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**Investigating the Word of God**

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# **First Corinthians**



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The Temple of Apollo in Corinth

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# An Introduction to First Corinthians

## The Author: The Apostle Paul (1:1)

- A. He was born and raised in Tarsus of Cilicia, one of the great learning centers of the eastern world. (Acts 22:3)
  1. His parents were Jews who possessed Roman citizenship, therefore, he was both a Roman and a Jew. (Philippians 3:5; Acts 22:25-29)
  2. Typical of Jewish males, he learned a manual trade—tent-making. (Acts 18:3)
  3. He was sent to study in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)
    - a. He excelled in his studies. (Galatians 1:14)
    - b. He was found “blameless” by the Law. (Phil. 3:6)
- B. His conversion and ministry.
  1. He is first mentioned in Scripture as the young man who held the robes of those who stoned Stephen. (Acts 7:58)
    - a. He zealously persecuted Christians. (Acts 22:4; 26:10-11; Gal. 1:13)
    - b. Christians were deathly afraid of him. (Acts 9:13,26)
  2. Jesus Christ manifested Himself to him on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:1-16)
    - a. He obeyed the gospel. (Acts 22:16)
    - b. He became the apostle to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:15; Gal. 1:16; Romans 11:13)
  3. The early years of his ministry were spent mainly in Syria, Arabia, and Judea. (Acts 9:19-29; Gal. 1:17-21)
    - a. He then went to Tarsus for about nine years. (Acts 9:30)
    - b. Barnabas brought him from Tarsus to Antioch of Syria. (Acts 11:25-30; 12:25)
  4. Antioch was his home base for three missionary journeys. (Acts 13:1 - 14:28; 15:36 - 18:22; 18:23 - 21:17)
  5. While at Jerusalem he was arrested and imprisoned. (Acts 21:18 - 23:30)
  6. His imprisonment continued in Caesarea for two years. (Acts 23:31 - 26:32)
  7. After a difficult voyage he arrived in Rome where he was under house arrest for two years. (Acts 27:1 - 28:31).
    - He was apparently released, according to tradition, enabling him to resume limited travels. (1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5)
  8. When the persecution by Nero began in 64 A.D., he was again arrested and taken to Rome where he was imprisoned once more.
  9. Tradition states that he was beheaded about 67 A.D. in Rome.

## The City of Corinth

### A. Location

1. Corinth is located about two miles south of the narrow isthmus which forms the land bridge between the main land mass of Greece and the Peloponnesus.
  - a. The Peloponnesus was less than five miles wide.
  - b. Small ships were dragged across the isthmus while larger ships unloaded their cargo which was carried across the isthmus and then reloaded thus avoiding a long 200 mile journey around the Peloponnesus.

- 1) Nero had planned to dig a canal across the isthmus but he abandoned his attempts in AD 66.
  - 2) A canal was constructed between 1881 and 1893.
2. Corinth had two good ports.
    - a. Lechaion, to the west on the Gulf of Corinth, an arm of the Ionian Sea.
    - b. Cenchræa, to the east, on the Saronic Gulf, an arm of the Aegean Sea.
  3. Corinth “was situated on a plateau overlooking the Isthmus of Corinth about two miles from the Gulf. It lay at the foot of Acrocorinth, an acropolis which rises precipitiously to 1,886 ft ... and was easily defended in ancient times (A. Rupprecht, “Corinth,” *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Supplementary Vol., 960).
- B. History
1. Corinth became a prominent trade city early in antiquity. The isthmus provided a popular land route between the Peloponnesus to the south, the mainland to the north, the Gulf of Corinth to the west, and the Saronic Gulf to the east.
  2. It was ruled by the Macedonians from 335 to 197 B.C. the Romans declared Greece independent in 196 B.C. and a rebellion against Roman authority led to the complete sacking of the city in 146 B.C. by the Roman proconsul L. Mummius Achaicus.
  3. Rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 44 B.C., it became the provincial capital of Achaia and was ruled by a proconsul and was a Roman colony.
- C. Character
1. Corinth was, and had been from antiquity, generally licentious, idolatrous, and self-indulgent.
    - a. The phrase “Corinthian words” implied a pretension to philosophy and letters.
    - b. To “Corinthianize” was polite Greek for participating in the immoral.
    - c. The majority of Corinthians recognized no moral law but their own lusts, being devotees of Greek philosophy which divorced morality from religion.
  2. The city was prominent in trade and was, therefore, a melting pot of races and philosophies. Romans, Greeks, enough Jews to have a synagogue (Acts 18:4) and many others were there.
    - a. Women were much freer than in oriental cities.
    - b. Every three years the finest athletes in the world came to Corinth to participate in the Isthmian Games which were second only to the Olympian Games in fame and prestige.
  3. A large floating population, along with the prominence it had as a capital of the province of Achaia, made it a good location for gospel preaching.

