONE OF GRACE. AND IT IS AT THAT THRONE THAT WE RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND MORE GRACE TO HELP US, ESPECIALLY IN TIME OF NEED.**

So when Paul says, Grace to you, he is summing up all of God’s richest blessings for the Corinthians. He wants them to know and experience that great grace that has been extended to them and that works with them and in them and through them.

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.

We desire these things for them:

“The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.” (Ps 29:11) **PEACE IS A BLESSING**

““The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.” (Is 26:3) **PEACE CAN BE COMPLETE OR PERFECT AND COMES AS A RESULT OF TRUSTING IN THE LORD.**

“TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”” (Lk 1:79) **GOD WILL GUIDE OUR FEET IN THE WAY OF PEACE.**

““Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” (Jn 14:27) **GOD’S**

PEACE IS NOT LIKE THE WORLD'S PEACE. GOD'S PEACE IS GIVEN TO US BY GOD. IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE CONJURE UP.

“AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.” (Eph 2:17–18) PEACE WITH GOD COMES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

So when we want someone to have peace we want their souls to know the blessing of peace with God, of walking in His ways and being guided by Him, of experiencing only the peace that He can give. We want their souls to be at rest and comforted.

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? I use it often in my closing in my emails or letters. I pray it, but think I need to pray it more. I may need to start giving more benedictions as I leave people....

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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.

O let Thy grace inspire my soul with strength divine; may all my pow'rs to Thee aspire, and all my days be Thine.

Chorus: Saved by grace alone! This is all my plea; Jesus died for all mankind, and Jesus died for me.

~Philip Doddridge and Augustus Toplady<sup>1</sup>

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15. What was Paul thankful for concerning the Corinthians in verse 4? He was thankful for the grace of God given to them in Christ. He had seen that grace at work in them.
16. How did Paul see the grace of God at work in the Corinthians' lives according to verse 5? They were enriched in their speech, in their knowledge, in everything. Grace was given and working in them.

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<sup>1</sup> Kenneth W. Osbeck, *Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications, 1990), 171.

17. What happened as the Corinthians exhibited God's work in their lives? See verse 6. For another example of this work see 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10. It showed that they really did belong to Christ. They really were believers.

“For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.” (1 Th 1:8–10)

18. What else do we discover about the grace bestowed upon the Corinthians according to verse 7? They weren't lacking in any gift. And they were eagerly awaiting Christ's return!

19. What kinds of gifts was Paul referring to? See 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:7-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11. The gifts he was referring to were the giftings of the Holy Spirit, given at the time of salvation.

*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.” (1 Co 12:4–11)*

*“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.” (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Eph 4:7–13)*

*“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be*

*glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Pe 4:10–11)*

20. What will Christ do when He is revealed according to verse 8?  
He will confirm those who are His. And they will be confirmed BLAMELESS until the very end. Oh amazing!!!

21. In light of Paul's comments in verse 8, why is Paul's reminder about God's faithfulness in verse 9 helpful?

Good to remember God is faithful. It all depends on Him, not on us. He will ensure that we are blameless and that we make it till the end.

22. And what did that faithful God do for the Corinthians—and for every believer (verse 9)?

He called us into fellowship with His Son!

23. What does the word *fellowship* [Strong's #2842] mean? Also look up 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1; 3:10; 1 John 1:3, 6 to gain further insight into this word's meaning.

Fellowship: the act of sharing in the activities of those in a group. Fellowship, communion, participation.

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” (2 Co 13:14)*

*“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,” (Php 2:1)*

*“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;” (Php 3:10)*

*“what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.” (1 Jn 1:3)*

*“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;” (1 Jn 1:6)*

That same fellowship that exists among the Godhead is available to us as well. We have fellowship with the Holy Spirit! We commune with and join in Christ's sufferings. Can't fellowship with God and walk in darkness.

24. Kenneth Osbeck states, “An intimate fellowship with our Lord should produce at least three basic differences in our living: More humility—a greater realization of our finiteness and the need for dependence upon God; More happiness—a realization that this life has purpose and dignity as we represent God. And then a promised eternity in heaven with our Lord; More holiness—a greater desire to be a worthy representative for God and to live a

life of absolute purity.”<sup>2</sup> And it is this kind of *fellowship* with Jesus Christ to which you have been called. *This is God's purpose for you.* To what degree are you making this a priority in your life?  
More of Jesus, more of Jesus. All to Jesus, I surrender. All to Him, I freely give.  
Oh may I enter closer fellowship with you, my dearest Lord.

- a. What things hinder you from maintaining sweet fellowship with Jesus?

Busyness!!!! It's the number one thing for me!

- b. What are some specific ways you can protect and promote your fellowship with the Lord?

Not allow busyness to take away time in fellowship with Him. proactively look for time with Him. seek Him in prayer and by stealing away to be with Him on walks.

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What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Chorus: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 288.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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?  
He intends to exhort them that they would not be in conflict with each other. He wants them to agree, not have divisions among them, have the same mind and judgment about things.
2. What does *exhort* (ESV and NIV *appeal*; NKJV *plead* [Strong's #3870]) mean?  
To urge, implore, exhort. Appeal, plead...
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?  
It adds weight to it. It shows the seriousness of what Paul is asking them to do. I ask that you do this in the name of the Lord Jesus.
4. What is it that Paul so earnestly desires to convey to the Corinthians in verse 10?  
As they are living carefully and in harmony with each other, they are made complete.  
Complete means furnish adequately, to be equipped, prepared. To be finished, to be made ready.
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)?  
He had been informed by Chloe's people that there were quarrels among them. Oh mi-o-my!
6. What kinds of quarrels and divisions were popping up among the Corinthians according to verses 12-13?  
They were siding with their favorite teachers/preachers. It appears the divisions began over who baptized them, as if that made a difference in their walks with the Lord.
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.

24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; 26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. 27 And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, 28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

12 But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity.

13 Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.

He was mighty in the Scriptures, fervent in spirit. After he got some clarification in his doctrine, he greatly helped the believers in Corinth (Achaia is the region Corinth rests in.). Paul considers him a brother and servant in the cause of Christ. Apollos watered the believers, spent time building into them after they came to saving faith in Christ. He worked faithfully with other men in ministering the gospel to other churches.

8. How could quarrels and divisions like the ones described in verses 11-13 get started?

A desire for one upmanship. Insecurities, especially if they thought there needed to be some kind of special "line of succession" in their baptisms. Paul debunks that right away. A desire to be seen with favor in the eyes of men.

9. Could anything like that happen at your church? How?

Absolutely. At any time. All it takes is some foolishness on the part of one person and soon it can spread. Good doctrine corrects this. Lack of discernment and lack of faithful teaching greatly add to this.

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?

He takes them back to Jesus. He subtly reminds them that the men who ministered to them were only servants of Jesus. Jesus was the One who died in their place. Jesus was the One who took their place. Not those men. They are only men.

11. How are those insightful questions in verse 13 helpful for us when we are tempted to polarize and prefer one leader over another?  
It levels the playing field. It reminds us that the “superheroes” around us are still only sinners who needed a Savior and were saved by grace through faith, just as we are. It also reminds the “big guns” of those heart humbling truths.

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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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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?  
He's glad he didn't baptize a lot of people so his ministry wouldn't get distracted or shifted away from what he was really supposed to be doing. Such a good reminder to know what we're about, to know what we're called to do.
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?  
He preached the gospel, simply, not trying to wow them. He relied upon the simple and pure Word of God to change their hearts.
14. What was his reasoning for this kind of preaching according to verse 17? See also 1 Cor. 2:1-4.  
So that it wouldn't make the cross of Christ void—that it wouldn't diminish it or make it not count.  
1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
15. Paul's focus to preach the gospel without relying on man's wisdom or eloquence was founded upon what fact? See verse 18.  
Because it is THE power of God. What wonders that specific little word holds for us. “The” power of God. The only. The one appointed. The chosen method. The.
16. What did Paul know and emphatically believe about God's word? See Jer. 23:29; 1 Pet. 1:24-25.

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



Paul emphatically believed that God's Word was infinitely powerful. What marvels that understanding holds for us, "And this is the Word preached to you." 29 "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"

24 For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, 25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

17. How can those same truths help us the next time we are talking with someone about Christ?

It gives boldness and peace. Peace in the face of anger. Peace in the face of persecution. The Word is powerful. The Word transforms. The Word does its work on the hard hearts of men—and changes them!

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?

No. They may be the means to open a mind, but it still comes down to faith in the work of Jesus and to accept it for oneself.

- 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.

30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not

of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

The essential truths of the gospel are that we are in dire trouble. Our sin has put us on the outs with God and there is no way we can cover that debt. Yet, our infinitely wise and loving God provided us with a way to cover that debt. He provided Jesus. Jesus' righteousness applied to us—without us doing anything! Jesus stood in our place and took the wrath we should have received so that we could enter in to a relationship with God! Amazing!

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.

17 For 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. 18 For 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.

31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD." 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

We are only to boast in the Lord, not in what man has done for us. Though God uses men, they are not the way to get saved.

20. What do you learn about God's wisdom versus man's wisdom in verses 19-21?

God will destroy it. He will set it aside. The wise man, scribe, and debater have all been removed in His wisdom. God has actually made their wisdom foolishness. The world's wisdom does not lead to salvation. Yet when men turn in faith to receive that "foolish" message from God

21. What is God's purpose for His kind of wisdom according to verse 21? His purpose is to save those who believe. Sigh of wonder and relief.

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? I actually think I need to constantly affirm His wisdom. I love His message and His plan, yet it still amazes me how opposite it is from man's way of thinking.

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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>

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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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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? It may seem foolish to the world, but to us who are being saved it is THE power of God.

a. What contrasts are made about wisdom and foolishness?

God's wisdom is directly opposite of man's wisdom. God sets man's wisdom aside. He will remove it. He chose His "foolish" message to shame the wise.

2. What do we learn about the Jews and Greeks from verse 22? The Jews ask for signs. The Greeks search for wisdom.

3. How is that related in thought to what Paul has already written in verses 18-21?

The world and unbelievers want more to verify God's message of salvation—verify, validate, make it palatable, dress it up a bit. They want more than what God has already offered.

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?

Preaching Christ crucified!

The Jews stumble over that message. The Greeks consider it foolishness.

5. Why is Christ a stumbling block to the Jews? See Deut. 21:23; Acts 13:38-41, 45; Rom. 9:30-33.

23 his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance. HE WAS HUNG ON A TREE WHICH WAS CONSIDERED A CURSE.

38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. 40 "Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you: 41 *'behold, you scoffers, and marvel, and perish; for I am accomplishing a work in your days, a work which you will never believe, though someone should describe it to you.'*" THEY SCOFFED AT GOD'S PLAN.

45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. **THEY HATED GOD SO MUCH, THAT THEY BLASPHEMED HIS MESSAGE.**

30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, "*behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in him will not be disappointed.*" **THEY WOULD NOT RESPOND IN FAITH, BUT CHOSE TO RESPOND WITH WORKS. JESUS IS THE STUMBLING BLOCK. GOD ALWAYS INTENDED THAT HE WOULD BE SO.**

6. Why do the Gentiles consider the gospel message foolishness? See Acts 17:17-18; 26:22-24; 1 Cor. 2:14.

17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. 18 And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

22 "So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; 23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles." 24 While Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad."

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.

**THE GREEKS, ESPECIALLY, CONSIDERED THE RESURRECTION TO BE FOOLISHNESS BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE ANYONE WOULD OR COULD RISE FROM THE DEAD.** The whole message of the gospel just seemed crazy to them. They don't accept God's plan. They can't understand it because they are not spiritually in-tune.

7. How do those who are called respond to the message of Christ according to verse 24?

When they are called, they respond believing that Christ is the power and the wisdom of God.

a. See Acts 2:37-41; 13:48; 1 Thess. 1:6-7 for some examples.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them,

“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” 41 **So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.**

**48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.**

6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, **having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all** the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

8. What do you learn about God's foolishness and weakness in verse 25? Is God's plan *really* foolishness and weakness?

God's foolishness is wiser than men and God's weakness is stronger than men. God's plan is *not* foolish or weak. In fact, it is the ultimate in strength and wisdom. It's just that it is completely opposite of what we would come up with on our own.

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.

18 For 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. 19 For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

29 so that no man may boast before God.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God always intended that men would need to put aside their wisdom, their pride, and come humbly to the Cross. No man can boast in his salvation. There is no one who has had a hand in their salvation. All come empty-handed.

“Nothing to the cross I bring; simply to the cross I cling; naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, I to the fountain fly; help me, Savior, or I die.”

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.

When Paul says to “consider your calling” he’s talking about their salvation. He’s talking about the way they were called to Christ.

Called and calling both refer to the saved.

Below, the called are those who loved God and who recognize they are called by and according to His purpose. We are to live in light of our calling and walk

accordingly. We live within the unity of the body. Our calling is a holy calling, rather than a worldly “stay the same” kind of calling.

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

11. What are we to consider about our calling according to verses 26-28? God doesn’t often call people to Himself out of the “great” gene pool. Rather, He chooses from the passed over ones, the lesser than ones, the lacking ones, the missing a screw ones. The ones the world disdains are the ones the Lord loves to redeem and then use mightily to confound the worldly wise. That’s why when you get together with a bunch of Christians there are broken people there, people with issues, people who need help.

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.

3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Because our weakness reveals God's strength and power. Our "real" strength, our "real" power comes when we are leaning on the Lord, when He is working through us.

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?

Oh, so many times! And the longer I walk with the Lord the more I see my foolishness and weakness and that He uses me in spite of myself.

14. What is God's purpose in calling *the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are*? See verse 29.

So that no one would boast. So no one could boast. All glory goes to the Lord.

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?

That we really aren't all that like we're tempted to believe. Even when we know that and assent to those truths we still kind of hope that there's something redeeming in us, but really the redeeming part of us is Christ. He makes us useful in the ways that really matter.

- 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.

6 For though the LORD is exalted, Yet He regards the lowly, But the haughty He knows from afar.

15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

It's good to remember who the Lord draws near to. He is near to the broken-hearted and the lowly, the contrite and the humble. What a blessing. We need that reminder and often!

- b. What are some practical ways you can remind yourself not to boast or grow proud about yourself or being a Christian?



Pray over the verses above. Memorize them. Tell myself the truth when I am aware of sin. Choose to lower myself in my eyes when I'm tempted to vaunt myself in my thoughts.

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?

We are in Christ!

- a. Who did this for us?

God did!

- b. See Eph. 1:3-12 for one example of what has been done for us. Briefly list what you discover.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

He chose us in Him—before the foundations of the world!

He desired that we would be holy and blameless (such is God's desire for fellowship with His creation that He provided Jesus!).

He adopted us (and actually predestined us to that adoption).

He bestowed His grace upon His freely.

We have redemption.

Forgiveness.

All lavished upon us.

Obtained an inheritance.

All so we would be to the praise of His glory.

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?

I am surrounded by the water. I am in the midst of it.

- a. So, if you're *in* Christ what is true about you?

So, when I am in Christ, I am in the midst of His being and all that He has for me. It's not that I live at the edges of His estate. I am in Him.

- 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.

21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

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:

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

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

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

to be in Christ is to have unity, to know we are loved and wanted, who seek the Lord, given grace in abundance, new creature, life is given!

18. What did Christ become for us according to verse 30?

He became wisdom for us. He is righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

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.

21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Christ's righteousness is applied to us! it's not our own righteousness. That righteousness comes through faith. Faith even comes through the righteousness of God.

- a. Now explain the sanctification we have in Christ. See Rom. 6:19; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 2:10.

19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Sanctification comes on the heels of presenting ourselves as slaves to righteousness. "I am a slave of righteousness. Not a servant, a slave."

Sanctification happens when we crucify the desires of the flesh and mind. God created us for good works.

- b. Finally, explain the redemption we experience in and through Christ. See Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.

23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

We have a future redemption waiting for us and our spirit longs for that day. The Holy Spirit was given as a pledge of our future inheritance and He redeems God's possession. We were redeemed with precious, imperishable blood of Christ who is unblemished and spotless, an acceptable sacrifice.

20. Why is the admonition of verse 31 particularly appropriate after learning the truths of verse 30?

Because there is no way we could pull off any part of our own salvation at one point in time, certainly not in the future, and definitely not today though that is where we get tripped up the most in our thoughts. Our today salvation we tend to think we can help out with. Yikes!

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?

If He initiated when I hated Him, then He will NEVER reject me when I love Him. Because He maintains my salvation, I don't need to fear rejection when I fail and grow weak. Though I am tempted and sin greatly, the Lord Himself holds on to me. It just makes me love Him more to see all that He is doing for me. It softens my heart when I view how tenderly He ministers to me and all His children.

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?

They weren't lacking in any spiritual gifts. They were the A team in some ways, which is why they needed to be reminded of God's good and wise plan in sending Jesus. There was nothing they were bringing to the table. All was because of God's love and mercy poured out on them through Jesus.

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?

Don't boast. For me, don't congratulate yourself on how amazing you are. You are actually one of the things that are *not*. The world didn't choose me and never will, but God chose me. His grace and work of mercy shine best through me.

24. Why is that an important truth for every believer to review often? Because we can subtly begin to think we are something when we are nothing.

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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.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #6, Chapter 2 Overview

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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 2 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 2. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 2. 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).

Paul explains how he came to evangelize and minister to the Corinthians, not with worldly wisdom or relying on his own gifts, but rather preaching the simple gospel message so their faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

- b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 6-13).

Paul acknowledges that though he didn't rely on man's wisdom, he does preach God's wisdom which has been revealed in Jesus Christ. And we come to understand and embrace that wisdom through the Holy Spirit who reveals it to us.

- c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 14-16).

But a natural or unbelieving man can't understand these spiritual truths because he doesn't have the Holy Spirit. But as believers we can understand the things of God because the Holy Spirit reveals God's mind to us.

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.

Paul explains that he relied upon God's wisdom in preaching to them and trusted that God would work in their hearts so they would accept the things of God revealed in Christ.

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.

Verses 4-5! And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Verse 4 only if really pressed. :D

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.

The Holy Spirit reveals God's Wisdom

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).

Vs 1 Paul proclaimed the testimony of God

Vs 9 God has prepared amazing things for those who love Him

Vs 10 God revealed His plan and wisdom through the Holy Spirit

Vs 10 the Holy Spirit searches the depths of God

Vs 11 only the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God

Vs 12 we have received the Holy Spirit who is from God

Vs 12 so that we may know the things freely given to us by God

Vs 14 natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.

