

September 7, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

The Book of 1 Corinthians – Part 15 Chapter 16

The Closing Call:

Live Generously, Serve Faithfully, Love Deeply.

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological and missiological of the 1st Century Church so that we in the 21st Century Church can keep the 'CHURCH LIVE & GROWING'. In the Book of 1 Corinthians we see where...

Paul **REMINDS** them of their **HIGH CALLING TO...**

1. Be Holy
2. Develop a Fellowship of Harmony & Love
3. Glorify God.
4. Have the Mind of Christ.
5. Be God's Sanctuary & Temple
6. Honor & Respect Faithful Spiritual Leaders
7. Live as Obedient 'Beloved Children' of our Heavenly Father.
8. Live Your Life With Integrity & Godliness.
9. Honor God in Our Relationships & Service
10. To Use Your Liberty In Christ in Loving Wisdom
11. To Make The Message of the Gospel a Priority Over Our Freedom and Rights.
12. To Follow the Example of Christ in How We Treat Others.
13. To Honor Christ in the way we worship.
14. To Use Your Spiritual Gifts For the Good of the Church and to the Glory of God.
15. To Place Love as the Priority in Everything We Do.
16. To Pursue a Passionate , Pure Worship of God.
17. To Live in Victory & Confidence in Light of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Today in the Final Chapter 16 we are called...

18. **To Live Generously, Serve Faithfully, Love Deeply.**

Today we draw to a close this 1st Letter to the Church in Corinth. It has been a difficult and challenging letter for Paul to write and for the Church Members in Corinth to receive and process. Paul in this last section changes course and finishes on a positive and encouraging note. There were a lot of problems with the Corinth Church but one bright point was that they were a generous church and were a church with great potential, once they began to live up to the '**Callings**' Paul had issued to them.

In this Closing Call we can find three (3) sub-points, which by the way, is the very title of this last message:
Live Generously, Serve Faithfully, Love Deeply.

A. LIVE GENEROUSLY

1 Corinthians 16:1-4... *¹Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. ²On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, in proportion to your prosperity, so that no collections be made when I come. ³When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; ⁴and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.*

We can glean from these verses a pattern for generous living. (Adapted from Warren Wiersbe. Bible Exposition Commentary)

1. Giving is Expected of Believers.

From the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis all the way through to Revelation, God has directed us to be generous in giving. It is to be expected of a true believer they will be generous, giving people.

We see the correlating teaching and the reason in **Galatians 2:10**...*They only asked us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do.*

2. Giving is an Intentional Act of Worship.

They were intentional about giving on the 1st Day of the week, Sunday, which seems to indicate that maybe by this time they had moved from a Saturday/Sabbath day of worship to a Sunday/1st Day/Lord's Day worship pattern. Either way, it shows that giving was a vital part of the early church worship.

3. Giving is Proportional.

Each person was to give in proportion as they had prospered. This reminds me of the verse in **Luke 12:48b**... *From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.* (AMP)

Those who have been blessed with more should cheerfully give more. That, however, does not excuse those of more meager means with an excuse not to give. Note this reference about the poor widow in

Mark 12: 41-44... ⁴¹ *And He sat down opposite the treasury and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums.* ⁴² *A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent.* ⁴³ *Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;* ⁴⁴ *for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."* (NASB)
Giving should be proportional, cheerful and sacrificial.

4. Giving is Communal.

Everyone was privileged, called and expected to give. When we join our resources together, they become a mighty source of blessing. Everyone in the Family of God ...The Church...has a role to play and something to give. T.E.A.M. Together Everyone Accomplishes More.

5. Giving is to be Handled with Accountability.

They handled the money with integrity and accountability. This is God's money that we are giving, it should be wisely handled so that there will be no hint of misuse and so that God's work can be accomplished.

Next point: B. SERVE FAITHFULLY & FLEXIBLY

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1 Corinthians 16:5-14...⁵ *But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia;* ⁶ *and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I may go.* ⁷ *For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.* ⁸ *But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;* ⁹ *for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.* ¹⁰ *Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am.* ¹¹ *So let no one despise him. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brethren.* 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 *Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.* ¹⁴ *Let all that you do be done in love.*

Just as giving is an expected part of worship so is faithful and flexible service. Paul had several ideas and plans which he faithfully wanted to accomplish. However, Paul was fully aware it was the Lord who gives the final say on where, when and how we serve.

Let's take a look at what James (the half or stepbrother of

Jesus) said.

James 4:15... *Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."*

Verses 13 & 14 are bridge verses that go with this point and also with the final one.

13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

5 Characteristics of Faithful Flexible Service Are:

1. Watch – Stay alert to spiritual dangers.
2. Stand firm – Don't compromise your faith.
3. Be courageous – Face trials with boldness.
4. Be strong – Lean on God's strength.
5. Do everything in love – Let love be your motive.

(Adapted from Co-pilot)

Our service and ministry must be approached with a spirit of adaptability and flexibility giving deference to the Word & Will of God.

Last Point:

C. LOVE DEEPLY.

1 Corinthians 16:14-24...¹⁴ *Let all that you do be done in love.* ¹⁵ *Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints),* ¹⁶ *that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.* ¹⁷ *I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part.* ¹⁸ *For*

*they have refreshed my spirit and yours.
Therefore, acknowledge such men. ¹⁹ The churches
of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily
in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.
²⁰ All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a
holy kiss. ²¹ The greeting is in my own hand—Paul. ²² If
anyone does not love the Lord, he is to
be accursed. Maranatha. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus
be with you. ²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus.
Amen.*

1 Corinthians 16 may look like a list of final instructions, but it's actually a blueprint for faithful living as the Family of God, the Church. It teaches us that the Christian life is lived not just in the spotlight—but in the quiet moments of generosity, flexibility, encouragement, service - all in Love.

(Adapted from Co-pilot)

Take-Away: Let's Commit to Being a Church that..

**Gives With Purpose,
Serves With Devotion, and
Loves With Passion & Care.**