## **The Church at Corinth**

- A. The apostle Paul established the church on his second missionary journey.
  1. He probably reached Corinth in AD 52 and labored there for a year and a half.
  2. He lodged with Aquila and Priscilla, recent refugees from Italy and, like Paul, tentmakers.
  3. He preached first in the synagogue and then in the house of Justus. He was dragged before the proconsul Gallio but was dismissed.
- B. Upon Paul’s departure, Apollos preached in Corinth (Acts 18:24-28).
- C. On at least three later occasions Paul sent letters to them (1 Cor. 5:9; 2 Cor. 7:8)

## **The Occasion, Date and Place of Writing of the Book**

### **A. The occasion of the writing.**

1. Upon leaving Corinth, Paul went through the upper country to Ephesus and stayed for two years, three months (Acts 19:1-10).
2. He then wrote a letter which cannot with certainty be identified with any one now in our possession (1 Cor. 5:9).
3. Certain of Chloe's house then contacted Paul (1 Cor. 1:11). Additionally, he received a letter from the Corinthians probably through Stephanus, Fortunatus and Achaius (1 Cor. 16:17; 7:1).
4. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians in response to the communications he had received from Corinth.

### **B. Date and place of writing.**

1. The date is reckoned according to the tenure of Gallio's proconsulate (Acts 18:12-17).
  - a. Gallio was the brother of Seneca the philosopher and Luken the poet. He entered office in AD 51.
  - b. Paul stayed in Corinth "many days" (Acts 18:18). He then finished his second missionary journey, going through the upper country and then coming to Ephesus probably about AD 53-54 where he wrote 1 Corinthians.

## **The Purpose of the Book**

- A. The church at Corinth was a troubled mixture of Jews and Gentiles who not only wrote to Paul asking for advice (1 Cor. 7:1) but who probably would have received it anyway in view of their many and complex difficulties.
  1. Their troubles were primarily internal though, no doubt, there were persecutions from without.
  2. They were troubled by intellectual pride, fornication—or the endorsement of it—, greed producing lawsuits, disturbed marital relations, insensibility to weak brethren, insubordination of women, desecration of the Lord's Supper, jealousy over spiritual gifts, and erroneous beliefs about the resurrection.
- B. Because of its nature and the nature of the problems with which it dealt, this letter, since it was first read, has served as a practical guide in correcting sin in the local church.

# 1 Corinthians Chapter One

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 10

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

### Key People

Paul	Cephas
Jesus Christ	Crispus
Sosthenes	Gaius
Chloe	Stephanas
Apollos	The Jews
	The Greeks

### Key Places

Corinth

### Key Words

Saints	Contentions
Grace	Baptized
Utterance	Disputer
Testimony	Wisdom
Revelation	Noble
Confirm	Base
Blameless	Righteousness
Fellowship	Sanctification
Plead	Redemption

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. By whom was this letter written? To whom was it written?
2. What did the writer want his readers to be on “the day of our Lord Jesus Christ?”
3. What did the writer plead for his readers to be? (v. 10)
4. What, according to verse 11, was among the church at Corinth?
5. What were the boasts of the members of the church? (v. 12)
6. According to verse 17, for what purpose was Paul sent?
7. To whom is the cross “foolishness?” To whom is the cross “the power of God?”
8. What, according to verse 20, has God done to the wisdom of the world? Why is that so? (v. 25)
9. From what groups of people are not many “called?” (v. 26)
10. In what is one to glory?