Vs 2 Paul determined to only preach Jesus Christ crucified

Vs 8 if man had understood God's wisdom they wouldn't have crucified the Lord of glory

Vs 16 who has known the mind of the Lord to the point that we could instruct Him?

Vs 16 but we have the mind of Christ (through the Holy Spirit)

7. What do you learn about Paul in this chapter? Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

Paul came humbly to them vs 1—not with superiority of speech or of man's wisdom

Paul proclaimed the testimony of God—vs 1

When Paul came to the Corinthians he determined to only preach the gospel and not spend time on arguments and rhetoric vs 2

He came to them in fear and trembling vs 3

His message was in the power of the Holy Spirit vs 4, not in persuasive words or man's wisdom

Vs 6 Paul does speak wisdom—it's just not the kind of wisdom they would expect (see vs 7 for the kind of wisdom he speaks)

Vs 7 Paul speaks God's wisdom [ask the gals what is that hidden wisdom from God?]

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.

Paul didn't come to them with man's wisdom vs 1

Again he didn't preach with persuasive words or [man's] wisdom vs 4

So their faith wouldn't rest on the wisdom of men vs 5 but on God

He did, however, speak God's wisdom among those who are mature vs 6

He spoke God's wisdom in a mystery vs 7

The hidden wisdom vs 7

The wisdom the rulers didn't understand because if they had they wouldn't have crucified Jesus vs 8

Vs 13 we understand things given to us by God, not taught in human wisdom but by the Holy Spirit

9. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

Vs 4 the Holy Spirit gives power to preaching

Vs 10 the Holy Spirit reveals God's mysteries

Vs 10 the Holy Spirit searches all things, even God

Vs 11 no one knows the mind of God except the Holy Spirit

Vs 12 the Holy Spirit is from God and we have received Him

Vs 13 the Holy Spirit teaches us God's wisdom

Vs 14 man does not accept the things of the Holy Spirit of God

10. What do you learn about the mind of God and His thoughts in this chapter?

Vs 11 God's thoughts are known by the Holy Spirit but because we have the Holy Spirit we can know God's thoughts

Vs 14 the natural man can't understand or accept God's thoughts

[implied in the verse is this thought: vs 15 when you are "spiritual" (saved) you can understand God's thoughts]

vs 16 we have the mind of Christ

11. Write down *at least* one thing that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

*Discovering the Treasures of the Word*

The wonder of knowing we can understand God's ways because of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. God allows us to know Him when He imparts His Spirit to a believer at the time of salvation.



## 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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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? He didn't come with superiority of speech or with superior wisdom (manmade). He came only proclaiming the testimony of God about Jesus.
2. What was the focus of his preaching according to verses 1 and 2? To proclaim GOD'S testimony. Paul came preaching God's message. He didn't embellish it or add to it. Paul's testimony was only to proclaim Jesus Christ and Him as the crucified one.  
[That isn't to say he didn't do other kinds of teaching and preaching once they were saved. He also taught very effectively on a variety of issues as the book of 1 Corinthians attests.]
3. Why is this an effective method for evangelism? Because it relies on God for the results. It relies on God to do His work in the heart of an unbeliever. It also shows faith that God's message is enough. It is perfect in all its parts.
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?  
To me, it simplifies things. It keeps it focused on the Lord. It reminds me to trust the Lord too as I am powerless to change a heart. I don't need to be slick or be all boned up on things. I just need to know the gospel.
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?").  
"Well, before I tell you about that and answer that question, you need to understand a few foundational things..."  
"That's a great question and the answer to it starts with a problem that all of us have. We have sinned..."
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).

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.”

30 “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

– Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9; 10:13

10 as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

God created the world and everything in it—and He created man. Everything was great in God's creation until man sinned. One of God's attributes is holiness. God is so holy that He cannot abide anything sinful or wicked in His presence, yet He is also full of love and compassion for mankind and our sin problem. Every single person who ever lived on this earth has this sin problem (except one). Our sin problem means that we deserve death, eternal separation from God even if we only sinned one time. That one sin means that we have earned for ourselves death. But because God is so loving and desires His creation to fellowship with Him. He sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect and holy life and then die, taking the penalty of our sin upon Himself, so that if we, in faith and repentance and trust, look to Him, we can be made righteous, so righteous that we need never fear entering into God's presence. Because of Jesus' substitutionary death, we can enjoy fellowship with God and look forward to the hope of heaven. All it takes is turning to God in faith and turning away from sin and our own independent ways, looking to Jesus for salvation.

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?

He came in weakness and fear and trembling.

8. Acts 16:22-24 and 17:5, 13 record events that took place just prior to Paul arriving in Corinth. What happened?

[THIS HAPPENED IN PHILIPPI (ACTS 15:12)] 22 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. 23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

[THIS TAKES PLACE AT THESSALONICA] 5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

[THIS TAKES PLACE AT BEREIA (ACTS 17:10)] 13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

AND AFTER THOSE EVENTS PAUL CAME TO CORINTH IN ACTS 18:1.

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.

Whatever the reason for Paul's distress he still preached the gospel to them. He didn't sway from his calling. He didn't change his message. He didn't water it down. He still ran at them full-tilt with the gospel.

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.

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. **PAUL PRESSED ON, NO MATTER WHAT HIS CIRCUMSTANCES, IN SPITE OF HIS CIRCUMSTANCES. HE GAVE HIMSELF FREELY AND UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS CALLING INCLUDED SUFFERING.**

9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. **PAUL CAME IN HUMILITY. HE ALSO LEANED HEAVILY UPON THE LORD'S GOOD GRACE.**

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death works in us, but life in you. 13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak, 14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. **PAUL COMPLETELY GOT THE WISDOM OF GOD THAT MAKES WEAK THINGS STRONG. PAUL GOT,**

UNDERSTOOD, AND LIVED IN THE PARADOXES OF THE KINGDOM. HE SAW THAT IT ALL HAD PURPOSE.

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. PAUL REJOICED IN ANY OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE FOR JESUS’ SAKE AND TO PUT HIM ON DISPLAY.

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.

JOSHUA WAS TOLD TO FOCUS ON THE LORD’S WORD, TO THINK ON IT AND MEDITATE ON IT: 6 “Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 “Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

DAVID UNDERSTOOD THAT HE NEEDED TO GO TO GOD IN HIS FEAR AND SORROW AND THEN TO KEEP GOING TO HIM UNTIL HIS HEART WAS BETTER. HE KEPT REMINDING HIMSELF OF WHAT WAS TRUE ABOUT GOD’S CHARACTER: 4 My heart is in anguish within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me. 5 Fear and trembling come upon me, And horror has overwhelmed me. 16 As for me, I shall call upon God, And the LORD will save me.

17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, And He will hear my voice.

22 Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

JEREMIAH WAS REMINDED OF GOD’S NEARNESS AND COMMITMENT TO HIS CHILDREN: 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.” 6 Then I said, “Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, Because I am a youth.” 7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall

speak. 8 “Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD.

AUTHOR OF HEBREWS TOOK COMFORT IN THE LORD’S FAITHFULNESS.

THESE TRUTHS GAVE HIM BOLDNESS NO MATTER WHAT WAS

HAPPENING: 5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,” 6 so that we confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?”

12. How can those same truths help you when you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, unprepared, and weak?

How can they not?!!! How I need those truths all the time! They give strength and hope and right thinking.

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.

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but 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, 28 and 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, 29 so that no man may boast before God. 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

We realize our weakness and run to the One who is strong. The Lord helps us in our weakness. Helps us understand God’s wisdom because we see firsthand that our weakness drives us to Him.

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?

He didn’t rely on persuasive words of wisdom (even if it was good or well-intentioned). He relied on the Holy Spirit’s power.

15. Why did Paul preach to the Corinthians that way according to verse 5?

So their faith wouldn’t rest or rely on man-made wisdom. He wanted them to trust only in the power of God and His Word.



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.

14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. **LYDIA'S STORY REVEALS THAT GOD WAS MOVING HER HEART TO REPENT AND BELIEVE.**

5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. **THE THESSALONIANS ALSO REVEAL THE POWER OF THE Holy Spirit TO TRANSFORM A PERSON'S HEART. I JUST LOVE HOW THE Holy Spirit WORKS IN SOMEONE AND MAKES THEM INTO A COMPLETELY NEW PERSON. NEW DESIRES. NEW FOCUS. NEW SENSITIVITIES. NEW HEART. NEW LOVES.**

17. Why would this be essential for any believer to understand, embrace, and believe?

If we don't believe the Holy Spirit changes us or moves in a person's heart when they hear the gospel, then we won't share with them and we certainly won't expect there to be a changed life.

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.

63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. 64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. 65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; 2 *For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."* 4 *Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. 8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."*

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

*13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,*

FOR ONE THING, BECAUSE GOD SAYS THAT THIS IS THE WAY IT IS. IF SALVATION COMES THROUGH HUMAN WISDOM THEN IT BECOMES A WORK. IT IS NO LONGER SALVATION BY FAITH THROUGH GRACE.

19. How have the truths from this lesson emboldened you to speak about Christ even when you feel weak and fearful?

It makes me relax and trust the Lord who alone has the power to save. That doesn't negate my responsibility to talk with someone and to get the "bomb" out there, but it does just "let the lion out of the cage" to do its work.

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

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.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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?

The world's wisdom is man's wisdom. It does not have any power to save man. The world tries to use persuasive words, relying on themselves to persuade men to believe.

God's wisdom relies on God's power and the work of the Holy Spirit. God does this so our faith would REST on God alone rather than our "helping" Him.

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.

Means full grown, mature, complete, grown up, having reached the end.

20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.

So Paul is saying here in verse 6 that he does speak wisdom among and to the mature in Christ, to those who are grown up in Christ he speaks God's wisdom to them. This group is saved. Paul originally came to them preaching the Word of the Cross, then he came preaching God's wisdom to the mature, to those who had grown up in Christ, the believers.

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.

11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed

to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

Young believers need the basics, the milk of Christian doctrine, while mature believers grow into the meat of the Word. The bigger truths, the weightier things to understand. It's possible for someone to be a Christian for a long time, yet still only be drinking milk. It's also possible for someone to slip back into drinking milk even though they were previously eating meat. That's why the author of Hebrews exhorts his readers to to press on to maturity. Grow up. Grow up. Grow up.

- a. How did the Apostle John describe the need for different levels of teaching in 1 Jn. 2:12-14?

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Little children, the younger in the faith, know the basics of the Christian life—Jesus loves me; He died for me; He will take me to heaven because He washed away my sin. Young men have grown past those basic truths (yet still life changing and heart encouraging truths) to understand more about the Scriptures. The young man stage is one where believers are growing in the Word and their understanding of it. They grow adept at wielding it properly. The Father stage of the Christian life follows that as the truths from God's Word come home to roost. The Word deepens and mellows to a golden hue in the mature believer's heart.

- b. What do you learn about growth in spiritual maturity from 1 Cor. 3:1-3 and 1 Pet. 2:2?

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I 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, 3 for 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? 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

Milk is not bad. Milk just can't be the diet of a Christian for we were made to move on to meat. Sin and adhering to the world's wisdom keeps us in the milk stage when we should be eating meat. If we want to be meat eaters, then the first step is to long for the pure milk of the Word, for that longing for the Word leads us into spiritual maturity!!!!

"The Bible applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit, is "the chief means by which men are built up and strengthened in the faith," after their conversion. It is able to make them pure, to

sanctify them, to train them in righteousness, and to thoroughly equip them for every good work. (Psalm 119:9; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Spirit ordinarily does these things by the written Word; sometimes by the Word read, and sometimes by the Word preached, but seldom, if ever, without the Word." J. C. Ryle, Practical Religion

- c. How do all the passages you've just looked at provide insight into Paul's statement about speaking wisdom to the mature?

The wisdom to the mature comes from God's word. It goes beyond the milk stage and is the means of growth in the life of a believer. God's wisdom to the mature means moving on from the gospel message to the messages of how to live the Christian life, how to seek the Lord, how to understand the weightier and more difficult truths about God and His plan.

4. What do you learn about the hidden wisdom of God from verses 6-9? God's wisdom was an unrevealed mystery that was hidden for the ages, but now has been revealed in Christ. The Jews would never have crucified Christ if they had understood (if they were spiritual men, rather than carnal men) God's plan of salvation for the whole world, not just the Jews, and that it was never about works, but always based on grace through faith so that no man should boast. God planned this mystery before He ever even created the world.

5. Who is God's wisdom *hidden* from?

In verse 8 it is the rulers but ultimately it refers to any one not spiritually born again. See verse 14.

6. What is God's intended purpose for His wisdom (verse 9)?

God has prepared amazing truths and heart changing wisdom for all those who love Him. What treasures await for the believer! It is good for me that I was afflicted so that I might learn your Word. Psalm 119:71

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.

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen. 8 the 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; 9 but 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."

4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; 6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. 8 To

me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, 26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

8. Verse 10 indicates the Holy Spirit revealed something. What was it according to verse 10 and verses 6-9?

God revealed His mysteries according to verse 10. Verses 6-9 the mysteries are the truths of the gospel, God's plan, and His purposes.

9. What dilemma is presented in verse 11?

Who among men knows the thoughts of a man? Only his spirit knows his thoughts.

[WAIT UNTIL NEXT QUESTION! And no one knows God's thoughts except the Holy Spirit. So thankful we can know God's thoughts because we have the Holy Spirit residing in us.]

10. What solution is given in verse 12?

We have received the Holy Spirit who is from God so we can know Him.

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

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.

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? HIS SON AND ALL THINGS

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.  
GRACE!

19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.  
THE SUPPLY OF ALL OUR NEEDS

17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. THE SUPPLY OF ALL THINGS WE NEED AND THAT IS GOOD FOR US TO ENJOY

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. WISDOM

3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

EVERYTHING WE NEED PERTAINING TO LIFE AND GODLINESS

Oh dearest Lord, why do I fear? How can I be anxious in light of Your graciousness to me?

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.

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. THE SPIRIT PRAYS FOR US AND IS OUR ADVOCATE BEFORE THE FATHER AND TURNS OUR PRAYERS INTO ONES THAT LINE UP WITH GOD'S WILL

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. THE SPIRIT GIVES US KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING INTO SPIRITUAL THINGS. INSIGHT INTO SPIRITUAL MATTERS.

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? THE Holy Spirit RESIDES IN US. HE MAKES US INTO A HOLY TEMPLE.

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. THE SPIRIT GIVES UNITY

13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. THE SPIRIT SANCTIFIES US.

24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. THE Holy Spirit ABIDING IN US REVEALS THAT WE BELONG TO THE LORD.

13. How does Paul explain how the Holy Spirit aids him in preaching according to verse 13?

He preaches in words taught by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual insights and helps Paul to preach.

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?

The wisdom and insight that comes through the aid of the Holy Spirit is God given. Verse 14 reminds us that the natural man or unbeliever doesn't understand God's ways or have spiritual insights. The believer though, no matter how long they've walked with the Lord, has more insight than older people who are unbelievers.

15. What do you learn about the *natural* man, also known as an unbeliever in verse 14?

The natural man doesn't accept the things of God.  
The things of God seem foolish to the natural man.  
The natural man can't understand the things of God.  
The natural man isn't able to assess spiritual things.

- 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?

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.

Unbelievers set their minds on the things of the flesh which is death. Unbelievers are hostile toward God. They won't subject themselves to God's law. In fact, they are not even able to do so. Unbelievers cannot please God.

Unbelievers are perishing. The gospel is veiled to unbelievers. The god of the world has blinded their minds so they can't see the light of the gospel.

Unbelievers are from the world. They speak as from the world. The world listens to them. And they listen to the world.

16. What insight does that give you about the differences between an unbeliever and a believer when it comes to understanding spiritual truths?

Radically different! There's just no way an unbeliever can understand the gospel.

17. Define *appraised* (ESV, NKJV, NIV *discerned, judges* [Strong's #350]) as used in verses 14-15.



Examine, question, judge.

I think judge or examine are good synonyms considering the context.

18. How is it possible for a believer to appraise, judge, or discern all things based on Paul's flow of thought from verses 12-15?

Because the Holy Spirit gives insight. The believer is just not even close to the unbeliever. Everything is different for a believer. The Holy Spirit changes everything.

19. Explain how the Old Testament quote of Is. 40:13 in verse 16 helps us understand what Paul meant by the last part of verse 15, *yet he himself is appraised by no man*.

No one can understand the mind of the Lord, except for a believer! Unbelievers have no insight into spiritual things...that's why unbelievers can't judge or examine a believer because they just can't understand spiritual things.

20. What does Paul victoriously declare at the end of verse 16?

We have the mind of Christ! We have insight because of the Holy Spirit who resides in us.

21. Paul stated the truths of verse 16 another way in 1 Thess. 4:8. What point was he making in that passage? How is it similar to Paul's statement in verse 16?

8 So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. If we don't heed the Scriptures, we are actually rejecting God who has given the Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit helps us to judge, examine and appraise spiritual things.

22. Review 1 Cor. 1:10-13, 18-19; 2:1-5, 6-7, 10-11 and explain how Paul's train of thought up to this point can be summed up in his final statement in verse 16.

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

18 For 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. 19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

6 Yet 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; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 10 For 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.

Because of Christ we can have unity through the Holy Spirit who resides in us. In fact, to those who are being saved, there is a willingness and an understanding of God's plan which includes the gospel for salvation. That is why the believer adheres to God's wisdom because it is that Holy Spirit who gives insight into the things of God and His ways. WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST! You can just hear the wonder Paul has for this truth.

23. What do you discover after reading Deut. 29:29; Luke 10:21; Rom.16:25-27; 1 Cor. 2:16; Col. 2:2-3?

29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

21 At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

God's wisdom is hidden from the world but is revealed to His children. Jesus rejoiced that God's ways were hidden from unbelievers, yet made clear to His children. God establishes His children in the truth, His long hidden ways that are made clear to believers. No one can understand God, except His children who can catch a glimpse of His ways. Christ can be known and knowing Christ is the entrance to understanding God.

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

The unknowable One has made Himself knowable to man. No one can really even know another person, let alone the God of the Universe. Yet because of the Holy Spirit residing in us we can know Him. This was a marvel for Paul. And it is humbling and awe inspiring for me to think about. I find it fascinating that God allows us to know Him, that He wants to be known.

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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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).

Paul reminds the Corinthians that when he came to them, he could only give them spiritual milk and laments that even now they are not ready to receive spiritual meat because of their fleshly attitudes towards one another.

- b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 5-9).

Paul reminds them that those who had built into them spiritually were not superstars. God used them and gave them opportunity, but all the notice needs to go to God, not men.

- c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-15).

As a servant of the Lord, Paul desired to build well. He reminded them the truth about every builder's work will be evident in that day when all our works and sins and things done for ourselves will be burnt up.

- d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 16-17).

Men need to labor carefully to build into each believer because we are God's temple, His building, and holy.

- e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 18-23).

He urges them to use wisdom and to be wise. Believers cannot apply or live by worldly wisdom and certainly not revere men in the place of God. All boasting needs to be boasting about the Lord and what He has done.

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.

The Corinthians foolishly squared off over different teachers instead of remembering that God is the One who causes the growth in all and grants power to the teachers. Each teacher's work will be evident on judgment day when all our works will be burnt up. That's why we need to place our hope in the Lord and not men.

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.

Verse 7 or verse 5

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

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

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.

The Lord, the Master Builder

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).

Verse 6 Paul and Apollos labored, but God was causing the growth

Verse 7 the glory of planting and watering goes to God, who causes the growth

Verse 9 Paul and Apollos are God's fellow workers

Verse 9 the Corinthians are God's field, God's building

Verse 10 God gave grace to Paul to build

Verse 16 we are a temple of God

Verse 16 the Spirit of God dwells in us

Verse 17 if the temple of God is destroyed by a man then God will destroy him

Verse 17 the temple of God is holy (we are the temple)

Verse 19 the world's wisdom is foolishness to God

Verse 19 God catches the world in their foolishness

Verse 20 the Lord knows their reasonings are useless

Verse 23 Christ belongs to God

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.

Verse 1 The Corinthians are infants in Christ

Verse 5 the Lord is the One who gave opportunity to grow

Verse 11 Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which all building must take place

Verse 23 the Corinthians belong to Christ

Verse 23 Christ belongs to God

7. What kinds of men are discussed in verses 1-5?

Spiritual men

Men of flesh

Infants

Mere men

servants

8. What do you learn about *building, foundations, and work* in this chapter? Be sure to list the verse references with your answers.

Verse 8 each one will receive a reward for his labors

Verse 9 Paul and Apollos are God's workers

Verse 9 the Corinthians are God's building

Verse 10 by God's grace Paul is building a good foundation, so another can build upon it too

Verse 10 but all builders must be careful how they build upon the foundation

Verse 11 try as they might, no builder can lay a foundation other than Christ. They might try but it won't remain.

Verse 12 builders can use gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw

Verse 13 fire will test the quality of each man's work

Verse 14 whatever remains after the fire will be rewarded

Verse 15 whatever burns won't be rewarded, but the builder will still be saved

9. What do you learn about *temples* in this chapter?

Believers are the temple of God

The Holy Spirit resides in that temple

Therefore believers are holy

Any man who destroys (defiles, causes to stumble) the temple will be destroyed for God's temple is holy and needs to be carefully treated. Oh, woe to the teachers and preachers of this age who do not carefully shepherd the sheep!

10. Write down *at least* one thing that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

Love this chapter. Verses 16-17 are definitely huge and worth thinking on more.

### 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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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.

Unbelievers can't understand God's ways (nor do they want to), but those who know and love Him have His Holy Spirit who gives them insight into spiritual things.

2. What was Paul unable to do with the Corinthians according to 3:1? He couldn't speak to them as spiritual men—as believers! (Imagine that!).
3. Instead, how did he have to deal with them according to verse 1? He had to speak to them as if they were fleshly, or at best, as baby believers.
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?

15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. BELIEVERS HAVE SPIRITUAL INSIGHT AND CAN JUDGE AND UNDERSTAND THINGS BETTER BECAUSE THE Holy Spirit RESIDES IN THEM.

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN BELIEVERS DON'T ACT LIKE THEY SHOULD; THEY HAVEN'T BEEN LIVING UP TO WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT OR BELIEVE.

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. SPIRITUAL MEN HAVE A CHOICE TO WALK BY THE SPIRIT. THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH ARE OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER. THOSE WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT NO LONGER LIVE UNDER THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE LAW, AND THE NEED TO EARN THEIR

OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS. FLESHLY DEEDS ARE EVIDENT. ALL CAN SEE THEM. BUT THOSE WHO ARE SPIRITUAL WILL BE FULL OF LOVE, JOY AND SO ON. LIVE AND WALK BY THE SPIRIT.

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. THE SPIRITUAL SEEK TO RESTORE THOSE CAUGHT IN SIN IN A SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS. ALL THE WHILE CHECKING THEIR OWN HEARTS SO THEY WON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN SIN.

5. How does Paul describe the Corinthians' spiritual state in verses 1 and 2? They are acting like men of flesh—unbelievers. They are definitely acting like babes in Christ. They were so malnourished or stubborn that they wouldn't or couldn't even take in the spiritual milk that Paul tried to impart to them. And that state continued even to the present time when Paul was writing to them.

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.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. MILK IS NOT SOLID FOOD. TEACHERS AND SPIRITUALLY MATURE LIVE ON SOLID FOOD. MILK DRINKERS AREN'T USED TO TAKING IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, EVEN MILK TEACHING IS GOOD AND IS NOURISHING FOR THE SOUL. EVEN MILK TEACHING HELPS US GROW IN SALVATION AND GRACE.

7. Why aren't the Corinthians able to receive solid spiritual food (verse 3)? Because they are still fleshly. They are still acting like unbelievers even though they have been given new life in Jesus Christ. All the strife and jealousy reveal that they are not acting spiritually.

8. What example does Paul give to show their spiritual immaturity in verse 4? See also 1 Cor. 1:10-13.

They divide up into groups and say, "I am of Paul" and "I am of Apollos." There are divisions among them as to their spiritual greatness.

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

9. Paul counters their fleshly mindset with a biblical one. How should they really be thinking about Paul and Apollos according to verse 5? They should be thinking about Paul and Apollos as only servants of the Lord Jesus. They are only doing what they ought to have done! The Lord is the One who gives the opportunity—and the success and failure.

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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)? Paul planted. Apollos watered. Those who plant and water are nothing. It doesn't really matter whether someone plants or waters. They are only servants and therefore one with each other in that way. Both will receive a reward for their labor. Paul and Apollos are God's fellow workers.

God caused the growth. The One who is Something is God who causes the growth in someone. The One that matters is God.

11. How can that information protect you from a critical spirit as you consider those who minister to you each week? God has given different men to minister in the church. We can't despise someone for not being as good as someone else in something when they haven't been gifted to serve that way in the church. Each one serves. But God causes the growth.

12. How can you apply verses 5-9 in regard to your own service at church? Need to be humble about other's service and not expect them to serve like I do. Each one has received a special gift, and each is to employ it in serving others. (1 Peter 4:10-11). It's God who causes the growth. Think of Psalm 127:1-2.

13. Paul now switches word pictures from gardener to builder. List at least 5 observations about verse 10.

Grace was given to Paul.

Grace was given to Paul to aid him in building.

Paul acted like a wise master builder.

Paul laid his foundation wisely (just like a wise master builder does).

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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.

Others are building upon or after what Paul already built or invested in.  
Each builder needs to be careful how he builds.  
It is possible to building wisely or unwisely.

14. What do you learn about the foundation that all wise master builders build upon in verse 11?

Wise master builders can't lay a different foundation. Christ is THE foundation upon which all believers build. This is a must. It is the only place building can take place.

15. How can that be true? See Jn. 14:6 and Acts 4:12.

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

16. Verse 10 ends with the wise counsel that *each man be careful how he builds upon it [the foundation]*. In verses 12-13 Paul explains why that care is necessary—what do you learn?

Because our work will show. Our work matters. There will come a day when our work will be tested by fire.

17. What materials will last and what ones will be burned up from the list in verse 12? Explain what those would look like spiritually speaking. See 1 Cor. 4:5; Col. 2:6-8; 1 Tim. 4:6-8; Titus 1:9-11.

Gold, silver, precious stones will last. Wood, hay, straw will burn up.

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. **OUR MOTIVES AND THOUGHTS OF OUR HEARTS WILL LAST—OR BURN.**

6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. **HOW WE WALK. GRATITUDE. LIVING ACCORDING TO CHRIST. ALL LAST.**

6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. 7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. **NOURISHED ON THE WORDS OF FAITH AND SOUND DOCTRINE**

LAST. WORLDLY FABLES DO NOT LAST. GODLY DISCIPLINES LAST. IT IS PROFITABLE.

9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. 10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. WHEN WE HOLD FAST TO THE FAITHFUL WORD IT LASTS. SOUND DOCTRINE LASTS. REFUTE WISELY LASTS. REBELLION, EMPTY TALKING, DECEIVING DOES NOT LAST. SORDID GAIN DOES NOT LAST.

18. What *day* is Paul referring to in verse 13? See Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 2 Tim. 4:8.

The Day when everything will be revealed is the day of judgment and the day when rewards will be given for all those who love His appearing.

31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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.

Fire will test the quality of our work.

Anything that remains after the fire receives a reward.

Yet, even if nothing remains after the fire, we are still saved and will enjoy eternal fellowship with Jesus and live in God's presence for eternity.

9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

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.

Our judgment won't be one of condemnation because we have been justified by faith through Jesus and therefore have peace with God. No one charges us with guilt because Jesus died for us. The Lord, the Righteous One, will bring all things to light, but for His children, the light is not meant to condemn but to bring commendation and reward. We will receive a reward! How amazing is that?! Because He loves us we can actually have confidence in the day of judgment.

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

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.

8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

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.

He didn't want anything in his life to be a means of giving offense so the ministry wouldn't be discredited. He didn't want anything in his life to have been done in vain.

1 And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— 2 for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"— 3 giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited,

16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

5 For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

22. What kinds of "materials" will stand the test of God's judging of our service to Him?

The ones done for Him. The things done in the power of the Holy Spirit. The things done in love, for His glory, for the good of the Kingdom. The things done in obedience to the Scriptures, with an eye on His priorities. Things done in faith.

23. What are some specific ways *you* can build in God's kingdom so that it will stand the test of fire?

Confess my sin. Seek the Lord with my whole heart. Walk in faith for without faith it is impossible to please Him. Try to obey the Scriptures.

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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**

### **TEACHER'S GUIDE**

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?

Paul ministered to believers by carefully building upon Christ's work of salvation in them. He was always aware of how he needed to build so that it would last.

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?

**WE ALL AS BELIEVERS ARE DESCRIBED AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD.**

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

As fellow citizens and saints we are of God's household and are being built up and grown into the temple of the Lord—His dwelling place.

**WE ARE THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD—HENCE THE COMMENTS ABOUT HIS HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING IN**

3. Who lives in the dwelling according to verse 16?

The Holy Spirit.

Wow!

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.

Ezekiel 36:27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.



John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

God places His Holy Spirit in us who helps us walk in His ways. When we love God and follow him (become believers) He lives in us. An unbeliever can never have the Holy Spirit residing in him. The Holy Spirit who dwells in us is powerful to change us.

5. What do you learn could happen if a man isn't wise in how he builds upon Christ's foundation? See verse 17.

If a man isn't wise (or is actually heretical) in how he builds upon the foundation, then God will destroy him.

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.

2 Corinthians 11:3

3But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

1 Timothy 4:1–5

1But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

2by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

3men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

4For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

5for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

1 Timothy 6:20–21

20O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"—

21which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

Titus 1:10–12

10For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

11who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

12One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

2 Peter 2:1–3

1But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

3and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

2 Peter 2:17

17These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

*Through false teaching, the veering off the path, being led astray by rebellious men, false teachers who are actually unbelievers. Only unbelievers will be destroyed by God. A believer who leads people astray will suffer loss, but an unbeliever will suffer the just punishment for their sins—eternal destruction away from the presence of God.*

7. What kinds of people would do this? See Gal.1:6-8; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; Jude 4, 16-19.

## UNBELIEVERS

Galatians 1:6–8

6I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

7which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

8But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

2 Timothy 3:1–9

1But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

2For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

6For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.

Jude 4

4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude 16–19

16 These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.

17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."

19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

8. What are the consequences of this very unwise kind of building (verse 17)? God will destroy them because God is holy.

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.

1 Corinthians 3:17

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

2 Corinthians 11:15

15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

Jude 10–13

10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.

11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

*They are false teachers hiding in plain sight in the church.*

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?

If you think you're wise according to the wisdom of this age, then you actually need to become foolish—God's foolishness.

11. What issues has Paul been addressing in this chapter that make his counsel in verse 18 vitally important?

The whole division thing, the misunderstanding about God's role in the growth of believers, the work of grace in building on the foundation of Jesus Christ. They need to resist the temptation to take on the world's wisdom or even worldly wisdom in the building of a church or ministry.

12. Why would this godly admonition from verse 18 be significant for church leaders to hear and apply to their hearts and lives?

They need to be reminded to lean on the Lord and not resort to worldly wisdom to get things done in the church or to grow a specific ministry.

13. What do verses 18-23 teach us about one of the ways the world's foolish wisdom shows up in the church?

We use the world's wisdom and try to apply it to church issues—even the boasting about what pastors we have and things like that can make a difference.

14. What does every believer need to remember according to the first part of verse 21?

That we are not to boast in men (or ourselves for that matter).

15. What do other Scriptures have to say about this and why it's a bad idea? See Ps. 20:7; Jer. 9:23-24; 17:5-8; Gal. 5:25-26.

Psalm 20:7

7Some boast in chariots and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God.

Jeremiah 9:23–24

23Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;

24but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:5–8

5Thus says the LORD, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD.

6“For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant.

7“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD.

8“For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit.

Galatians 5:25–26

25If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

26Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. *God actually pronounces a curse on those who put their trust in mankind and boasting in others is one way we do that. We are told not to envy one another which can lead to boasting. It's all so man focused instead of God focused.*

16. Why aren't we to boast in or put our trust in men according to verse 21-23? For all things belong to us through Jesus Christ. There is no need to gather up the scraps of the world and hang on to them when we have all things in the Lord.

17. What kinds of things belong to every believer? See verse 22.  
All things. Amazing!

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.

2 Corinthians 4:5

5For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

Ephesians 4:11–12

11And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

*The leaders of the church are bond-servants for the other believers. They are given to us to build us up.*

b. The world: Matt. 5:5; Rev. 5:10.

Matthew 5:5

5“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Revelation 5:10

10“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

*We shall inherit the earth and reign upon the earth.*

c. Life: Phil. 1:21; 2 Pet. 1:3-4.

Philippians 1:21

21For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

2 Peter 1:3–4

3seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

4For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

*We have Christ in this life and when we die we will see Him face to face. He has given us everything we need to live in a godly manner now.*

d. Death: 1 Cor. 15:54-57; 2 Cor. 5:4.

1 Corinthians 15:54–57

54But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

55“O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”

56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

57but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:4

4For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

*We don't face death or have to fear it any longer. We have victory through Jesus Christ.*

e. Things present: Mark 10:28-31; 1 Tim. 4:8-10.

Mark 10:28–31

28Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You.”

29Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,

30but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

31“*But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.*”

1 Timothy 4:8–10

8for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

9It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.

10For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

*God will never be in debt to us. He will always give to His children. He is our Savior.*

f. Things to come: 2 Tim. 4:8; Titus 2:11-13.

2 Timothy 4:8

8in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Titus 2:11–13

11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

*The crown of righteousness awaits! We look forward to that day when we will see Jesus and never be separated from Him again.*

g. All things: Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 8:28, 32.

Acts 13:38–39

38“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

39and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

Romans 8:28

28And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:32

32He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

*Forgiveness of sins; the working out of all things for good; the giving of all things for our sake.*

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?

Paul started by admonishing them that they weren't living like they ought and then he reminded them of God's purpose for the pastors and teachers in the church. He reflected on how he wants to build with materials that will last the test of fire, while there are some who actually build to destroy God's holy temple. With that in mind we need to remember to boast or put our trust only in the Lord and not in men, for we have everything we need in Christ.

a. How did chapter 2 lead us into 1 Cor. 3:1?

Paul determined to only share Christ with the Corinthians when he first came to them for it is the wisdom of God. In fact, because we have the Holy Spirit we can understand God's wisdom in a way the world cannot comprehend. That leads us to 3:1 where it's odd to see that they aren't living according to God's wisdom, but are actually quarreling with one another according to worldly man's wisdom.

b. How did chapter 1 lead us into 1 Cor. 2:1?

Here we see that Paul delights in the many gifts of the Corinthians, but they aren't living according to those gifts. Instead they are quarreling with one another about their pastors when the focus should be on God. We should only boast in the Lord which leads us into 2:1 where Paul reveals he isn't much to boast in since he came to them in weakness and fear.

20. How would you summarize in a sentence or two this lengthy discussion found so far in 1 Corinthians?

The Corinthians, though saved, were living according to worldly wisdom and not applying God's wisdom in their daily lives. Paul refutes misunderstandings and wrong thinking and endeavors to lift their minds up to the Lord.

21. What kinds of wrong thinking plagued the church at Corinth that needed correcting?

They were enamored with prestige (who baptized who and so on). They hadn't replaced worldly thinking with godly thinking. They weren't understanding the way God does things. They were quarreling with each other rather than remembering who causes the growth in all believers. They were boasting in themselves or their leaders, rather than in God.

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?

The very same way. Not adjusting our thinking to thinking biblically. We need to remember that God has given us different men with different skills and gifts to build into us. They are only part of the process, but the Lord is causing the growth and oversees it.

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?

We need to honor and respect them but not be divided over them. Our response of not showing partiality helps them.

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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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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).

Paul asks that the people remember they are servants and caretakers of God's mysteries. As caretakers they need to be trustworthy. Yet the standard for trustworthiness is not from men but from God who will bring to light the motives of men's hearts.

- b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 6-7).

Now Paul reveals the purpose of his discussion on being servants—to fix the attitudes of superiority that were cropping up among the Corinthians. He tries to level the playing field by reminding them that everything they have has been given to them by God.

- c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 8-13).

Paul reveals the truth about the "glory" of being an apostle that includes no honor, poor clothing, being homeless, persecuted, being treated as the dregs of the earth.