## Matching

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Paul      | A. “Our brother.”                        |
| ___ 2. Sosthenes | B. Household baptized by Paul.           |
| ___ 3. Chloe     | C. Apostle.                              |
| ___ 4. Crispus   | D. Household which spoke of contentions. |
| ___ 5. Stephanas | E. Baptized by Paul.                     |

## True - False

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. The readers were to be of the same mind.                 |
| T | F | 2. Some of the church members claimed to be of Apollos.     |
| T | F | 3. Paul was sent to baptize.                                |
| T | F | 4. The cross is a stumbling block to the Greeks.            |
| T | F | 5. God has chosen the weak and foolish things of the world. |

## Discussion Question

How can those who comprise a church rightfully be of the same mind and judgment?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Two

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verses 4-5

“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ”

### Key People

Jesus Christ

### Key Words

Excellence

Testimony

Crucified

Persuasive

Mature

Mystery

Spiritual

Natural

Discerned

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. With what did Paul not come to Corinth?
2. What was Paul determined to know?
3. According to verse three, how was Paul with them?
4. Of what did Paul’s preaching among them consist? Why? (vv. 4-5)
5. What did Paul speak to those who were “mature?”
6. To what were the “rulers of this age” coming?
7. How, according to verse seven, did Paul speak “the wisdom of God?”
8. Who revealed “the things which God has prepared for those who love Him?” (vv. 9-10)
9. What did the Spirit search?
10. What did Paul claim to have? (v. 16)

## Matching

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Testimony of God       | A. Spirit searched.               |
| ___ 2. Jesus Christ crucified | B. Ordained before the ages.      |
| ___ 3. Preaching              | C. Not with persuasive words.     |
| ___ 4. The hidden wisdom      | D. Determined only to know.       |
| ___ 5. Deep things of God     | E. Not with excellence of speech. |

## True - False

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. Paul declared the testimony of God with excellence of speech. |
| T | F | 2. Paul’s preaching was with persuasive words of human wisdom.   |
| T | F | 3. Paul spoke wisdom among those who were mature.                |
| T | F | 4. No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.      |
| T | F | 5. Paul had received the spirit of the world.                    |

## Discussion Question

Why is it important to know that the teachings of Paul came by revelation of the Spirit?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Three

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 11

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

### Key People

Paul  
Apollos  
Cephas

### Key Words

Spiritual  
Carnal  
Envy  
Strife  
Divisions  
Ministers  
Foundation  
Endures  
Craftiness  
Futile

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. Instead of being spiritual, what were the members at Corinth?
2. With what had Paul fed them? What could he not feed them? Why?
3. What characteristics of being carnal are listed in verse three?
4. What, according to verse five, were Paul and Apollos?
5. What had Paul done? What had Apollos done? Who gave the increase? (v. 6)
6. According to verse nine, what were:
  - a. Paul and Apollos?
  - b. The church members at Corinth?
7. How did Paul identify himself in verse ten? As that, what had he done?
8. What will test each one's work? (v. 13)
9. What, according to verse 16, were the church members at Corinth? What dwelt in them?
10. What will happen to the one who defiles the temple of God?

## Matching

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Carnal        | A. Master builder.                   |
| ___ 2. Solid food    | B. God's building.                   |
| ___ 3. Paul          | C. Characterized the Corinthians.    |
| ___ 4. Apollos       | D. Corinthians could not receive it. |
| ___ 5. Temple of God | E. Waterer.                          |

## True - False

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. The members at Corinth were babes in Christ. |
| T | F | 2. Apollos planted and Paul watered.            |
| T | F | 3. Each one will receive his own reward.        |
| T | F | 4. Fire will test each one's work.              |
| T | F | 5. The thoughts of the wise are futile.         |

## Discussion Question

What does it mean when it says, “all things are yours?”

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Four

## Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 2

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

### Key People

(Paul)

Apollos

The Apostles

Christ Jesus

Timothy

### Key Words

Servants

Stewards

Mysteries

Judge

Justified

Counsels

Figuratively

Spectacle

Distinguished

Dishonored

Reviled

Persecuted

Defamed

Entreat

Filth

Offscouring

Begotten

Imitate

Puffed up

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. How did Paul identify himself in verse one?
2. What is required of a steward?
3. Who did Paul say judged him?
4. What, according to verse five, will the Lord do when He comes?
5. According to verse six, what were the Corinthians not to do? Why?
6. What, according to verse nine, had God made the apostles?
7. What was Paul’s present condition? (v. 11)
8. According to verse 13, what had Paul been made?
9. Why did Paul say he was writing these things? (v. 14)
10. Who had “begotten” the Corinthians through the gospel? (v. 15)
11. Who was sent to the Corinthians? Why was he sent to them?
12. Of what, according to verse 20, is the kingdom of God?

## True - False

- T F 1. Paul judged himself.  
T F 2. Paul labored working with his own hands.  
T F 3. The Corinthians might have ten thousand instructors in Christ.

## Matching

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Paul         | A. The Corinthians were begotten in Him.         |
| ___ 2. Apollos      | B. Beloved and faithful.                         |
| ___ 3. The Apostles | C. Knew nothing against himself.                 |
| ___ 4. Christ Jesus | D. Paul and he were examples to the Corinthians. |
| ___ 5. Timothy      | E. Made a spectacle.                             |

## Discussion Question

What did Paul mean when he said he was their father in Christ?



# 1 Corinthians Chapter Five

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 6

“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?”

### Key People

The Gentiles

Jesus Christ

### Key Words

Sexual immorality

Puffed up

Mourned

Glorying

Leaven

Purge

Passover

Malice

Wickedness

Sincerity

Truth

Epistle

Covetous

Extortioners

Idolaters

Reviler

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. What sexual immorality was in the church at Corinth?
2. What was the attitude of the members toward the sexual immorality?
3. What did Paul say to do with the one who was guilty of such immorality? Why were they to do it? (vv. 4-5)
4. What does a little leaven do?
5. What were they to do with the “old leaven?” Why?
6. With what, according to verse eight, was the “feast” to be kept?
7. According to verse nine, with whom were they not to keep company?
8. According to verse 11, with whom were they not to keep company? To what extent were they to apply this command?
9. Who judges “those who are outside?”
10. What were they to do with the “evil person?”

## True - False

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Sexual immorality was present in the church at Corinth.          |
| T | F | 2. The sexual immorality was that a woman had her mother's husband. |
| T | F | 3. The church mourned the sexual immorality in their midst.         |
| T | F | 4. Paul, being absent, had not judged the guilty person.            |
| T | F | 5. The guilty person was to be delivered to Satan.                  |
| T | F | 6. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.                          |
| T | F | 7. Our Passover is Christ.  |
| T | F | 8. The feast is to be kept with old leaven.                         |
| T | F | 9. They were not to keep company with a covetous brother.           |
| T | F | 10. They were to judge those who were inside.                       |

## Discussion Question

What would have been the results if the church at Corinth had continued to fellowship the one who was guilty of sin?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Six

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verses 9-10

“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 homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

### Key People

Jesus Christ

### Key Words

Unrighteous  
Saints  
Unworthy  
Pertain  
Esteemed  
Judge  
Utter  
Cheated  
Washed  
Sanctified  
Justified  
Lawful  
Helpful  
Harlot  
Temple  
Glorify

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. Who, according to verses one and two, will judge the world?
2. Who, according to verse three, will judge angels?
3. What practice does verse six condemn?
4. What alternatives were suggested in verses seven and eight to the practice condemned in verse six?
5. Who, according to verses nine and ten, will not inherit the kingdom of God?
6. Though they had been guilty of sins, according to verse 11, what had happened to them?
7. According to verse 12, of what would Paul not be brought under?
8. According to verse 13, what is the body not for?
9. To whom does a Christian's body belong? (v. 15)
10. What happens when one joins his body to a harlot? (v. 16)
11. What is one to flee? (v. 18)
12. According to verse 18, when one commits sexual immorality, against whom does he sin?
13. What, according to verse 19, is the Christian's body?
14. Why is the Christian not his own? (vv. 19-20)
15. What, according to verse 20, is the Christian to do with his body?

## True - False

- T F 1. One Christian can take another Christian to law.  
T F 2. One should never settle for being cheated.  
T F 3. Homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God.  
T F 4. All things are helpful.  
T F 5. Sexual immorality is a sin outside the body.