- d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 14-21).

Paul's goal in sharing those things is not to shame the Corinthians but to train them up as a father does his beloved children. He urges them to imitate him, knowing that there are some who are still rebellious toward him and will face the consequences of their attitudes.

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.

Everything in this chapter is geared toward correcting the wrong attitudes the Corinthians have about leaders and the benefits that come with that position. They are aspiring to positions of greatness without understanding the “behind the scenes” truth of being a leader. Paul lovingly corrects but also reminds that if their attitudes aren’t changed there will need to be stiffer consequences.

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.

Verse 6 or verse 14

“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.” (1 Co 4:6)

“I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.” (1 Co 4:14)

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.

Attitudes Changed by Truth

A “Behind the Scenes” Tour of a Leader

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.

Verse 1 Paul and Apollos are stewards of the mysteries of God.

Verse 1 Paul and Apollos want to be regarded as stewards of the mysteries of God.

Verse 1 God has mysteries He has given into the care of the apostles.

Verse 5 praise will come to each man from God

Verse 9 God has exhibited the apostles. God has put them on display.

Verse 20 God’s kingdom does not consist of words

Verse 20 God’s kingdom consists of power

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.

Verse 1 Paul and Apollos are servants of Christ

Verse 4 Christ examines Paul’s motives

Verse 5 the Lord will come and reveal men’s hearts

Verse 10 we are fools for Christ’s sake

Verse 10 the Corinthians are prudent in Christ

Verse 15 you could have countless tutors in Christ

Verse 15 in Christ Paul became their father

Verse 17 Timothy is Paul's beloved and faithful child in the Lord.

Verse 17 Paul's ways are in Christ

Verse 19 if the Lord wills Paul will come to the Corinthians to see who is disobeying

7. What do you learn about Paul in this chapter?

Verse 1 he is a servant

Verse 1 he is a steward of God's mysteries

Verse 3 Paul doesn't try to examine or acquit himself

Verse 4 Paul trusts in God's examination of his life

Verse 6 Paul uses his life as an example to teach the Corinthians

Verse 9 God has put the apostles on display

Verses 10 and 11 they are considered fool's for Christ's sake and do not receive honor.

Verses 11-13 they hungry, thirsty, poorly clothed, roughly treated, homeless, toiling, being reviled, persecuted, slandered, being seen as the scum of the world. He also blesses, endures, and tries to conciliate.

Verse 14 Paul sees himself as their spiritual father

Verse 17 Paul is consistent in his teaching.

Verse 21 Paul is willing to do what it takes to help the Corinthians progress in the faith.

[Oh Lord, am I willing to go to those same lengths? Lord, please help me to love others more than myself.]

8. What do you learn about the apostles from this chapter?

Verse 9 on display

Verse 9 condemned to death

Verse 9 a spectacle

Verse 10 fools

Verse 10 without honor

See above in verses 11-13

9. There are several time references in this chapter. What do you learn in each instance those time references are used?

Verse 5 don't pass judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes

Verse 11 to this present hour both Paul and Apollos were suffering

Verse 19 Paul will come to them soon

10. There are several legal terms used in verses 1-5. List how they're used.

Verse 3 human court—Paul doesn't consider the authority of human courts on par with God's judgment.

Verse 4 acquitted—Paul doesn't consider man's acquittal of his motives as carrying any weight.

Examine in verses 3, 4, 5

Verse 5 passing judgment—don't keep passing judgment on each other and on the apostles. God will judge.

11. Write down at least one thing that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

I'm always touched by the humble state of the apostles in verses 8-13

Verse 20 has such encouragement for the ministry (see also Zechariah 4:6 “Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.” (Zec 4:6)  
Verse 21 as I wrote in question 7

## **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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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. 3:5 is Apollos and Paul; 3:22 adds Peter; 4:9 the apostles. So in 4:1 he is referring to the Apostles and ministry leaders.

2. What does Paul desire for himself and his co-workers according to verse 1? He desires to be regarded as a **servant** of Christ and a **steward** of the mysteries of God.

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.

There was an attitude of competition, of boasting, of not loving each other or seeking the best in others. Servants take the low road. The idea that Paul, their pastor and leader desired to be thought of as a servant would have been eye opening to say the least and convicting to the nth degree.

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. 12 Now 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.” 13 Has Christ been **divided**? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 3 for 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? 4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not mere men? 5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

21 So then let **no one boast in men**. For all things belong to you, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, 23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.



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.

Attendant: 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and *servants* of the word,<sup>20</sup> And He closed the book, gave it back to the *attendant* and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

Helper: 10 “So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy *slaves*; we have done only that which we ought to have done.’”<sup>5</sup> When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their *helper*.

Attendant, helper, servant, and slave all reveal different aspects of the word and what it means.

- a. See what you can find out about the meaning of the Greek word Paul uses here for *servant* (Strong's #5257–*hyperetes*).

An under-rower, an attendant for the king, one who ministers or aids another in the work.

5. What is Paul a *steward* of according to verse 1?  
He is a steward of the mysteries of God.

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.

42 And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? 43 “Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

1 Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions. 2 “And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’”

7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Need to be faithful and sensible steward. A steward oversees the other servants, gives them their rations, faithful. Need to give an account. He is God’s steward. Use gifts as stewards of God’s gracious gifts.

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?

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. 12 Now 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.” 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

To help them see what God desires for His church. To model being a servant. To remind them of what God has called him to do—to be a servant and a steward. It will help others who “aspire” to the role of a pastor.

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.

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; 6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the

gospel, 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, 26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

9. What do you learn about stewards in verse 2? Define that quality.  
Trustworthy. A trustworthy person is someone you can count on. They have integrity. Dependable. Reliable, truthful. Consistent, honorable.

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?

A trustworthy steward of God's mysteries will proclaim those truths faithfully, consistently, constantly, truthfully, without partiality.

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?

This is kind of embarrassing to answer. It sounds boastful. Yet, we are called to be faithful and then we do gain a sense of our faithfulness. We see the results of faithfulness, just like the hard working farmer or the soldier. I've tried to be faithful in developing my gifts of writing and study for the ladies of the church. I pour in hours and hours of study for an hour of teaching. But hopefully it is used for the good of the kingdom and for the Lord's glory.

The need to study and work alone so that I have something to teach and say in public. The problem is not getting overrun with doing too much out of my study for if I do then I won't be faithful with the gifts the Lord has given me.

- a. Based on your past history, would the Lord entrust you with more areas of stewardship today? Why or why not?

Yes. But only because He is gracious and very patient with such a slug.

- 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.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

11 To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

5 Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers;

Confess sin. Be faithful. Walk by faith. Live by faith. Walk in the fruit of the Spirit. Desire to walk in faith. Act faithfully in regard to the brethren.

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?

He says it's a small thing to be examined by people. He knows that God examines his life and motives and that has way more weight.

13. If Paul were to examine his life what would he find according to verse 4? He's not conscious of any fault or sin or weakness or failure, but even then he knows that the Lord is the one who will examine him and may find something in him that needs fixed.

14. What weight does Paul place upon the judgments of men or even his own assessment of himself (verse 4)?

He says he's not acquitted by men's assessment. Oh, what freedom comes if we would just live with that mentality.

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?

I think I place too much emphasis on the approval of man. I know the Lord examines my motives, which gives me comfort and conviction at times, but I think I need to grow in "being okay" with whatever men think and taking more comfort in what the Lord thinks.

16. What command does Paul give at the beginning of verse 5?  
Don't go on passing judgment on each other.

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.

The Lord will bring to light the things that are hidden and the motives of each man's heart.

16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

18 For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.

18. What kind of judgment will believers face? See Rom. 8:1; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:6-10.

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each 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. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 if read alone can make it seem that believers will face judgment also. That's why it's so essential that we have a systematic theology of the whole Bible and a systematic theology on the different doctrines. Taken together we learn that though all men are judged, for believers because Jesus acquits us of our sin, then there is no condemnation. The judgment then is only of our "good" works, the works that were done in righteousness for the Lord's sake.

19. What were the Corinthians guilty of concerning their spiritual leaders according to verses 1-5? See also 1 Cor. 9:3-7.

They were judging their leaders and finding fault with them in verses 1-5. 9:3-7 supplies more examples of how they were being critical and judging their leaders, especially Paul.

3 My defense to those who examine me is this: 4 Do we not have a right to eat and drink? 5 Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? 6 Or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working? 7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

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.

3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. 5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed— God is witness— 6 nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

21. What warnings are contained in this portion of Scripture (verses 1-5) for us today?

Regard leaders properly. Don't judge them as they seek to minister to you. Recognize that God judges each man's heart as He sees all, every deed, every motive, every desire for goodness. Don't keep on passing judgment on others.

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.

It's so easy to judge others when you don't have the opportunity to really know them. Judging from a distance is always easy. Judging motives or the way they're doing things is always easy, until you get into the position and realize all the things they are dealing with and learn of some of the constraints that hold them. 1 Corinthians 3 reminds us that each leader—and each person—has a role to play in the body. No one person can or should do everything. It's not healthy for the body.

5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

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.

If they are seen as servants and not “mega” leaders, then they are just “fellow grunts” like the rest of us. They have a special calling from God as stewards of His mysteries. Since that is the case, then they are constrained by that. It is “required” of them. The Lord is and should be the one to acquit us of our work and motives. Make sure you stop passing judgment. God sees it all. Just know that while you are judging God is judging you. Owie!

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?

I want His praise. His delight. His love constrains me (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). It reins me in and helps my heart motivations to be right. Oh, let my heart seek this from you every day.

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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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.

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

10 According 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. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each 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. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

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.

He described himself as a gardener, as a master builder, and as servants and stewards.

2. Why did Paul write in figurative language according to the first part of verse 6?

He was using it for the good of the Corinthians. He wanted to help them understand what was really going on.

3. What wrong thinking and poor attitudes did Paul desire to correct in the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:6)?

So they wouldn't add to the Scriptures with man-made rules of spirituality or rules for the "office" of preacher. And also so they wouldn't become arrogant towards each other and create further division.

4. Who were the Corinthians supposed to learn from according to verse 6?



They were supposed to learn from Paul and Apollos' example and from the Word that had been preached to them (to learn not to exceed what is written).

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.

12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, **He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"** 13 "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. 14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 **"For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.** 16 "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

17 Brethren, **join in following my example**, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

7 For you yourselves know **how you ought to follow our example**, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; 9 not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.

7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, **imitate their faith.**

Being an example is the tool Jesus used and He particularly wanted His disciples to watch, learn, and apply it. And they did. And then they called others to follow their example of service, love, purity, faith, fidelity to the Scriptures, obedience.

Imitate their faith. My, that speaks to my heart today. Do I have a faith worth imitating? Am I so leaning on the Lord that it spurs someone else on to faith as well?

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.

1 Corinthians 1:12-13 — 12 Now 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." 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Corinthians 2:5 — 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 3:5 — 5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

1 Corinthians 4:1 — 1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

He had already instructed them on how they were to think and respond to one another.

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.

1 Corinthians 9:7–14 — 7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock? 8 I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING.” God is not concerned about oxen, is He? 10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. 11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? 12 If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ. 13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? 14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

Galatians 6:6 — 6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.

1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 — 12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

1 Timothy 5:17–18 — 17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

Pay them and pay them well so they don't have to be caught up in the worries of this world and instead can focus on the spiritual needs of the congregation.

Appreciate them for their diligence and labor. Minister to them in tangible ways.

8. How have you communicated that regard to your pastors and leaders recently?

I need to do this again. I definitely pray for them. But those who labor diligently need to be commended. I need to do this for my Sweety and for Lucas, along with the faithful elders.

9. Why is it important to bless and encourage those who teach and preach God's Word to you?

Because God has called them to this position. And because we are told to do so. It's a matter of obedience. It's a way to honor the Lord. It is a tangible way to minister to a brother in Christ who is called to do a very difficult thing.

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?  
The body of believers and the apostles are the two groups.

Sheep: boastful about what they have received from the Lord; think of themselves as superior; in all actuality they are rich and full of all good things; they are considered prudent, strong, and distinguished.

Apostles: though those last things are also true of them, they are treated as men condemned to death, as last in line and of low importance, a spectacle for the world to gossip and criticize; they are considered fools and weak.

11. Explain how the Corinthians' unhealthy fascination with their spiritual leaders led to pride in the Corinthians.

They took on the honor that should have been given to the apostles and pastors. They thought that they somehow contributed to what the Holy Spirit was doing.

**“The Christians in Corinth wanted the honor that comes from men, not the honor that comes from God. They were trying to “borrow” glory by associating themselves with “great men.” Paul answered, “If you associate with us, you had better be ready for suffering. We apostles are not held in honor—we are despised!”**

**Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 584.**

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.

They were living like rich kings. Because someday we will reign with Christ. The problem is they were already trying to live like the kings they someday would be without the sanctification in place to make that lovely.

2 Timothy 2:11–13 — 11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny

Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Revelation 5:10 — 10 “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

13. How are we supposed to live while still here on earth? See Matt. 20:24-28; 2 Cor. 4:5; Gal. 5:13.

Matthew 20:24–28 — 24 And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

2 Corinthians 4:5 — 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.

Galatians 5:13 — 13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

As servants. As servants. As slaves. As bond-slaves.

14. What important spiritual truths does Paul remind the Corinthians about in verses 7-10?

He reminded them about the truth of the “glorious” life of a servant leader.

a. See also 1 Cor. 1:10, 30-31; 3:9, 21-23.

1 Corinthians 1:10 — 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.

1 Corinthians 1:30–31 — 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

1 Corinthians 3:9 — 9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.

1 Corinthians 3:21–23 — 21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, 23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

No divisions; boast in the Lord; we’re all in this together; none of us are greater than the other.

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?

Thinking we know better how to do someone else's ministry. Often we have no idea what it will take until we step in to do that particular ministry. Better to walk softly.

Thinking critically of others, which is always connected with thinking we are God's gift to the church.

Thinking that if we're noticed by the leaders we must be some kind of wonderful.

16. How can we protect ourselves from this subtle sin of the heart?

John 3:30 is a good place to start: He must increase and I must decrease. To pray for and come along side those who are working hard in the ministry. Just acknowledging their labor is sweet. Most servants love serving. They don't want a vacation or want to quit, they just want someone to notice, to know that their labor has not been in vain.

17. What do we learn about our beloved apostle in verse 11?

They are living without food or water or proper clothing, being roughly treated, homeless. Makes me want to cry to think of Paul being so uncared for. These servants of the Lord being left to themselves and no one looking out for them.

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.

2 Corinthians 6:4–6 — 4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, 5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, 6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, 2 Corinthians 11:23–29 — 23 Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city,

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

dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 **Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.** 29 Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

Philippians 4:10–14 — 10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. 11 **Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.** 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.** 14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.

2 Timothy 3:10–11 — 10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; **what persecutions I endured**, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

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.

Matthew 8:19–20 — 19 Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” 20 Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Luke 6:40 — 40 “A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

2 Corinthians 4:7–12 — 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death works in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 — 7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Timothy 2:3 — 3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.  
 2 Timothy 2:8–10 — 8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.  
 1 Peter 2:19–20 — 19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

To be like Jesus. To be like Jesus. For God's power to be made manifest in our weakness (both 2 Cor. References); it's what believers do; we do it for Jesus' sake and to finish the race (the race is hard and sharp); it pleases the Lord to see our trust and perseverance.

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.

To expose, to put on display. Used of how the gladiators were put on display.

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.

Theater. The place of show. The man is exhibited for show, for amusement. Being made a gazing-stock.

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?

I think he would tell me to quit sniveling and to get busy! He would tell me to excel still more. To run in such a way so that my aim is sure. That my efforts would not be in vain. Give more, serve more, love more because Jesus did. He did it all for me.

23. What encouragement for servant living did you gain from today's lesson? To keep my face in the dust. To not be puffed up. To serve and let me life give God glory.

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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.

## 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



# 1 Corinthians Part One

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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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? He doesn't want to shame the Corinthians. He wants to admonish them.
2. What "things" has he written to them about that could be a source of shame? See 1 Cor. 4:1-13.  
Their attitude toward Paul, their superiority and lack of care toward him and the other pastors. Their desire for riches now without the humility that must undergird it all.
3. Define *admonish* (NKJV and NIV *warn* [Strong's #3560]). Warn, admonish, exhort. Where you train someone through word of mouth and through the Scriptures. In this context the word is used to warn of the consequences of a wrong action.
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.

31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Admonishment is done to brothers in the Lord, for those we care about, with passion, not just when someone is doing something wrong. There's skill involved in admonishing one another well. It is part of what the pastors and elders are to do for the sheep. Admonishing leads to maturity. We can and should admonish

one another with the Scriptures for only they add authority to our words. Admonishment is also for the unruly, but also remember they are our brothers in the Lord.

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?

Shaming someone is punitive. It doesn't come from a place of love. It doesn't desire to see them grow. Paul loved the Corinthians, and though they were messed up, he loved them and desired them to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus.

6. Paul further explains in verse 15 why he sought to admonish the Corinthians as he did. What do you learn?

He is their father in the faith.

7. Explain the difference between a tutor and a father as Paul is using those terms in these verses.

A tutor may teach, but a father will impart themselves to their children and will do whatever is necessary for their good. A tutor may or may not be emotionally attached to their students. There's a difference between a "student" and "your child." A tutor will eventually send you off, but a father will always be around for his children.

8. What characteristics of a father do you discover from verses 14-21? A father admonishes but does not desire to shame his children. A father loves his children. Tutors can be a dime a dozen but fathers—true fathers—are rare. A father sends his very best (Timothy here) to care for his children if he can't be there. A father does what is best for his children, whether it is the rod or gentle admonition.

9. As a spiritual father, what does Paul encourage the Corinthians to do according to verse 16?

He urges them to be imitators of him.

10. What does Paul's exhortation to "imitate me" prompt him to do? Why? See verse 17.

After he says, imitate me, then he says that he is sending Timothy to them, who is also a copy of his spiritual father. If they want to imitate Paul, then they can watch Timothy. What a legacy! What a faithful imparting of Paul's soul and goals and life into Timothy.

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.

1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. 2 Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.

32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

Anyone we imitate needs to first be imitating Christ. Imitators remember and hold firmly to the things they are following. We imitate God in forgiving others because He has forgiven us. Imitators aren't sluggish in the faith. Imitate those who lead you, who speak the Word of God to you, whose faith is worth imitating.