## Discussion Question

Are there any circumstances where a Christian might take a brother to law?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Seven

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 39

“A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”

### Key Words

Sexual immorality

Affection

Authority

Deprive

Consent

Fasting

Concession

Depart

Reconciled

Divorce

Unbelieving

Sanctified

Unclean

Holy

Bondage

Distributed

Ordain

Circumcised

Virgins

Trustworthy

Distress

Distraction

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. Why, according to verse two, should each man have his own wife and each wife have her own husband?
2. What is the husband to render to his wife? What is the wife to render to her husband? (v. 3)
3. Who has authority over the wife's body? Who has authority over the husband's body? (v. 4)
4. Why, according to verse five, can husband and wife “deprive” one another?
5. According to verse ten, what is a wife not to do? If she does that, what are her options? (v. 11)
6. What is a believing husband to do in regards to an unbelieving wife? (v. 12) Is it the same when the roles are reversed? (v. 13)
7. What does the believing wife do for her unbelieving husband? (v. 14) What does the believing husband do for his unbelieving wife?
8. Why are the children of a believer who has an unbelieving spouse “holy?”
9. What is a believer to do if an unbelieving spouse departs? (v. 15)
10. What, according to verse 19, is circumcision? What is uncircumcision?
11. According to verse 19, what matters?
12. In what is one to remain? (v. 20)
13. Why, according to verse 26, was one to “remain as he is?”
14. What was Paul's objective in offering counsel as to whether to be married or unmarried? (v. 32)
15. How long is a wife to be with her husband? (v. 39)

## True - False

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. The husband is to render due affection to his wife.          |
| T | F | 2. A woman who married has authority over her own body.         |
| T | F | 3. A wife may depart from her husband for any reason.           |
| T | F | 4. The unbelieving husband is sanctified by his believing wife. |
| T | F | 5. One is to remain in the calling in which he is called.       |

## Discussion Question

How did the “present distress” at Corinth affect the teachings of Paul in this chapter?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Eight

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 12

“But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.”

### Key People

Jesus Christ

### Key Words

Idols

Knowledge

Puffs up

Edifies

Consciousness

Conscience

Defiled

Commend

Liberty

Stumbling block

Emboldened

Perish

Stumble

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. According to verse one, what does knowledge do? What does love do?
2. Who is known by God? (v. 3)
3. What, according to verse four, is an idol?
4. What is said of the Father in verse six?
5. What is said of Jesus Christ in verse six?
6. What, according to verse seven, happens to the one lacking knowledge who eats that which has been offered to an idol?
7. According to verse eight, what does food not accomplish?
8. What can the liberty of a brother with knowledge become? (v. 9)
9. How, according to verse 12, can one sin against his brother?
10. What did Paul say he would do if food caused his brother to stumble? (v. 13)

## Matching

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| ___ 1. Idol       | A. Can be defiled.       |
| ___ 2. Knowledge  | B. Can make one stumble. |
| ___ 3. Love       | C. Nothing.              |
| ___ 4. Conscience | D. Edifies.              |
| ___ 5. Food       | E. Puffs up.             |

## True - False

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. Knowledge edifies.  |
| T | F | 2. One who loves God is known by Him.                          |
| T | F | 3. There are few gods and lords.                               |
| T | F | 4. Food commends us to God.                                    |
| T | F | 5. When one sins against the brethren, he sins against Christ. |

## Discussion Question

How can one defile his conscience?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Nine

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 27

“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

### Key People

Jesus Christ

Cephas

Barnabas

Moses

### Key Words

Apostle

Seal

Refrain

Muzzle

Threshes

Partakers

Endure

Hinder

Minister

Boasting

Void

Stewardship

Abuse

Perishable

Imperishable

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. In verse two, what did Paul say the Corinthians were?
2. What rights did Paul say he had? (vv. 4-5)
3. Since he had sown spiritual things for them, what could he reap from them? (v. 11)
4. Why, according to verse 12, did Paul “endure all things?”
5. What did the Lord command in relation to those who preach the gospel? (v. 16)
6. Why could Paul not boast that he preached the gospel? (v. 16)
7. What, according to verse 18, did Paul not want to abuse?
8. To whom did Paul become a servant? Why? (v. 19)
9. According to verse 22, what had Paul become to all men?
10. Why, according to verse 27, did Paul discipline his body?

## True - False

- T F 1. Paul was not really an apostle.
- T F 2. Paul had a right to eat and drink and have a wife.
- T F 3. Barnabas and Paul refrained from working.
- T F 4. The one who plants a vineyard has the right to eat its fruit.
- T F 5. The ox who treads the grain must be muzzled.
- T F 6. Those who served at the altar could partake of its offerings.
- T F 7. Paul was a servant of all.
- T F 8. To the weak Paul became strong.
- T F 9. All who run in a race receive the prize.
- T F 10. Those who compete for the prize are temperate in all things.