12. What are some ways you have imitated others? And how have those examples produced good qualities in your life?

I've imitated my friend, Kris Goertzen. Her zeal and untiring service is a great example, and her words echo in my head as I try to respond with the same positive and grateful spirit. I've imitated Karen Busenitz in being steady and continuing to pour over the Word. I've imitated Ronnie Eichstaedt's example of enthusiastic, grateful leadership.

13. What comes to your mind when you think about someone else imitating you? I want to explain things. I feel lazy. It makes me wonder what they see. I think it makes you feel a bit naked to think of others watching your life.

14. What is happening with some of Paul's spiritual children according to verse 18?

Some of them had grown arrogant and proud against Paul. They weren't teachable and certainly not allowing him to teach them. They wanted someone else.

15. Define *arrogant* (NKJV *puffed up* [Strong's #5448]).

To make proud. To be puffed up. Think too highly of themselves.

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.

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

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

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

When we're arrogant we don't mourn over our sin. Knowledge without love makes us arrogant. Love is not not even close to being arrogant. Inflated in mind is arrogant.

17. What will happen when Paul comes to check on the church at Corinth? See verse 19.

He will come soon, and he plans to find out if their words are empty or if they have power behind them.

18. What issue is revealing this arrogant and rebellious spirit in some of the Corinthians? See 1 Cor. 4:6, 17; 5:2, 6, 13.

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.

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.

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

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

13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

They are mishandling the Scriptures by adding to it—in their pride. They need to be reminded of Paul's ways cuz they weren't following him at that point. They haven't been obedient...because of their pride in thinking they knew what was better about the sinning brother. They were boasting, little realizing how that pride affects others.

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.

God's kingdom has power. Oh, praise the Lord for that!!!

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.<sup>4</sup> and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

The gospel has power. The Holy Spirit gives power to the Word and to work in the hearts of men. May that power be evident and at work in my life, my words, and the ministry God has entrusted to me. And may I not do anything to impede His power.

20. Explain how 2 Cor. 10:7-11; 11:12-15 helps clarify what Paul means in 1 Cor. 4:19-20.

7 You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. 8 For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame, 9 for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters. 10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible." 11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present.

12 But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

He explains the words versus power thing in 2 Cor. 10. 2 Cor. 11 explains how the troublemakers get their "power" which really has no power. God sees and judges all. Words are just words unless God backs them up. Because the troublemakers were doing things in the flesh they had no power in their lives.

21. The Corinthians' spiritual father has some training to do in his children. What situation is Paul hoping to curtail according to verse 21?

A spanking. :D

He hopes that he won't have to come there to discipline them ("Do you want me to come in there?"), but he will if necessary. This is the endearing heart of the apostle. He loves the Corinthians enough (so much) that he will not allow them to continue in their foolishness.

22. How will the Corinthians' response determine how Paul comes to them? If they remain arrogant and unrepentant then he will come with a "rod." He didn't really beat them, but he did come to enforce discipline. If they repent, then he can continue with love and gentleness toward them.

23. What parenting and/or counseling principles for dealing with wayward people can you extract from verses 14-21?

When counseling/parenting we want to admonish, not shame.

Love must be the motivation and undergirding of our counseling and parenting.

Must be ready to save "imitate me." If we can't say that, then we need to make changes. Kids are going to imitate us anyway—for good or for ill.

We've done our job well when our kids or disciples can be sent out and entrusted to represent us well and accurately.

Sometimes in parenting and counseling we have a tough nut to crack, so we need to investigate to find out the facts about their "rebellion."

Giving them time to respond in humility. Reminding them it is a choice between repentance and rebellion.

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?

Definitely. Too often, I act on my own rather than leaning on the Lord, relying on His strength.

a. Is there any area of your life in which the words of verse 21 can be applied?

I don't think so....at least, not today.

b. If so, what must take place in our hearts and lives if we are to live power-filled, God honoring lives?

Assessment, repentance, reliance, willingness to do whatever it takes to be right with the Lord.

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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.

“God's kingdom is not simply good advice. It is not in word, 'for how small an affair is it for anyone to have skill to prate eloquently, while he has nothing but empty tinkling' (Calvin).”<sup>2</sup>

For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God. ~ 2 Corinthians 2:17

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<sup>2</sup> Leon Morris, *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians: Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1958), pg. 85.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #16, Chapter 5 Overview

### **TEACHER'S GUIDE**

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 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 1-2).

Paul has heard that the Corinthians have allowed someone to stay in their midst who is in unrepentant sin (a man is sleeping with his stepmother). The Corinthians aren't sorrowing over this sin and have allowed it to remain.

- b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 3-5).

Paul tells them that he has judged the situation, even though he is absent in body, he is present with them in spirit. He has judged that it is best, wisest, and most obedient to remove the wicked man from the rest of the body. It is hopeful that his removal from the body will be the means to save his soul and bring him to repentance.

- c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 6-8).

The Corinthians were boasting about their "tolerance" of this man's sin. They didn't realize the danger it was placing upon their own souls. Paul uses a word picture of the Passover and unleavened bread to help them understand why they cannot and should not tolerate unrepentant sin in their midst.

- d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 9-13).

Paul clarifies that when he said "don't associate with immoral men" he didn't mean with unbelievers outside the church. He meant don't associate with so called believers inside the church who practice immorality in unrepentant sin. Believers don't need to judge unbelievers, but we are called to judge a brother within our midst.



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.

The main point of the chapter is to convince the Corinthians to repent of their “tolerance” of the man’s sin and to discipline him as they should have. Their toleration of his sin put their own souls in danger.

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.

I chose verse 6 because I felt that it dealt with the toleration and pride issues of the Corinthians as well as how it put them in danger by not dealing with the sin in their midst.

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.

The Dangers of Toleration. *Judging Sin in the Church.*

5. What do you learn about God in this chapter?

It comes all the way at the end of the chapter where we learn in verse 13 that God judges those who are outside the church (unbelievers).

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.

Verse 4—in the name of the Lord Jesus do something, which is not answered until verse 5.

Verse 4—Paul is with them in spirit by the power of the Lord Jesus.

Verse 5—the day of the Lord Jesus (when the sinning one’s soul will be made right and be fully redeemed and sanctified).

Verse 7—Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Christ is our Passover lamb. He has already been sacrificed.

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.

Verse 1—there is immorality among them

Verse 1—and that immorality is of such a nature that even the gentiles don’t engage in it!

Verse 1—the immorality is defined—someone has his father’s wife (sleeping with stepmother).

Verse 9—Paul concedes that he told them not to associate with immoral people (see verse 10 for the clarification).

Verse 10—Paul explains what he meant. He didn’t mean the immoral people of this world because if you quit associating with them, then you would have to leave this world.

Verse 11—Paul explains he meant don’t associate with any so-called brother who is immoral. In fact, don’t even eat with them.

8. What observations can you make about *leaven* and how it's used in this chapter?

Verse 6—a little leaven leavens a whole lump of dough. Just a little bit spreads. Leaven leavens in that it fills, inhabits, spreads.

Verse 7—believers are told to clean out old leaven (just like the Israelites were to do before the feast of Passover in clearing out all leaven from their dwellings).

Verse 7—as believers clear out the old leaven, it helps us be that new lump of unleavened bread consecrated unto the Lord.

Verse 8—told to celebrate the “feast” (used metaphorically here), not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness.

Verse 8—told to celebrate the “feast” with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

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.

Verse 6—a little leaven affects the whole lump of dough

Verse 7—we're told to be a new lump [of dough] which is unleavened

Verse 8—tells us what that unleavened bread is like—full of sincerity and truth

10. What terms are used to describe *believers* in this chapter?

Verse 7—new lump, unleavened bread

Verse 11—brother

Verse 12—church

11. What terms are used to describe *unbelievers*?

Verse 1—Gentiles

Verse 7—old leaven (possibly)

Verse 10—immoral people of this world, covetous, swindlers, idolaters

Verse 12—outsiders

Verse 13—wicked man

12. Write down at least one thing that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

The imagery of the unleavened bread, celebrating the feast, being a new lump, verses 6-8.

## 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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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.

Paul is being such a father to them! Paul lovingly encourages, exhorts and admonishes the Corinthians to do what is right about the sinning brother. He is so concerned about this that he is sending Timothy to them, which is as good as if he went himself. He asks them if they want him to come gently or with the rod when he finally does make it there to see them.

2. What is reported about the Corinthian church according to chapter 5 verse 1? It is reported that there is immorality among them, that is so bad that even the Gentiles don't engage in it. Someone is sleeping with his father's wife!

3. What terms or phrases does Paul use in verse one to communicate his surprise and indignation about their current spiritual state?

It is actually reported!

Of such a kind that does not even exist among the Gentiles!

Among you!

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.

8 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; *it is your father's nakedness.*

11 'If there is a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

30 "A man shall not take his father's wife so that he will not uncover his father's skirt.

20 'Cursed is he who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's skirt.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

- a. What is the difference between Lev. 18:7 and Lev. 18:8?

7 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness.

8 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.

Verse 8 makes a distinction from the woman being the son's mother in verse 7 to his father's wife in verse 8.

- b. For some examples of this abhorrent sin, see Gen. 35:22; 49:4 and 2 Sam. 16:21-22.

22 It came about while Israel was dwelling in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine, and Israel heard of it. Now there were twelve sons of Jacob—

4 “Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it—he went up to my couch.

21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself odious to your father. The hands of all who are with you will also be strengthened.” 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

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?

It's awful. Awful! It grieves the Lord and tarnishes our reputation in the world. What is with the church that we call things good or okay, that even the world is shocked about? Our desire for acceptance and to appear loving drives a lot of this I think. I think Christians believe it is the way to evangelize the lost—to accept their sin. Yet, that reasoning is contrary to the Lord's ways.

6. It's quite possible that the man's father was still alive according to 2 Cor. 7:12. In 2 Cor. 7:5-12 Paul explains how greatly he feared confronting them about this sin and what their response might be. Verse 12 explains Paul's desired result in his confrontation of the sin. So, with that in mind, what do you learn from verse 12 that would lend credence to the idea that the man married his father's wife while his father was still alive?

Verse 12 talks about the one offended which could be the young man's father.

5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within. 6 But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus; 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more. 8 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while— 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter. 12 So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.

Whoa! Not sure why I spent so much time on this. Seems the man's father was alive. Okay. I guess that makes it worse.

7. 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?

They were arrogant. They hadn't mourned their sin. They didn't remove the sinning man from their midst.

- a. What did their pride cause them to do?

Allowed them to tolerate and minimize the sin.

- 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.

15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. 17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

11 But 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.

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." 34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

8. Read Rev. 2:20-22 to discover what the Lord thinks when we don't deal with sin among believers. What did you discover?

20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

Jesus is opposed to this toleration of sin. He will act and move against sin.

9. What was Paul's response to the man in sin? See verse 3.

3 For 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.

10. 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?

When they assemble together they are to deliver the sinning brother over to Satan, that is, they are to discipline him out of the church and allow him to function in the world, Satan's realm.

11. 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.

15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. 17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

12. 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.

27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

He means that he would be disciplined and experience the consequences of living without the blessings of the body of Christ.

13. 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.

14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, *so that he will be put to shame*. 15 *Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother*.

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for *He cannot deny Himself*.

22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23 *save others, snatching them out of the fire*; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

If he is a true brother, then no matter what sin he commits, he will still get to heaven, but it will be "through fire."



14. Apparently the Corinthians were boasting about this “situation” according to verse 6. What are some possible reasons they might conjure up to boast about?

That they were tolerant of sin. That they were more loving than Paul was. That they had all knowledge and knew what was best.

15. What does Paul think about their boasting (verse 6)? Why? He says it’s not good! Because a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.

16. What is leaven? Explain how it works.

Leaven is yeast. It’s a leavening agent that though little causes a whole lump of dough to be affected by it. It is far-reaching.

17. In verses 7-8 Paul uses Old Testament references to make his point. What Old Testament feast does he allude to in these verses?

The Passover.

18. What were the Israelites supposed to do about leaven in preparation for this feast? See Ex. 12:15, 39; Deut. 16:3.

15 ‘Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall *remove leaven from your houses*; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

39 They baked the dough which they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of unleavened bread. For it had not become leavened, since they were driven out of Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

3 “*You shall not eat leavened bread with it*; seven days you shall eat with it unleavened bread, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), *so that you may remember all the days of your life the day when you came out of the land of Egypt.*

19. What is the connection between the Passover and Jesus Christ? See Ex. 12:1-13; Jn. 1:29; Heb. 9:13-14.

1 Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 “This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. 3 “Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers’ households, a lamb for each household. 4 ‘Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb. 5 ‘Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 ‘You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. 7 ‘Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 ‘They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9 ‘Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails. 10 ‘And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. 11 ‘Now you shall eat it in

this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD'S Passover. 12 'For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD. 13 'The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; *and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

*29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 *how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Jesus is the living embodiment of what the feast of Passover symbolized. It is His blood that passes over our sin.

20. What leaven do we need to make sure is cleaned out of our hearts and lives (verse 8)?

The old leaven of malice and wickedness.

a. What kind of "bread" should we have in our homes and lives?

Sincerity and truth.

21. 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.

There must be holiness in their lives. They must get rid of the sin and old ways of doing things and begin to walk in holiness (sincerity and truth).

22. 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.

1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

23. 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?

Just being reminded of the things that are odious and should be shocking to us is good to see.

Good to be reminded of the far-reaching effects of sin and how much it affects us.

“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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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.

The first part of the chapter Paul reproves the Corinthians for tolerating a professing believer's sin within the church. They don't see that their toleration of the sin can have repercussions for their spiritual lives too. Paul urges them to deal with the sinning man by removing him from fellowship with the church.

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.

The letters of Corinthians. There was the first letter that is now lost. First Corinthians is actually the second letter to the church [see 1 Cor. 7:1]. Then in between First and Second Corinthians there was another letter [the "Sorrowful" letter 2 Cor. 2:1-11; 7:8]. Then finally, Second Corinthians is the fourth letter to the church.

3. What did Paul write in his earlier letter to the Corinthians according to verse 9?

He did not tell them they couldn't associate with the immoral people of the world. Obviously, there was some confusion about what he was telling them or they were perversely obtuse on purpose.

4. How does this new topic fit in with what Paul has already been discussing in verses 1-8?

Fits perfectly, since they needed to deal with a sinning, professing believer, not a sinning unbeliever. They needed to not associate with the sinning, professing believer because his sin was a corrupting influence.

5. Define *associate* (NKJV *keep company* [Strong's #4874]). See 2 Thess. 3:14 where it's also used.

To keep company with, to be intimate with, to mingle with.

14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.

6. Define *immoral* [Strong's #4205]. Also see what you learn from it's use in Eph. 5:5 and Rev. 21:8.

A fornicator

5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

8 “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

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?

He lists other kinds of sins so they can see how their idea of not associating with those in the world is silly. How do you know? And how do you draw the line? He reminds them they would have to leave the world if they had to withdraw from associating with sinners.

8. What's another name for “people of this world?” See also 1 Jn. 4:5 and 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2.

5 They are from the world; therefore, they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.  
4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

They are unbelievers who are still blinded by the god of this world. They walk in darkness.

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.

Eager to have more, especially of what belongs to someone else!!!

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

5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or *covetous* man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

14 Now the Pharisees, who were *lovers of money*, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him.

2 For men will be lovers of self, *lovers of money*, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

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.

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that *He would depart out of this world to the Father*, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

12 For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, *he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof*, fearing the party of the circumcision.

They would have to depart and either go into a commune/monastic type situation or they would need to literally leave the world and go to heaven.

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.

14 “*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;* 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 “*Let your light shine before men* in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

8 for you were formerly darkness, *but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light* 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God *above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation*, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles*, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Believers are called to live among, in the midst of, to shine, to be an example, to be a light.

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?

We're not to associate with an so-called brother who remains in unrepentant sin. We're not to associate with an immoral or covetous or idolator or reviler or drunkard or swindler who is a so-called brother.

Don't even eat with them.

“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.

Their continued immorality or coveting or idolatry or reviling or drunkenness or swindling.

15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 “*You will know them by their fruits.* Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 “So then, you will know them by their fruits.

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

8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 *For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.* 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

4 *The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.* By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

14. Apparently the Corinthians thought Paul told them not to associate with "sinners." What did this misunderstanding prompt them to do? See verse 12. They were judging those outside the church. Paul is amazed at this.

15. Why shouldn't believers spend time judging unbelievers? See verse 13a and Heb. 10:30-31; 1 Pet. 4:17.

God judges those outside the church—at the final day, the day of judgment.

30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

16. Who are we permitted to judge according to verse 12? Those who are within the church.

17. What is the purpose of a believer judging another believer? See verse 13. To remove the wicked man from among the believers. Goes back to Paul's earlier discussion about the leaven leavening the whole lump of dough.

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.

REBUKE. 5 Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

CONFRONT SIN. 15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

REBUKE FOR SIN AND THEN FORGIVE. 3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

RESTORE. 1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

DON'T PARTICIPATE, BUT EXPOSE. SHUN IF REMAINS UNREPENTANT. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

REJECT A FACTIOUS MAN. 10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, 11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

TURN HIM BACK. 19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

WIN HUSBAND WITHOUT A WORD. 1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

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.

11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

The context of James 4 is not dealing with an unrepentant professing brother. This has to do with quarrels within the body between brothers and sisters who just get tweaked and need to repent but aren't hardhearted about it.

20. Summarize what you've learned in this lesson about *unbelievers* and how we should respond to them.

We don't avoid unbelievers though we don't enter into their sins. We don't shun them or avoid them.

21. Summarize what you've learned in this lesson about *so-called brothers* and how we should respond to them.

So-called brothers in Christ who don't repent of sin should be avoided. They should be called to repentance and if they don't repent then they should be removed from the fellowship of the saints. BECAUSE their continued sin will affect the whole body of believers.

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?

Holiness balanced with love means my love for God [my obedience] motivates me dealing with my sinning brother or sister. I think love my brethren in this is harder for me to apply because I have to confront sin and move into "conflict." Though since these two qualities are Siamese twins it's hard to choose one over another.

Ways I can grow in this area? Trust God that His Word is best and choose to obey Him by lovingly calling my brethren in sin to repentance.

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).

40 Let us examine and probe our ways, And let us return to the LORD.

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

We need to attend to our own hearts first. Oh my, don't we ever.