## Discussion Question

What is involved in running the race to receive an imperishable crown?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Ten

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 13

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

### Key People

Moses  
Christ  
Israel - The Jews  
Gentiles - Greeks

### Key Places

The wilderness

### Key Words

Baptized  
Lust  
Idolaters  
Sexual immorality  
Tempt  
Serpents  
Admonition  
Communion  
Partakers  
Demons  
Fellowship  
Provoke  
Jealousy  
Edify  
Conscience  
Liberty  
Offense  
Profit

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. What happened to most of the “fathers” in the wilderness? Why? (vv. 1-5)
2. What did the example of the “fathers” teach? (vv. 6-10)
3. Why were the examples of the “fathers” included in this writing? (v. 11)
4. What caution should the one who “thinks he stands” take? (v. 12)
5. What, according to verse 13, is common to man?
6. How is God “faithful” when it comes to temptation? (v. 13)
7. According to verse 14, from what is one to flee?
8. What, according to verse 16, is the cup of blessing? What is the bread?
9. To whom do the Gentiles sacrifice? (v. 20)
10. According to verse 21, what can one not do at the same time?
11. According to verse 23, what are “all things?” What not are “all things?”
12. What is one not to seek? What is one to seek? (v. 24)
13. According to verse 26, what is the Lord’s?
14. To what, according to verse 31, are all things to be done?
15. To whom is one not to give “offense?” (v. 32)

## True - False

- T F 1. The Rock that followed Israel through the wilderness was Christ.  
T F 2. True religion is designed so that worshipers can eat, drink and play.  
T F 3. God allows us to be tempted above that which we can bear.  
T F 4. The cup of blessing is communion with the body of Christ.  
T F 5. All things edify.

## Discussion Question

What is meant by the phrase, “all things are lawful?”

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Eleven

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 27

“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.”

### Key People

Christ

### Key Words

Imitate

Traditions

Prophesying

Symbol

Authority

Contentious

Custom

Divisions

Factions

Lord's Supper

Betrayed

Covenant

Proclaim

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. According to verse three, who is the head of:
  - a. Man?
  - b. Woman?
  - c. Christ?
2. According to verse four, how does a man dishonor himself?
3. According to verse five, how is a woman dishonored?
4. According to verse seven, why should a man not cover his head?
5. According to verse 15, what is given to the woman for a covering?
6. Who, according to verse 16, has no such custom as a covering?
7. What, according to verses 18 and 19, was happening when the Corinthians came together as a church?
8. How were they abusing the Lord's Supper? (vv. 20-21)
9. What had the Lord delivered to Paul? (vv. 23-25)
10. According to verse 26, what does one do as he eats the bread and drinks the cup?
11. According to verse 27, what happens to the one who partakes of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner?
12. According to verse 28, what is one to do before eating the bread and drinking the cup?
13. According to verse 29, what happens when one eats and drinks in an unworthy manner?
14. When coming together, what were they to do? (v. 33)
15. According to verse 34, what is one to do when he is hungry?

## True - False

- T F 1. The head of man is the woman.
- T F 2. Man is independent of woman and she is independent of man.
- T F 3. The wearing of the covering is a custom.
- T F 4. There were factions among the church at Corinth.
- T F 5. Whoever partakes of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner is condemned.

## Discussion Question

What are some implications of the question, “Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?”

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Twelve

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verses 12-13

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

### Key People

The Gentiles  
Jesus

### Key Words

Spiritual gifts  
Ignorant  
Diversities  
Ministries  
Manifestations  
Healings  
Miracles  
Prophecy  
Discerning  
Tongues  
Distributing  
Baptized  
Honorable  
Unpresentable  
Modesty  
Composed  
Schism