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #19, Chapter 6 Overview

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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).

Paul now tackles the issue of believers suing each other. The shame of those events is unbelievable to Paul. He reminds them that believers will one day rule and judge so to learn to judge in disputes now between believers is better than airing the church's dirty laundry before unbelievers.

- b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 7-8).

Paul then appeals to a higher law and asks them to consider being wronged for the sake of their testimony and God's glory.

- c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 9-11).

The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God, and though they were those things formerly, now they are sanctified and made holy.

- d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 12-20).

Keying off the lawcourts idea, Paul introduces what is lawful (allowed) though it may not necessarily be the best (profitable). Certain things may be lawful, but it is never lawful to sin. We need to remember we've been bought with a price and should glorify God with our bodies.

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.

This chapter is about learning to discern the difference between liberties versus sin. It's about learning to take the high road and to say no to the flesh.

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.

Vs. 12 because it talks about the liberties and the discernment issues.

Vs. 8 is good because it discusses the outrage [might be too strong of a word, but still the idea of being shocked] we should have at sinning against one another. But I think verse 12 is better.

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.

The Higher Road in All Things

5. What do you learn about God in this chapter?

Verse 9 the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God

Verse 10 the list of those who will not inherit the kingdom of God

[we learn God has a kingdom and there are those who will enter and those who will not be able to enter]

verse 11 some were washed, sanctified, justified in the spirit of our God

verse 13 food is for the stomach and stomach is for food, but God will do away with both

verse 14 God raised the Lord

verse 14 God will raise us through His power

verse 19 we have the Holy Spirit who is from God

verse 20 glorify God with your body

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.

Verse 11 you were washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus

Verse 13 the body is not for immorality but for the Lord

Verse 13 just as the Lord is for the body

Verse 14 God raised the Lord

Verse 15 we are members with Christ

Verse 15 should not take our members which are of Christ and join them with a harlot

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

7. Record what you learn about the Holy Spirit in this chapter.

Verse 11 we are washed, sanctified, and justified in the spirit of the God

Verse 19 body is temple of the Holy Spirit

Verse 19 Holy Spirit is in you

8. The word *judge* is used frequently in this chapter. List what you learn along with the verse references.

Verse 2 saints will judge the world

Verse 2 if the world is to be judged by you, then you should be competent to judge now

Verse 3 we will judge angels

Verse 3 implied then how much more important that we judge matters of this life

Verse 4 do you appoint as judges those who are of no account in the church (unbelievers)

9. The terms *brother* and *brethren* both refer to believers. Record what you learn each time those terms are used in this chapter.

Verse 5 surely there is one man who can decide issues between brethren

Verse 6 shameful that brother would go to court against brother

Verse 8 you wrong and defraud your brethren

10. List what you learn each time the word *body* is used. Be sure to include the verse references.

Verse 13 body not for immorality

Verse 13 Lord is for the body

Verse 15 bodies are members of Christ

Verse 16 join with prostitute is one body with her

Verse 18 every other sin is committed outside the body

Verse 18 but immoral man sins against his own body

Verse 19 body is temple of Holy Spirit

Verse 20 glorify God with your body

11. Write down *at least one thing* that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

The Lord is for the body from verse 13

And the pleas from Paul to take the higher road in dealing with each other when there are disputes.

## 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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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?  
The Corinthians were suing each other and then in their disputes, they would go to the secular law courts to get a decision.
2. Explain how 1 Cor. 5:9-13 connects with chapter 6 verse 1.  
It continues with the theme of judging believers and their behavior within the church. That's why 6:1 is so shocking to Paul. Unbelievers and believers are so radically different that to have an unbeliever, who does not have the Spirit or wisdom from God, judging matters of believers is so shocking.
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?  
"Does any one of you?" "Dare"  
Because unbelievers are still subject to Satan and His ways. They CANNOT please God. They have no insight into spiritual matters. Then to ask an unbeliever to arbitrate matters between two people who are (or at least should be) motivated by the commandments: Love God and Love your Neighbor, is ludicrous.
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?  
See verses 6 and 9 for help. ADD VERSE 8  
Brother and unbelievers; unrighteous [fornicators, idolators, adulterers, effeminate, homosexuals...]; brethren (verse 8)
5. What information is added in verse 2 that gives weight to Paul's concern over these practices?  
The amazing truth that saints will one day judge the world. For that reason it's crazy to give over matters of the church over to the judgment of unbelievers.
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.  
22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. ONE DAY THE SAINTS WILL POSSESS GOD'S KINGDOM  
22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, JUDGMENT COMES FROM THE SON

26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father. THE SON GIVES AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS (FROM ABOVE WE CAN SAY ALL JUDGMENT COMES FROM THE SON, AND THEN HE GIVES IT TO US).

21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. SAINTS WILL SIT ON JESUS' JUDGMENT THRONE WITH HIM—AMAZING!

4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. THEY (THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW WHO) WERE GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF JUDGING.

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?*

Of course you are! It implies that they already possess everything they need for their future job of ruling and reigning in God's kingdom.

8. Who else are we going to judge according to verse 3?  
We will judge angels!

9. What impact should that have upon our lives according to verse 3?  
If we have the privilege and responsibility of judging angels then we surely can take care of things here on earth now.

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?

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

We will judge the wicked angels who rebelled against God. (verse 4...reserved for judgment and kept...for the judgment of the great day). So good to know we will be holy then as we rule and reign with Christ.

11. To further persuade believers from taking each other to court, what is Paul's next line of reasoning according to verse 4?

Unbelievers are of "no account" in the church. They have no place and no say in these matters.

12. Why should we consider these circumstances as shameful as Paul does according to verses 4-6?



It is shameful to take the unresolved differences and ungodly disputes before the very ones we are seeking to win to Christ by our godly light!

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.

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

24 For “THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU,” just as it is written.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

Because we are brothers in Christ, because it gives unbelievers a cause for blasphemy, because we are to be above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

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.

“Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?” Paul’s mindset is that the greater goal of winning unbelievers to Christ and being holy and wholly following Jesus’ example should be enough to swallow our pride and offenses and give way to another believer.

12 *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles*, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, *they may because of your good deeds*, as they observe them, *glorify God* in the day of visitation.

19 For this finds favor, *if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly*. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? *But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.*

15. Beyond even taking other believers to court, what does Paul reveal is the even worse state of the Corinthian believers in verse 8?

That they themselves defraud and do wrong to other believers. It’s not that someone else is doing it to them; it’s that they are doing it to others!

16. What is the connection between *doing wrong* and *defrauding* fellow believers and verses 9-10?

If you continue to act in such a godly way, it could be that you are not really saved for the unrighteous and ungodly will not inherit God’s kingdom. Drunkards, revilers, swindlers...

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.

That they might not be saved, no matter how much they profess Christ.

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted

to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 *For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.* 10 *Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;* 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

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?

Some of you were the unrighteous; the swindlers, the fornicators, etc, but that is you no longer.

17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. **YOU WERE SLAVES OF SIN, BUT NOW YOU ARE FREED FROM SIN AND SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. **NEW CREATURE. THE OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY.**

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **WE WERE DEAD IN SINS; WE ALL FORMERLY LIVED IN THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH; IT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW.**

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light **YOU WERE IN DARKNESS BUT NOW YOU ARE LIGHT IN THE LORD**

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. **CONSIDER YOURSELF DEAD TO SIN. YOU ONCE WALKED THAT WAY, BUT NOW NO LONGER DO YOU DO SO.**

19. Why is that a significant point in his pleading for believers to quit engaging in these sinful behaviors?

It's significant because the continued wrangling, bitterness, and unforgiveness here are all vestiges of the old life. They have been called and saved to a new life and a new way of doing things—the old things have passed away.

20. What does Paul mean when he says we were washed [Strong's #628]? See also Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10:22.

The Greek middle voice indicates, "You have had yourself washed". He means you are clean now. No longer living in the filth and the mire.

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,  
22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- a. What does it mean to be *sanctified* [Strong's #37]? See also Rom. 6:22; 15:16; 2 Tim. 2:21.

To be set apart as holy, to be made clean from sin. Clean things are then set apart for God to use.  
22 But now having been *freed from sin* and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, *sanctified* by the Holy Spirit.

21 Therefore, if anyone *cleanses* himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

- b. What does it mean to be *justified* [Strong's #1344]? See also Gal. 2:16; Titus 3:7.

To be declared righteous by God through our faith in Jesus Christ

16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not *justified* by the works of the Law but *through faith in Christ Jesus*, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

JUSTIFICATION COMES THROUGH OUR FAITH IN JESUS.

7 so that *being justified by His grace* we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.  
BEING JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE RESULTS IN BEING MADE HEIRS

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?

Even after becoming Christians the wickedness and selfishness of the world was still with them and they carried it into their dealings in the church. They hadn't grown out of their old ways and still thought the old ways helped or had value.

They also didn't see that the "family" wranglings were an ungodly witness before an unsaved world. For Paul, whose life was devoted to winning the lost, this was especially distressing.

We need to think about our witness more! What does it look like to unbelievers when there are church splits and fights among believers?!!

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?

We need to consider the watching and unbelieving world. We need to think how our persistence in fighting for our rights looks to them—does it show them Christ?

It should motivate us to fix things with them. No matter what, we can forgive and extend grace.

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?

We need to judge matters within the church because of the dire consequences of allowing sin to remain within the church. The Word, the Holy Spirit, and our transformed lives and hearts should grant us courage in judging the matters of the church. In fact, we are commanded to do so.

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

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

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.

# **1 Corinthians Part One**

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

### **TEACHER'S GUIDE**

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.

Paul begins by addressing the sin they are allowing to continue in the church. He gives his judgment of the situation—get the sinning man out of the church. Then he addresses their attitude, that they are actually boasting about their tolerance and love toward the man. Paul reminds them of the danger of allowing sin to remain (5:6-8). Then he clarifies how they are to deal with the man and any other “sinners” within the church. In keeping with the theme of judging sin within the church, chapter 6 begins with Paul rebuking them for going to unbelievers to mediate their disputes. If we are going to judge angels one day, surely we have God’s wisdom to judge matters among believers. Then he addresses their heart attitudes, that they are actually defrauding and doing wrong to each other—to believers! He reminds them of God’s plan for mankind and that they have been rescued from unrighteousness.

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?

They thought it was okay to defraud and wrong other believers. They thought it was okay to ask unbelievers to judge their disputes (most likely because they were “non-spiritual” disputes). They thought they were being godly in tolerating the sinning man’s sin within the church. They weren’t considering God at all in their decisions—would this please the Lord? Is this what the Lord would have us do? They continued to live as unbelievers, rather than remembering Christ’s sacrifice on their behalf.

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?

They needed the wake-up call of what it means to be a Christian. Immorality has grave consequences. A believer’s immorality involves the Lord and brings Him into the sin. They needed to be reminded of the tightly bound and unbreakable bond between believer and the Lord. That is why we are to glorify God with our bodies.

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?

Just because something is allowed, doesn’t mean it’s wise or profitable to do it. Even lawful things can lead us into slavery to them.

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.

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.

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

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. 5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

Sinful things are not lawful, so they don't fit into the “all.” Food is part of the “all” category.

Immorality is not. All sin is not “lawful.” That means that whatever is “lawful” is not sinful, but there are reasons why we shouldn't partake of it or do it too much.

6. 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.

15 *For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.*

16 *Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. 20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. *All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.*

21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. 22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

24 Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

We can enjoy them to the degree that they don't cause us to sin or become a stumbling block for our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We are told that if we hurt our brothers by our actions then we

are not walking in love since love considers others first. Romans 14:15-18 explains this attitude so well. We're not to tear down the work of God in other believers (hurt their faith and zeal toward the Lord) by parading our liberties before them and cause them to stumble and fret and get confused. *Believers actually have a responsibility to consider the faith and well-fare of other believers when engaging in freedoms given to us by the Lord.* We are to live under the higher law of 1 Corinthians 10:24 and seek the good of others. We must consider 1 Corinthians 10:31—can we do this for God's glory while not giving offense to unbelievers and to be a stumbling block to other believers. *A freedom is not a freedom if it is sinful and leads another believer into sin or hurts their conscience.* Even our subjection to our husbands is hemmed in by this.

7. Based on your answers above, now explain how a freedom might not be *profitable* and could even *master* us.

We might enjoy having an alcoholic drink now and then, yet if our desire to enjoy our freedoms becomes enslaving so that our occasional turns into regular and our heart longs for it—that is sin to us. Our freedoms master us if we no longer consider our brothers and sisters who might be harmed by our engaging of this “freedom.”

Susannah Wesley said, “Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself.”

8. What are some freedoms you enjoy? What are some dangers inherent in those freedoms that you need to watch over?

TV, movies, internet surfing, novel reading. Those things can feed my laziness, diminish my zeal for spiritual things, novel reading can lead to discontentment. If enjoyed too much or without discernment and wisdom, those things can affect our worldview so that Christ's worldview fades into the background.

I shop on Sundays—this used to be a big deal though I don't think people think about it as much anymore.

9. In verse 13 Paul makes a connection between the stomach and the body. What distinctions does he make between them in verse 13?

The food and stomach were created for each other. But someday they will both be done away with. *So while, believers now can enjoy food; believers are never to enjoy immorality or sin* for our body is for the Lord and the Lord is for our body.

10. Explain how the Corinthians view of food and the stomach justified engaging in immorality. What's wrong with that thinking?

They saw it as just another function of the body. This is exactly the thinking that plagues us today. Evolutionary thought has certainly contributed to this. They didn't understand the complete heart and life change that happens at salvation. We are no longer our own.

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

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

God will do away with the temporal things of this world. Our bodies are for the Lord. God will raise us up—our bodies. We and our bodies are members of Christ. So when we engage in sin we are taking Jesus with us into that sin. Immorality does this even more since we are members with Christ and yet when we commit immorality we are also one flesh with them.

Those truths should hem us in and keep us from engaging in sin out of love and devotion to the Lord.

12. Why would *joining* yourself to someone in immorality be so offensive to the Lord according to verse 17?

Because we are one spirit with Him. It's like having Him commit the sin too.

13. What is the command for every believer to know, understand, and apply (verse 18)? Why (verse 18)?

Flee immorality. Why? Because the immoral man commits sin against his own body (and therefore the Lord). And because other sins are outside the body, but immorality gets to the soul.

14. What does it mean to commit *immorality* [Strong's #4202]? See also Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:3.

Fornication; illicit sexual intercourse. Pornea.

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

15. When we commit immorality how is it possible to sin against our own bodies? See verses 16-17.

Because sex involves the whole person. We become one flesh with the one we “sleep” with. In the same way that we are joined with the Lord.

We sin against ourselves because we bring sin into our relationship with the Lord. It leaves a lasting effect on our hearts.

Because sexual intimacy is the deepest uniting of two persons, its misuse corrupts on the deepest human level. That is not a psychological analysis but a divinely revealed fact. Sexual immorality is far more destructive than alcohol, far more destructive than drugs, far more destructive than crime.

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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.



John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Corinthians, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 151.

16. What do we learn about our bodies in verse 19?

Our bodies are the temple for the Holy Spirit. Amazing. And what a gift!

17. 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.

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

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Our relationship with Christ and our complete transformation should have a radical effect on how we live! And that knowledge that our bodies are no longer our own, but belong to Christ should change how we live.

18. 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.

We've been bought with a price—the precious blood of Christ. Therefore, we are to glorify God with our bodies. We can't glorify Him with our bodies if we continue in sin and immorality.

19. What price was paid for your body—for you? See Gal. 3:13; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9.

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Jesus became a curse for me. He gave Himself to redeem me from every lawless deed I did commit, am committing, and will commit. He desires me to be pure. He purchased me with His very own blood and life.

20. When we understand this what should our response be according to verse 20?

We should desire to give God glory in every area of our lives, especially in our purity—purity in actions, thoughts, desires, dress. All purity.

21. According to verses 12-20 how can you give God glory in your body? Have self control over my desires. Not give full reign to my desires, even the ones that are lawful and not sinful. Seek to love others above myself. Most definitely flee immorality.

22. 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.

23. 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? It makes me want to live more here on earth like I will live in heaven. It helps me to prepare my mind and heart for heaven and to say no to my desires here.

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

That I am a completely new creature in Christ. My old ways are gone and though they may still pull at me, I now have power over them through the Holy Spirit living in me.

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>

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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

~ John Calvin

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #22, Chapter 7 Overview

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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).

Paul reviews some things he taught them previously concerning sexual purity. Paul concedes that it's wise to get married if you don't have the gift of singleness. And within marriage there is a need to give your body to your spouse without reserve so that your spouse won't be tempted to sin.

- b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 8-9).

It's Paul's conviction, for the unmarried and widows, if they are able to remain single without burning with passion then they should remain so, but if not, then by all means get married.

- c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-11).

The Lord taught that married people were not to leave their spouses, but if they do they are not to marry again. [this is in the case of an unbiblical divorce]

- d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 12-16).

This paragraph deals with not divorcing an unbeliever if they consent to live with the believer as it is a means of protection and evangelism. But if they do leave then there is not pressure to remain married.

- e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 17-20).

Paul recommends that each stay in the state in which they were called—circumcised, uncircumcised, none of that really matters. What matters is obeying the Lord.

- f. Summarize paragraph 6 (verses 21-24).

Don't worry if you're a slave, but if you do have an opportunity to take your freedom then do that. Yet in Christ, slaves are free while the free are slaves of Christ. It's more important to remember you were bought with a price.

- g. Summarize paragraph 7 (verses 25-31).

Paul recommends not changing your marital status in light of the persecution Christians were facing. Yet, he also says that's it's okay to go ahead and get married if you want (or for a dad to give his daughter in marriage). Paul urges all to live in view of the shortness of the time we have left.

- h. Summarize paragraph 8 (verses 32-35).

Paul explains why he thinks its best to remain as you are, especially if you are single—because you are able to devote yourself wholly to the Lord and give Him undistracted love and service.

- i. Summarize paragraph 9 (verses 36-38).

Fathers are free in the Lord to decide what is best for their young unmarried daughters in their homes.

- j. Summarize paragraph 10 (verses 39-40).

Paul explains that once a spouse dies, the surviving spouse is free to marry another believer only, but again, Paul reiterates his sold-out to the Lord position.

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.

This chapter answers questions about sexual purity, singleness, pursuing marriage, how to live in light of persecution and what is best. Overall, Paul gives much freedom to each believer to make decisions.