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. According to verse two, what had the Corinthians previously been?
2. What can one who speaks by the Spirit of God not say? What can he say? (v. 3)
3. Of what, according to verses four through six, are there diversities and differences?
4. Why is the manifestation of the Spirit given to each one? (v. 7)
5. What gifts of the Spirit are listed in verses eight through ten?
6. Though the body has many members, what is it? (v. 12)
7. According to verse 13, why are all Christians to be one?
8. What has God set in the body as He pleased? (v. 18)
9. What can the “eye” not say to the “hand?” (v. 21)
10. What, according to verse 22, are necessary?
11. On what is bestowed greater honor? (v. 23)
12. What has greater modesty? (v. 23)
13. Who “composed” the body? (v. 24)
14. What should not be in the body? (v. 25)
15. According to verse 25, what should members of the body have?
16. What are the members of the body to do when one member suffers? What are they to do when one member is honored? (v. 26)
17. According to verse 27, what were the Christians at Corinth?
18. According to verse 28, what had God appointed in the church?
19. What were the Christians to earnestly desire? (v. 31)
20. What, according to verse 31, was Paul going to show them?

## Discussion Question

What are divisions, schisms and factions? How and why do they adversely affect the church?



# 1 Corinthians Chapter Thirteen

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 13

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

### Key Words

Sounding brass

Clanging cymbal

Mysteries

Bestow

Suffers

Rudely

Provoked

Iniquity

Fail

Vanish

Childish

Faith

Hope

Love

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. According to verse one, what does one become who does not have love?
2. According to verse two, who is one who does not have love?
3. According to verse three, if one does not have love, what does it profit?
4. List the characteristics of love found in verse four.
5. List the characteristics of love found in verse five.
6. List the characteristics of love found in verse six.
7. List the characteristics of love found in verse seven.
8. List the characteristic of love found in verse eight.
9. What, according to verse eight, will happen to:
  - a. Prophecies?
  - b. Tongues?
  - c. Knowledge?
10. When will “that which is part” be done away? (v. 10)
11. What do Paul do as a “child?” (v. 11)
12. What, according to verse 11, did Paul do when he became a man?
13. How did they now “see?” (v. 12)
14. How did they now “know?” (v. 12)
15. What now abides? Which is greatest? (v. 13)

## True - False

- T F 1. Faith without love adds up to nothing.  
T F 2. Sacrifice without love profits nothing.  
T F 3. Love causes envy.  
T F 4. Love rejoices in truth.  
T F 5. When that which is perfect is come, that which is in part will be done away.

## Discussion Question

Why is love greater than faith and hope?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Fourteen

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 40

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”

### Key Words

Pursue

Desire

Mysteries

Edification

Exhortation

Comfort

Tongue

Interprets

Revelation

Distinction

Utter

Languages

Significance

Foreigner

Zealous

Uninformed

Convicted

Confusion

Submissive

Shameful

Decently

In order

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. According to verse one, what is one to pursue?
2. What did one who prophesied speak? (v. 3)
3. Who did one who spoke in a tongue edify? Who did one who prophesied edify? (v. 4)
4. According to verse five, the one who prophesied was greater than whom?
5. What happens, according to verse eight, when a trumpet makes an uncertain sound?
6. Why were those at Corinth to “seek to excel?” (v. 12)
7. How is one to sing? How is one to pray? (v. 15)
8. According to verse 20, in what were they to be babes? In what were they to be mature?
9. According to verse 22, what was the purpose of “tongues? For whom was prophesying?
10. What, according to verse 23, would happen if all spoke in tongues before an unbeliever?
11. What, according to verses 24 and 25, would happen if all prophesied before an unbeliever?
12. For what are “all things” to be done? (v. 26)
13. According to verse 33, of what is God not the author? Of what is He the author?
14. What, according to verse 34, are women to do in the church?
15. According to verse 37, what were the things Paul wrote to the Corinthians?
16. How are “all things” to be done? (v. 40)

## Matching

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ 1. Desire        | A. With the understanding. |
| ___ 2. Seek          | B. Speak in tongues.       |
| ___ 3. Pray          | C. To excel.               |
| ___ 4. Do not forbid | D. Spiritual gifts         |

## Discussion Question

What does it mean to “let all things be done decently and in order?”

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Fifteen

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 40

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”

### Key People

Christ Jesus  
Cephas  
The Twelve (Apostles)  
James  
Paul  
Adam

### Key Places

Ephesus

### Key Words

Stand	Power
Vain	Reign
Due time	Baptized
Persecuted	Jeopardy
Grace	Affirm
Resurrection	Advantage
False witnesses	Celestial
Testified	Terrestrial
Perished	Corruption
Pitiable	Incorruption
Firstfruits	Natural
Rule	Spiritual
Authority	Immortality

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. How, according to verse two, is one saved by the gospel?
2. What had Paul “delivered” to them? (vv. 3-4)
3. Who witnessed Jesus after He was raised from the dead? (vv. 5-8)
4. What did Paul say he was not worthy to be called an apostle? (v. 9)
5. What, according to verse 13, is true if there is no resurrection of the dead?
6. What would result if Christ is not risen from the dead? (vv. 14-19)
7. According to verse 20, what has Christ become?
8. From verse 21, what came by man? What came by Man?
9. What happens to all in Adam? What happens to all in Christ? (v. 22)
10. What, according to verse 24, will happen when “the end” comes?
11. How long must Christ reign? (v. 25)
12. What is the last enemy that will be destroyed? (v. 26)
13. According to verse 27, who is not “under” Christ?
14. What warning is given in verse 33?
15. How, according to verses 42 through 44, is the body sown? How is it raised?
16. What did “the last Adam” become? (v. 45)
17. What, according to verse 50, cannot inherit the kingdom of God?
18. According to verse 54, what happens to “death?”
19. Through whom is the victory? (v. 57)
20. What did Paul command in verse 58? Why?

## Discussion Question

Why was it so important for Jesus to be raised from the dead?

# 1 Corinthians Chapter Sixteen

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verses 13-14

“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done with love.”

### Key People

Paul  
Timothy  
Apollos  
Stephanas  
Fortunatas  
Achaicus  
Aquila  
Priscilla

### Key Places

Galatia  
Jerusalem  
Macedonia  
Ephesus  
Achaia  
Asia

### Key Words

Collection  
Prosper  
Pentecost  
Effective  
Adversaries  
Despise  
Convenient  
Salutation

### Key Lesson

## Matching

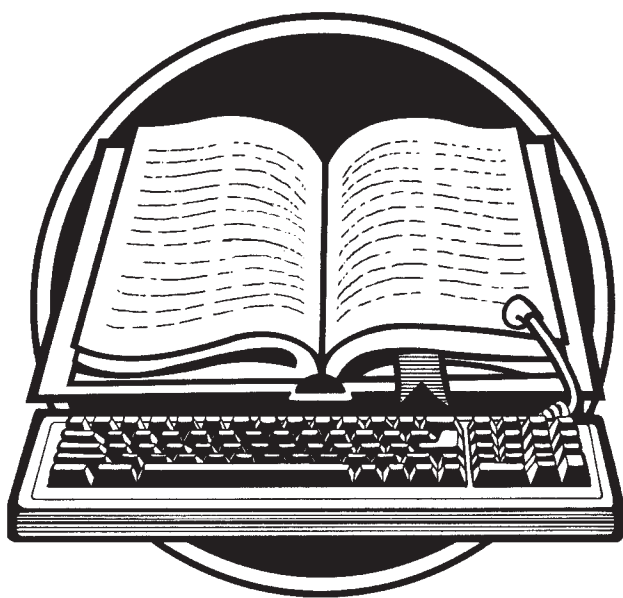
1. What was Paul addressing in verse one? Whose example were they to follow?
2. What, according to verse two, were they to do on the first day of the week?
3. What did Paul say he would do? (v. 3)
4. When did Paul say he would come to Corinth? (v. 5)
5. How long did Paul want to stay once he arrived in Corinth? (vv. 6-7)
6. Where was Paul going to tarry? How long would he tarry there? (v. 8)
7. In verse nine, what did Paul say had opened for him?
8. Who, according to verse 10, was coming to Corinth? How was he to be among them?
9. Who had Paul urged to go to Corinth? What was his answer? (v. 12)
10. What command did Paul give in:
  - a. Verse 13?
  - b. Verse 14?
  - c. Verses 15-16?
  - d. Verse 20?

## Matching

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Timothy   | A. His household was the firstfruits of Achaia. |
| ___ 2. Apollos   | B. Greeted the Corinthians heartily.            |
| ___ 3. Stephanas | C. Wrote the salutation in his own hand.        |
| ___ 4. Paul      | D. Be in Corinth without fear.                  |
| ___ 5. Aquila    | E. Unwilling to come to Corinth.                |

## Discussion Question

How do verses one and two serve as an example for churches today?



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