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.

Verse 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.

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.

Stay the Way You Are

Seemly Devotion

*Marriage Issues Answered*

5. What do you learn about God and His Spirit in this chapter?

Verse 7 each one has his own gift from God

Verse 15 God has called us to peace (so if a warring unbeliever wants to leave, then let them)

Verse 17 as God has called each, let him walk in that manner

Verse 19 keep God's commandments

Verse 24 each one is to remain with God in the way he was called

Verse 40 Paul speaks confidently because he believes he has God's mind on the matter...and I think that I also have the Spirit 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.

Verse 10 to the married the Lord gives instruction that wives should not leave their husbands

Verse 12 but to the rest, I say, not the Lord, don't divorce an unbelieving spouse who wants to live with you.

Verse 17 as the Lord has assigned to each one

Verse 22 called in the Lord while a slave, you are the Lord's freedman, and Christ's slave

Verse 25 the Lord gave no command, but I give my opinion as being found trustworthy by the Lord.

Verse 32 the one who is unmarried is concerned about the Lord and how he may please the Lord.

Verse 35 Paul desires to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

Verse 39 a widowed wife can marry anyone "in the Lord."

7. What do you learn about *husbands* in this chapter? Be sure to include verse references.

Verse 2 [because of immoralities] each woman is to have her own husband

Verse 3 husband is to fulfill his duties to his wife and the wife to her husband

Verse 4 the husband has authority over his wife's body and the wife has authority over her husband's body

Verse 10 the Lord said the wife is not to leave her husband

Verse 11 the husband should not divorce his wife

Verse 13 if married to an unbelieving husband, she should not send him away.

Verse 14 unbelieving husband is sanctified through living with his believing wife...and vice versa

Verse 16 do you know if you will save your husband or wife? [therefore stay in the way you were called]

Verse 34 the one who is married is concerned about the world and how she may please her husband.

Verse 39 a wife is bound as long as her husband lives, but if her husband is dead then she is free to marry again.

8. Now list what you learned about *wives* from chapter 7.

Verse 2 each man is to have his own wife

Verse 3 husband must fulfill his duty to his wife; and the wife must fulfill her duty to her husband

Verse 4 the wife doesn't have authority over her body, the husband does; and the wife has authority over her husband's body

Verse 10 wife should not leave her husband

Verse 11 the husband should not divorce his wife [verses 10 and 11 are in the case of two believers without biblical grounds for divorce]

Verse 12 brother who has an unbelieving wife, should not divorce her if she wants to remain married to him

Verse 14 unbelieving husband sanctified through his believing wife and vice versa

Verse 16 for how do you know, wife, if you will save your husband? And vice versa.

Verse 27 are you bound to a wife? Don't seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Don't seek to be bound.

Verse 29 time is short [and persecution increases] that those who have wives will need to act like those who have none

Verse 33 one who is married is concerned about the things of the world and how he may please his wife.

Verse 39 a wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives, but if he is dead she is free to marry whomever she wishes.

9. What do you learn about how a *man* is to act toward a *woman* in verses 1-7?

Verse 1 good for a man not to touch a woman

Verse 2 because of immoralities each man should have his own wife

Verse 3 husband should fulfill his duties toward his wife

Verse 4 husband has authority over the wife's body

Verse 5 don't deprive each other sexually

10. *Married, marry, and marriage* are used in this chapter. Record what you learned each time those words were used.

Verse 9 if the unmarried don't have self-control then it is better to marry than to burn with passion

Verse 28 if you marry you have not sinned; if a virgin marries, she has not sinned

Verse 32 one who in [un]married is concerned about the Lord and how he may please Him.

Verse 33 while the one who is married is concerned with the things of the world and how he may please his wife

Verse 34 virtually the same thing as verse 33—the unmarried woman is concerned about the things of the Lord and how she can be holy both in body and spirit; while the married woman is concerned about the world and how to please her husband

Verse 36 a father doesn't sin if he lets his daughter marry

Verse 38 giving a daughter in marriage a father does well, and if he keeps her single he does better

Verse 39 if husband dies a woman is free to remarry

11. The word *divorce* and other synonyms were also used throughout the chapter. List what you observed each time those words were used.

Verse 10 a wife should not leave her husband

Verse 11 a husband should not divorce his wife

Verse 12 husband should not divorce an unbelieving wife

Verse 13 a wife should not send her [unbelieving] husband away

Verse 27 are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released.

12. Write down *at least* one thing that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

I think it's encouraging and amazing how much God cares about these details and provided for us with this instruction.



## **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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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? He intends to answer questions they had previously asked him.

2. What kinds of topics is Paul going to be discussing in chapter 7? Immorality, divorce, marriage, singleness, remarriage, how to live in view of the Lord's soon return.

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.]

Their society was debauched and wicked. Sexual immorality was rampant. And now, here they were, the “such were some of you.”

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?

1 It 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.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

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.

Paul has already been dealing with different issues concerning immorality. He constantly reminds them of their new life in Christ and how that will affect every area of their lives—chapter 7 is simply a continuation of those conversations.

5. What question from the Corinthians seems to have preceded Paul's opening answer in verse 1?

Dear Paul, where is the line for immorality and how do we keep ourselves from committing immorality? Love, the Corinthians

*Jack's notes: A study of the word "touch" does not mean "marry" as the NIV has it, or "commit immorality" as the ESV has it, but it almost always means to touch, but in some cases it means "touch so as to ignite into flames." This is how it is used in Lk. 11:33 & 15:8 (lighting a lamp), in Acts 28:2 it describes starting a fire. This fits well with 1 Cor. 7:9 where Paul describes sexual passion as "burning." Paul is saying that it is good that a man keep his paws off any woman who isn't his wife, lest his touching her light the fires of passion in him.*

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?

3 Jesus stretched out His hand and *touch*ed him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

15 He *touch*ed her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him.

33 "No one, after *lighting* a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light.

2 The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they *kindled* a fire and received us all.

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

17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT *TOUCH* WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.

21 "Do not *handle*, do not taste, do not touch!"

The word is interactive. At times, fire is associated with it. Literally touching is used.

- b. Second, how does the context help us define the word? See 1 Cor. 6:18-20 and 7:2, 5.

Talking about fleeing immorality—getting away from touching and handling so fire doesn't break out!

Marriage is a preventative for immorality, and marriage that has regular times of intimacy.

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.

It is good for a man not to touch a woman in such a way that it ignites his passions. Men need to recognize the dangers of touching, for even that can lead to immorality. Women need to recognize this also and not touch men or tempt them into sin.

8. Without being too graphic, when should a man apply this admonition not to touch a woman?

When he is around a woman who is attractive to him—and even when she is not. 😊

Married and unmarried men need to put this into practice. When on a "date." When engaged.

Anytime prior to marriage and after marriage with anyone who is not their spouse.

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?

We need to make sure we're not tempting someone to sin by touching them unnecessarily, by not building friendships that result in one on one conversations or emotional attachment.

In daily life, it means loving the men as brothers. Visiting, blessing, but not flirting or enticing them into sin. Keeping our eyes away rather than looking "longingly and suggestively" at them.

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?

Touching leads to immorality. Plain and simple.

11. What is the answer to overcoming many of the temptations men and women face in an increasingly immoral world (verses 2-3)?

Getting married and ministering to our mate's sexual needs.

12. Define *fulfill* (NKJV *render*; ESV *give* [Strong's #591]).

Give, grant. Mutual obligation. To give what is due them. Deliver.

13. Based on the context of verses 1-7 what is the *duty* that each husband and wife is to fulfill to their spouse?

To willingly and cheerfully meet their spouse's sexual needs. There also seems to be a proactive quality to it, rather than a "wait until I'm asked" kind of mentality. We are also commanded to do this for them. No one else has this privilege.

14. How would fulfilling that specific duty help married believers overcome temptations toward immorality?

Sexual desire wouldn't be building up in them and tempting them to look elsewhere for fulfillment. Regular sexual relations helps us maintain self-control.

15. Based on verses 1-7, if a wife does *not* fulfill this duty toward her husband what are the potential consequences?

Sexual immorality. Lack of self control in this area. Satan present areas of temptation. Lack of obedience to the Lord's commands.

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?

No. God's Word helps us fight and overcome immorality. Walking in the Spirit, we will not fall into immorality. To walk in love and turn away from immorality. Other believers can strengthen us and help us. And repentance is necessary to overcoming immorality.

We need the balance of the other resources God gives us so we won't blame our spouses if we fall into immorality. They might not "do their duty" but that is no excuse for our sin. We still have an out.

11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

17. What kind of attitude should a wife have about fulfilling this "duty?"

Consider the privilege. A way to obey the Lord. Joyfully. To see the mutual duty of wife to husband and husband to wife.

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.



Encourage married friends to minister to their husbands. Not be a means of tempting someone else. Pray for married friends. Trust the Lord for His provision for your life (or rather, lack of a spouse). He has a purpose that is good and all wise. He always helps His children obey Him.

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.

The husband doesn't have authority over his own body; the wife does. And vice versa. Understanding this helps us see the attitudes and actions that must govern our marriages. Holding out on our spouse just isn't an option. Making them beg or starving them out isn't an option either.

21. What guidelines are given if the "special duty" is to be laid aside for a while (verse 5)?

Both need to agree. Devote self to prayer. Then come together again. So Satan won't tempt you.

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?

These are times when Paul, in order to be super clear, distinguishes his godly and spirit-filled opinions from clear and direct teaching from 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.

16 "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

8 For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame,

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

b. What impact should that make upon us as we hear the Word of God proclaimed?

It's as if God is speaking to us. AND the instruction here in chapter 7 is also clear instruction from the Lord.

23. Verse 7 tells us Paul has a wish for everyone. What is it? See verses 7-8.

Paul wishes that everyone was single like He is. Yet, he concedes that everyone has their own gift from the Lord. He wants even the widows and unmarried to remain that way—to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord (see verse 35).

24. We'll spend more time on this subject in the next lesson, but what significant piece of revelation is revealed in verse 7?

Each one has their own gift from the Lord—married, single, etc.

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? Corinthians thought that spiritual people would not need sex and were probably abstaining from sex, thinking that would be pleasing to the Lord. They thought the Lord's return was near and were confused about whether they could or should get married in light of these end times events. They were confused about the mutual blessing married spouses are to grant each other.

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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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.  
He was discussing sexual purity and that marriage is an antidote for falling in to sin. He explains the rights and privileges married couples can and should expect from each other.
2. What is the special gift from the Lord that Paul wishes everyone had according to verses 7-8?  
He wishes that everyone had the gift of singleness the way he does.
3. What are some reasons given in chapter 7 for why Paul wants everyone to enjoy this state? See verses 26, 29, 32-35.  
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.  
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;  
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.  
He thinks singleness is a good idea because of the present distress, the time is shortened before the Lord's return, the focus is on the Lord rather than on pleasing the spouse (which is also commanded from the Lord). He just wants the Lord to be the center and focus of everything.
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)?  
Get married. Lack of self-control.  
If you don't have self-control (that is...if you don't have the gift of singleness) then it is better to marry than to burn with passion.
5. Why would marriage be the best solution for a single person who does not have the gift of singleness? See verses 2-4.  
Because the husband and wife are to mutually minister to the sexual needs of their spouse.

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.

1 "I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin? MAKE A COVENANT WITH GOD ABOUT IT.

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. 10 With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. 11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. THE WORD IS A RESOURCE AND STRENGTH.

11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. CONSIDER YOURSELF DEAD TO SIN, THEREFORE IT DOESN'T HAVE POWER OVER YOU.

1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. DON'T TOUCH EACH OTHER.

9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT, EVEN FOR TEMPTATION.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; REMEMBER, IT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU TO BE SEXUALLY PURE.

7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE SEXUALLY PURE.

16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. DRAW NEAR TO THE LORD IN PRAYER AND RECEIVE HELP.

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." PREPARE, BE SOBER MINDED, FIX, DON'T BE CONFORMED, BE HOLY.

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?

Probably because people were quibbling over those details or it was even included in their question to him.

- a. Second, is there any disagreement between what the Lord instructed and Paul's teaching to the Corinthians?

No.

- 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.

16 "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me." NOTICE THE LINE OF SUCCESSION.

10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down. THE LORD GAVE AUTHORITY.

2 For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. THE LORD GAVE AUTHORITY.

8 So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

REJECT WHAT PAUL SAYS AND YOU ARE REJECTING WHAT GOD SAYS.

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. DON'T LET OTHERS DISREGARD YOU BECAUSE YOU SPEAK FROM GOD.

2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles. THE APOSTLES SPOKE THE WORDS AND COMMANDS FROM GOD.

- c. Fourth, how should we understand and apply the instructions given to us in chapter 7, whether from the Lord or from Paul?

It doesn't matter who is saying it. If the Lord speaks we obey. If Paul speaks we obey because it comes from the Lord.

8. What instructions does the Lord have for those who are married? See verses 10-11.

If you're married, don't get divorced. And if you do leave, then go back and be reconciled. But you can't get remarried in the case of an unbiblical divorce.

9. What further clarification does Paul add to the Lord's instructions in verses 12-13?

If married to an unbeliever who wants to stay married, then stay married to them.

10. What question or misunderstanding on the part of the Corinthians is behind the instruction given in verses 10-13?

That it is somehow okay to divorce your spouse if they aren't a believer or if they are somehow sinning and not honoring Christ.

11. Why would it be tempting for a believer to leave their unbelieving spouse or to send them away?

Because here they were new believers wanting to give their whole lives to Christ but their spouse isn't on board. It would be easy to rationalize that they needed to find someone to be equally yoked.

12. Paul explains the reasoning behind the instructions given in verses 10-13. What do you learn in verse 14?

You never know how God will use your life and testimony in saving your spouse. And the effect your life has on your children.

13. Define *sanctify* (ESV *made holy* [Strong's #37]).

In this context: Purify. Make holy.

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.

27 But Laban said to him, "If now it pleases you, stay with me; I have divined that the LORD has blessed me on your account."

5 It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD'S blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field.

16 If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.

5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

God's blessing spills over onto those in close proximity with a believer. God shows favor to the household in blessing the life of a believer. The trickle down effect with the branches. God's Word and prayer sanctifies and of course a believer would be sharing the Word and praying for the unbelievers in the household.

15. How is it possible for a believer to *sanctify* their unbelieving spouse?

Their desire to live holy curbs the sin of the unbeliever since the believer doesn't want to enter in to those sins like they used to.

1 Peter 4: 4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;

2 Thess 2:6-7: 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.

16. What kind of hope and encouragement does that give to anyone married to an unbeliever?

It gives every kind of hope that God will work through the relationship to save the loved ones. It helps the believer to persevere even if it's tense at times.

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?

If you divorce your spouse and are separated from your children, they lose out on the sanctifying effects of living with a believer.

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.

16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek,

5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

Children benefit from living with their believing parent, even if the other parent isn't saved. What a comfort this is for unequally yoked spouses!

19. What allowance is given for a spiritually mixed marriage according to verse 15?

If the unbeliever wants to leave, then it is okay to let them leave.

20. What is the connection between God calling believers to peace and letting an unbelieving spouse leave the marriage? See also Rom. 12:18.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

We can only strive for peace so far. Sometimes there is nothing we can do for they will only be at odds with us.

21. Explain how verse 16 ties in to the command given in verse 15.

If they want to leave, let them, but don't push them away if they are unbelievers because you never know how God will work through you to save your spouse.

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.

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ

Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, Be holy; remember we were once dead too; we didn't do anything to save ourselves; we have a purpose in our calling; God does it all.

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.

6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. 10 The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

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**  
**TEACHER'S GUIDE**

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.  
He was discussing sexual purity and that marriage is an antidote for falling in to sin. He explains the rights and privileges married couples can and should expect from each other.
2. How does Paul instruct the Corinthians in chapter 7 verse 17?  
Paul directs them to remain as they are—and this is his instruction for all the churches, whether in circumcision, or slavery, or marriage.
3. How does that command coincide with the previous information from verses 8-16?  
He told the unmarried and widows to stay as they are, the married to stay married.
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?  
Remaining in the manner in which they were called to Christ—circumcised, slave, single, married.
5. Why would Paul keep reiterating his instruction to remain in the condition in which they were called? See verses 17, 20, and 24.  
Obviously, it was an issue! They were wanting to change their condition, possibly because they thought it would be more pleasing to the Lord if they were more “spiritual” in staying single or being a free man or getting circumcised. But they needed to stay the way they were, rather than compounding issues and possibly sinning in the process, as in the case of divorcing a spouse.
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.  
26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but 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, 28 and 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, 29 so that no man may boast before God. 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”  
5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.  
1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I 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, 3 for 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? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men? 5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Quite possibly they considered getting circumcised as a badge of honor, something they would boast in, or even kind of polarize over in the body and then judge those who weren't circumcised.

7. What consolation does God provide concerning circumcision in verse 19? 19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.

Whether you are circumcised or not doesn't matter to the Lord, what matters is obeying Him!

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 verses 22-23?

If you are a slave, don't worry about it. If you are able to be free, then great, but if not, then remember what Paul says next which is: If you are a slave, in reality you are the Lord's freed man. For the free man he says: if you are a free man, in reality, you are a slave. Actually, he's probably speaking to both groups!!!! But he says that they were to remember they were bought with a price, so don't become slaves of men! Which means don't become slaves of sin.

Changed Q#8 to this: 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.

16 "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

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.

10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

2 For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

8 So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

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.

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.

He thinks in light of the present distress that it's best for everyone to remain as they are. Yet, he is quick to point out that they won't be sinning if they do change their status. He just thinks he will be sparing them sorrow.

11. What reasons does Paul give for maintaining that position? See verse 26, 28. The present distress and trying to spare them from trouble.

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.

8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. 9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. PERSECUTION AND DEATH.

23 "Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. 25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory. 28 "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." THE TRIBULATION EVENTS RIGHT BEFORE CHRIST'S RETURN ARE FULL OF DISASTER AND MAYHEM.

2 "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. OUTCASTS FROM THE SYNAGOGUE

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. PERSECUTION HAPPENS TO ALL WHO DESIRE TO LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST, FOR THOSE WHO CHALLENGE A GOD HATING CULTURE.

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; GOD USES THE TESTING. IT WILL HAPPEN. IT WILL COME UPON US. SOME WAY, IN SOME FORM.

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?

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.

We should live with a sense of the shortness of time. Making full use of the time, but not diving in to the world and its ways. Paul just wants us all to make full use of the time we have left and not be hampered by responsibilities or distractions.

14. What are some concrete ways you could put verses 29-31 into practice in your life?

Be in prayer asking for a sober minded spirit in light of these truths. 1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

To use the world but not be distracted by it. It goes back to remembering that the time is short.

Let your forbearing spirit be made evident to all men because the Lord is near. Phil. 4:5

Prepare and live differently. Talk to the Lord more. Live more like heaven is real, rather than just a platitude we say to each other.

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?

He wants them to be free from concern. Because when you are married you are concerned about the things of the world and how to please your spouse. This is as it should be, but it isn't a single minded focus.

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.

It's evident that he thought the Lord would return soon because he doesn't want people to make a lot of changes or do all these permanent things that really won't matter in the end. It's like building a pool to enjoy for summer when you are going to die in winter. It just doesn't seem to make sense and isn't worth the time, expense or mental effort to make it happen. That seems to be Paul's focus here.

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)?

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.

Verse 35 is so sweet. It really reveals his heart and his own inward motivations.  
*All to Jesus, I surrender; all to Him I freely give!*

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?

Ideally, the single unmarried believer is wholly concerned with the Lord—how to please Him, how to be more holy, living more with their eyes on heaven. Married believers can remind singles of these truths and that singleness, though possibly not their first choice, has many blessings and benefits. They don't have to live thinking about another person; they can just make decisions on how to serve the Lord the most.

19. If you are unmarried what are some ways you have applied verses 32-35 in your life and heart?

When I was single, I would go on dates with the Lord. He was my constant companion. When I was dating and got married, it was a huge adjustment for both Jack and me because we truly had been living out verses 32-35. We felt guilty over not focusing on the Lord in the same way we always had been.

- a. For those who are married now, how can you live with a single person's undistracted devotion toward the Lord?

Still go on dates with Him. Still carve out time devoted just for Him. Still put Him first in my decisions, consulting Him on everything. He must be all!

- b. What are some hindrances in seeking and serving the Lord a married person faces that a single person does not?

Quiet times are cut short to attend to the other person's needs. Time is devoted to ministering to my spouse and the rest of the family. They are my God-given focus but it does mean less time to just be with the Lord or serve with abandon.

20. Verses 36-38 contain wise counsel for fathers who have marriageable daughters. 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?

If a man has a daughter who is getting older and would like to marry, then he doesn't sin in letting her get married. But if he says no to that, then he also is not sinning. It is a freedom in the Lord as a father who is overseeing his household as unto the Lord.

- a. What is Paul's reasoning for this counsel? See verses 26 and 29-31. Again, the present distress is governing Paul's counsel here. Very good to see and remember too.

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?

A wife is bound to her husband while he is alive. But if he dies, then she has freedom to marry or remain single. She can only remarry a believer of course.

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.

Again, he still just wants to promote undistracted devotion to the Lord. It's all about Christ for Paul and he desires that for all of us.

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; *and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, *Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.* 21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

7 *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

My heart's cry; my passion; my motivation. All for Jesus. Oh, may I live more completely for Him! Undistracted. Devotion. For. Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15: For the love of Christ controls, constrains, compels me, having concluded this: that one died for all, therefore all died, but He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. For Him! Live for Him.

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 circumcision? Regarding slaves? Regarding marriage or singleness?

I'm sure some are going to get twisted on this question, but the focus is on the principles. Changed the question to this: *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?*

Decision making principles to remember: the shortness of time, the freedoms we have in Christ, doing something to make God like us more or make us more holy can't happen as we are already

holy in Jesus, the Lord gives wisdom for each person and family so we need to seek Him, any freedom needs to be guided by the principle “in the Lord” or “as the Lord would have it.”

24. What is the focus Paul desires believers to have—no matter what their circumstances or the time in which they live?

To live with undistracted devotion to Him.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all,  
I surrender all;  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at His feet I bow;  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,  
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,  
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power,  
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Now I feel the sacred flame;  
Oh, the joy of full salvation!  
Glory, glory, to His Name!

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?

I find it easier to live more single-minded in my devotion to the Lord now, but I don't think it is a change in circumstances or my stage in life. I think it has more to do with my growth in Christ. I do still struggle with distractions in prayer especially as I always have, but the focus and tenor of my heart is and remains His. He is such a kind Savior and I know there is no other place of refuge. I don't want to live any other way but for Him. I don't want any other thoughts but of Him. I don't want

my life to be about any thing else but Him. Yet, this is true of all believers. Every believer wants to live for Him because they understand the cost and love our Savior has for us.

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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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).

Paul moves on to a new subject. Now he begins to discuss how to approach the issue of sacrificing to idols in the church. But what's interesting is he starts by bringing up how knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

- b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 4-6).

In this paragraph Paul removes thoughts that idols have any power, since there is only One True God. And yet, even if there were many gods, for us, there is only One God.

- c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 7-13).

Paul acknowledges that some men understand this, but some who have gotten saved out of a life of idolatry are extra sensitive to the issue of eating things out of the meat market that were previously used in idol worship. Yet food doesn't make us more spiritual, or the lack of it. Yet, Paul cautions against making this liberty a stumbling block for your weaker brother in the Lord. He would rather never eat meat again than to cause another brother to stumble.

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.

The main point in this chapter is to open the discussion on how to regulate your Christian liberties for the sake of a fellow brother in the Lord with the test case of eating meat sacrificed to idols.

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.

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

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.

Liberties Shouldn't Be Stumbling Blocks

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.

Verse 6 there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things

Verse 6 we exist through Him.

6. Record what you learn about the word *knowledge* every time it's used in this chapter.

Verse 1 we all have knowledge concerning things sacrificed to idols

Verse 1 knowledge makes arrogant

Verse 7 not all men have this knowledge (that there is only One true God and that idols are nothing and have no power).

Verse 10 if someone sees you (the one who has knowledge) dining in an idol's temple, will his conscience be strengthened by this? No.

Verse 11 don't use your knowledge to ruin a weaker brother for whose sake Christ died.

7. Along with knowledge are things we *know*. What things we *know* in this chapter?

Verse 1 we know we all have knowledge (Paul taught on this previously)

Verse 2 if we suppose we know anything, then we haven't really known anything as we ought to know

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

Verse 4 we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world

8. The word *idol* is used frequently in this chapter. List what you learn each time it's used.

Verse 1 concerning things sacrificed to idols, we have knowledge

Verse 4 concerning the things sacrificed to idols

Verse 4 we know there is no such thing as an idol in the world

Verse 7 some being accustomed to sacrificing to idols until now

Verse 7 now eat that meat as if it were still sacrificed to an idol and their conscience is defiled.

Verse 10 if someone sees you dining in an *idol's* temple will his conscience be strengthened about things sacrificed to *idols*?

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.

Verse 4 concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols...

Verse 7 some eat food as if it were still sacrificed to an idol

Verse 8 food will not commend us to God

Verse 13 if food causes my brother to stumble then I will never eat meat again.

10. Record what you learn about the *conscience* in this chapter.

Verse 7 some who eat food sacrificed to an idol find that their conscience is defiled because it's still weak in this area.

Verse 10 if someone sees you eating in an idol's temple, will his conscience be strengthened?

Verse 12 we sin against Christ when we sin against our brothers and wound their conscience when it is weak.

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.

Verse 7 their conscience being weak is defiled.

Verse 9 take care that your liberty does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak

Verse 10 if someone is weak will their conscience be strengthened by watching you exercise your liberty

Verse 11 if through your knowledge the one who is weak is ruined, then that's bad

Verse 12 when we sin against the brethren and wound their conscience we sin against Christ

12. What other things did you notice in this chapter that you thought were interesting?

I just love how this chapter is a death knell for the whole "exercise your liberties" movement that is at the expense of other believers.

## **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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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.

Now concerning the things which you wrote (7:1)

Now concerning things sacrificed to idols (8:1)

Now concerning spiritual gifts (12:1)

Now concerning the collection for the saints (16:1)

2. What dilemma are the believers facing in chapter 8?  
Whether or not it's a problem to eat things sacrificed to idols and how to navigate the different convictions in this area.

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?  
Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we *know* that we all have knowledge.

4. What do we learn about *knowledge* in verses 1-2?  
We have knowledge about things sacrificed to idols. Knowledge makes us arrogant. If you think your good in the knowledge department, then you might want to rethink that.

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.  
Knowledge isn't enough. We need to know the Lord and be known by Him. Don't boast or get puffed up. Instead, boast about knowing the Lord.  
23 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.  
30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

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.  
Judgment. Proudful over each other. Lying. Bitter jealousy and selfishness.  
3 "Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.<sup>5</sup> 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.

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

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?

If anyone loves God, God knows him. Basically, it doesn't matter what you know as long as you know the Lord.

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?

14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another. THEIR KNOWLEDGE IS A GOOD THING HERE.

5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, PAUL PRAYS FOR THEIR KNOWLEDGE HERE.

6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE IS A GODLY CHARACTERISTIC

7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also. GODLY KNOWLEDGE IS SUCH A BLESSING.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, REAL KNOWLEDGE VERSUS MANMADE, MAN FILTERED KNOWLEDGE.

9. What clues can you derive from 1 Corinthians 8:1 that tell you what kind of knowledge God desires for His children?

He wants us to have knowledge that is undergirded and hemmed in by love.

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.

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; 3 For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.*

Knowledge that eating things sacrificed to idols isn't a sin is great unless it hurts another believer, then our love needs to inform and regulate our liberties.

12. As Paul opens the discussion about things sacrificed to idols how do his statements about knowledge prepare us for the discussion to come?

Our knowledge needs guidance and much grace in it. We can't be pig headed and demand others bend to our rights.

13. What are the things we *know* about things sacrificed to idols from verses 4-6? No such thing as idols. Even if there were, they would have no power because God has all power.

14. What do we *know* about God from verses 4-6?

He is the only God. He is our Father. We exist for Him. All things come from Him.

15. What point is Paul making about God's superiority over idols?

Idols have no power. They can't hurt us. Eating meat sacrificed to them has no residual idol cooties attached.

16. How should that knowledge solve the dilemma a Christian may have about eating meat sacrificed to idols?

It should help inform their conscience so they can just enjoy the meat and get it at a good deal ;) but for some, that was just too soon and too close to the idol worship for them to feel comfortable with. They left it all behind and didn't want to get anywhere close to idols again.

17. Think of some modern day Christian liberty scenarios where our knowledge must be tempered with our love.

Vaccinations or not. Tattoos and piercings and such. Dancing. Smoking, drinking. What constitutes as modest or not. Etc. etc. etc.



18. What are some practical ways we can join love and knowledge together when it comes to Christian liberties?

Not flaunt our freedoms. Privately teach, wait, but not force people to join in.

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

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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?  
Paul reminds them of what they've already been taught, that first of all, knowledge makes arrogant but love edifies; and second, that when it comes to eating things sacrificed to idols there aren't really any idols, there is only one God. So their knowledge should give them freedom, but if there isn't freedom because of their previous life then love should guide how we interact with other believers.
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?  
No. It should have motivated them to teach and train the newer believers, strengthening their souls with the knowledge that it doesn't matter what they eat. Yet because of their previous sin and idolatry, Paul teaches that we should proceed gently with each other.
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.  
The knowledge that idols have no power and are nothing. That there is only one God. That knowledge without love makes us proud and inflexible and uncompassionate.
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?  
Their conscience was still tender and weak when it came to eating things sacrificed to idols. And if they did eat anything sacrificed to idols, even though they wouldn't have been sinning if they did, their conscience would have been defiled. And God says this is not good.
5. Why was their conscience weak according to Paul's statements in this chapter?  
Because they hadn't been taught fully or had time for the Word to really inform their consciences. They needed a clearer picture of God's supremacy over all things—and that idols are manmade nothings.
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; 2 Cor. 1:12; 1 Tim. 4:1-6.

Give them knowledge of the Scriptures, of what is pleasing to the Lord. (vs 7) Not rely on fleshly wisdom, but tune conscience to God's wisdom (2 Cor. 1:12). False teachers promote legalistic rules and traditions as a means of earning God's favor. God wants everything to be enjoyed as a good gift from Him (1 Tim. 4).

12 For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you. 1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; 5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer. 6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.

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.

Teach them from the Scriptures and lovingly wait for the Holy Spirit to strengthen their consciences. We are never to force them to try out a liberty if they feel they will be sinning to do it.

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

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

How radically different this mindset is from today's philosophy of "Don't tell me I can't exercise my liberties!" We have a responsibility to strengthen our brothers and sisters in Christ, not hurt their faith.

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.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. A CONSCIENCE CAN BE BOTHERED BY OUR ACTIONS.

1 Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day." WE CAN MAINTAIN A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

16 "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men. A CONSCIENCE CAN BE BLAMELESS.

5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. WE SUBMIT FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CONSCIENCE, RATHER THAN FORCING OURSELVES TO DO SOMETHING WE FEEL IS WRONG.

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. A WEAK CONSCIENCE CAN BE DEFILED. BUT KNOWLEDGE STRENGTHENS IT.

12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. WE CAN WOUND ANOTHER'S CONSCIENCE. AND IN DOING SO, WE SIN AGAINST CHRIST.

5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. INSTRUCT OTHERS FROM A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. KEEP FAITH AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE. A GOOD CONSCIENCE CAN BE HURT AND IRREPARABLY HARMED.

9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. OUR CONSCIENCE CAN BE CLEAR.

2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, A CONSCIENCE CAN BE SEARED.

15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. THOSE WHO ARE NOT PURE HAVE A DEFILED CONSCIENCE.

22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. OUR CONSCIENCE CAN BE MADE CLEAN THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

9. Based on what you've learned, why is it so important to pay attention to our conscience? Because sinning against our conscience, or causing someone else to sin against theirs, has grave consequences. Thankful, that our consciences can be healed.

10. How did the Corinthians' background of idol worship affect how they viewed God? See verse 8.

They thought eating or not eating certain kinds of things would make God like them better.

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?

Make sure your liberty doesn't become a stumbling block for these young believers.

12. In verse 10 Paul illustrates how a liberty could become a stumbling block. What scenario does he paint?

If someone sees you eating in an idol temple, knowing that you are more mature and have knowledge about these things, then they could be hurt by your liberty.

NASB verse 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? *For the context, verse 10 could be translated, "For if someone sees you, who has knowledge about things sacrificed to idols and other spiritual matters, dining in an idol's temple, will his conscience—if it is weak—be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols or will it be harmed?"*

Vincent in Word Studies in the New Testament points out Paul's ironic tone here.

"But if a Christian who has a conscience that is weak sees a mature believer eating in the temple, the weak brother is likely to be tempted to go against his own conscience and to eat in the temple himself. That could be dangerous to him, causing him to go against his own conscience." [John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Corinthians, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 196.]

Bible Knowledge Commentary says: "As an illustration Paul posed a situation in which a weak Christian saw a knowledgeable brother enjoying a meal in an idol's temple and was by this example encouraged to join in, even

though he could not do so with the clear conscience before God that the knowledgeable Christian enjoyed. 8:11. As a consequence the conscience of this weak believer was seared.”

Warren Wiersbe: “First Corinthians 8:10 warns that the immature believer might decide to imitate his stronger brother and thus be led into sin. It is important to note that the stronger believer defers to the weaker believer in love only that he might help him to mature. He does not “pamper” him; he seeks to edify him, to help him grow. Otherwise, both will become weak.”

DA Carson: “Paul’s fear is that a Christian, seeing other Christians eating in the idol temple, will give way to the pressure to conform, and thereby stumble. 11 He is destroyed in that he slips back into paganism as a result of those Christians who want to eat in the idol temple in order to make a statement that an idol is nothing.”

13. How does verse 11 help us answer the somewhat awkwardly worded question of verse 10?  
What is the answer to verse 10?

Verse 11 gets at what Paul was asking in verse 10, which was “will someone’s conscience be strengthened or weakened if they see you exercising your liberty in an idol’s temple?”

The answer in verse 11 is your brother’s faith is ruined if you only use your knowledge and not your love in helping other believers.

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?

25 It is a trap for a man to say rashly, “It is holy!” And after the vows to make inquiry.

23 All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor. 25 Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience’ sake; 26 FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS. 27 If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience’ sake. 28 But if anyone says to you, “This is meat sacrificed to idols,” do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience’ sake;

14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

THE ISSUE AT STAKE IS PROTECTING OR SINNING AGAINST THE CONSCIENCE. AND ALSO PROTECTING THE CONSCIENCE OF A YOUNG BELIEVER. I LIKE WHAT WIERSBE SAID ABOVE, “the stronger believer defers to the weaker believer in love only that he might help him to mature. He does not “pamper” him; he seeks to edify him, to help him grow.

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?

We sin against Christ when we do this! What a responsibility we have to help teach and train and strengthen each other!

16. What does that understanding move Paul to declare in verse 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.

17. What does Jesus have to say about stumbling blocks? See Matt. 13:41 and 18:6-7.  
 41 “The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,  
 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. 7 “Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!  
 THERE IS JUDGMENT FOR THOSE WHO CAUSE BELIEVERS TO STUMBLE—UNBELIEVERS AND EVEN FOR BELIEVERS. IT’S SO SERIOUS THAT PAUL WANTS US TO STOP AND THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

18. What are some *liberties* Christians struggle with during our day and age?  
 Movies; R-rated movies, smoking cigars, drinking, the whole beer drinking culture, tattoos and piercings and plugs, skinny jeans for men and for women, birth control or not, how many kids you have or if you have any at all; cloth or storebought diapers, parenting philosophies; vaccination or not; homeschooling or not, what political party you belong to, drums or musical instruments in the worship service—to name a few.

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\_ insert liberty here 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.*

But not getting vaccinated will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not vaccinate, nor the better if we do vaccinate. But take care lest this liberty of vaccination somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. Therefore, if my liberty in not getting vaccinated causes my brother to stumble, I will never discuss it publicly 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?

It’s good to remember where and how true holiness is grown in our hearts and lives. It’s also good to remember we need to be sensitive to the spiritual tenderness of other believers. We need to probe gently and look to see how we can protect them until they can grow in knowledge.

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?

It’s exactly what Paul is getting at here. Liberties are gifts and freedoms, but never to be used without considering others around us. The faith of others is important to protect.

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)?