

1 Corinthians

Cleaning up Wrong Thinking

Among Christians

Self-study Worksheets

Lesson 1—The Story

... of God through a Faithful Pastor

Trace the story of how the church began and grew through the chronology below. For each reference, write down the key development.

Acts 18:1-18

Acts 18:24, 26-28

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

1 Corinthians 1:11

1 Corinthians 7:1; 16:17

1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10-11

2 Corinthians 13:2

2 Corinthians 2:4; 7:8

2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:6-9

2 Corinthians 2:1

2 Corinthians 13:10

Lesson 2—The Problems

Scan through the book and see if you can identify some of the key problems among the Christians in that church

1:10-13; 3:1-4

4:1-5

5:11-12

6:5

6:12; 8:8-9; 9:12; 10:24

6:20

7:5, 25

7:25

10:12

11:16

11:20-21

12:1; 14:20

13:1-3

15:1-2, 34

15:35-36

16:11

Lesson 3—The Sin-Christian Paradox

What do we learn about these Christians from the 'severe' verses in the letter?

3:1-4

4:18-21

5:1-2

6:15, 20

11:16

11:21-22

15:34

15:35-36

16:22

What do we learn about these Christians from the 'saint' verses in the letter?

1:1-9

1:30

6:11

16:19, 23-24

What does the presence of both the 'severe' and the 'saint' verses in the same letter teach us about Christian living?

Lesson 4—Favourite Verses

1 Corinthians is filled with some of the most moving and inspiring verses for Christian living. In each of these famous verses, consider how you might use it to help you remain guiltless until Jesus' return (1:8).

1:25-30

2:16

6:9-11

8:1

10:13

11:23-26

13:4-8, 13

15:33

15:51-55

15:58

16:23-24

Lesson 5—Gospel Power and Wisdom

Read 1 Corinthians 1

How are the following themes of the whole book presented in the opening greeting and prayer (1:1-9)?

Work and authority of apostles:

Holiness / obedience:

Unity:

Gospel:

Spiritual gifts:

What is the main problem in 1:10-17 and what similar danger is there in our church context?

Who are the two groups in 1:18, and how is the same "word of the cross" received by each of those groups?

What method, and what message, is the core issue separating God's way of doing ministry from man's ways of doing ministry (1:21-23)

1:25 is somewhat of a summary statement. How does it tie in to the overall theme of 1 Corinthians of "cleaning up wrong thinking among Christians"?

Who in 1:26-31 is evidence that God's way is the way that really works?

Lesson 6—How We Got the New Testament

Read 1 Corinthians 2

What are the dangers of being in a church where the pastor does not stick to God's way for ministry but emphasises his own skills and expertise (2:1-5)?

We often read 2:6-16 as if it was about us understanding God's Word. However, the "we/us" in 2:6-16 is specifically the Apostles of Jesus Christ as they are directly inspired to reveal clearly God's mind to us. Reread the verses with that in mind, and consider how that influences our use of God's Word among one another and among the unbelieving.

According to 2:16, what did the Apostles of Jesus Christ have as they revealed to us the New Testament?

How do the following passages relate to this chapter?

1 Corinthians 3:9-10

Ephesians 2:19-22

Lesson 7—Christian Celebrities

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-16 and chapters 3 and 4

Who are some of your favourite Christian preachers, teachers, authors, or counsellors? What about them do you value?

What is the main point of these passages (1:10; 3:21-23; 4:14)

What was the specific version of division among them (1:11-12; 3:3-4; 4:6)?

How are we as Christians to think about the gifted people in God's Church (1:13; 3:5-10, 21-23; 4:1-5)?

What is a lesson for our own labours in God's Church (3:12-18)?

How do these passages fit in with 1:18-2:16 (1:17; 3:19-20; 4:10)?

Instead of forming personal opinions of distinction between the faithful, how should we think of every faithful minister (4:16-17)?

Lesson 8—Christian Ethics, not Legal Rights

READ 1 Corinthians 5 - 6

What is the specific unethical behaviour in chapter 5?

How does 5:9-13 helps us deal with the sin in the world compared to the sin among one another?

What is the "legal / rights" vs "ethical / righteous" distinction in 6:1-8?

What perceived 'human right' is addressed in 6:13 (also 7:1) and what 'human responsibility' is given in 6:18 (also 7:2-4)?

How does 6:9-11 and 6:19-20 help us overcome the attitude of being more concerned about our 'human rights' than our 'Divine responsibilities'?

Lesson 9—Consider Your Social Status

Read 1 Corinthians 7

Singleness and marriage have a big impact on our ministry in God's Church. What are some practical considerations for each of the following groups in serving God best?

- Singles and widowed (7:1-2, 8-9, 25-28, 32, 34, 36-40):
- Christians married (7:3-5, 10-11, 33-34):
- Mixed-faith married (7:12-16):

What different social statuses are mentioned in 7:17-24, and how do they contribute to our spiritual status?

How does the common concept in these verses define the default from where we evaluate our service to the Lord (7:8, 12-13, 17, 20, 24, 26)?

Lesson 10—Maturity in Grey Areas

Read 1 Corinthians 8

With regard to difficult, complex, or unclear ethical matters, how do verses 1-3 help us categorise our thoughts and responses?

What is the main arguments for, and against, eating food sacrificed to an idol according to verses 4-7? Can you consider each side honestly enough to convince another of each view?

What, according to verses 8-9, is really at the heart issue of these kind of disagreements among Christians?

How can an ethical grey area actually turn into an overtly sinful thing according to verses 10-13?

Lesson 11—A Minister's Rights and Motives

Read 1 Corinthians 9

According to verses 8-12a and 13-14, what is Paul fully entitled to as an Apostle?

According to verses 1-7, what are some of the specific things that Paul was legitimately 'entitled' to?

What did Paul do with that right according to verse 12b?

In verses 15-18 Paul affirms what his heart motive is for setting aside his rightful claims upon them. What is his motive?

What were some other applications of this principle in Paul's ministry according to verses 19-22?

What is the repeated motive for all this in verse 23?

There are a few different metaphors in verses 24-27 all making the same point. What is that point?

Lesson 12—Dangers of Spiritual Privilege

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11:16

10:1-4 lists some of the spiritual privileges of the Israelites in the OT, yet verse 5 mentions that God wasn't pleased. What are some of the sins in verses 7-10 that spiritual privilege did not automatically protect them from?

According to 10:6 and 11, as well as the use of the imperative in verses 7-10, what is the application to us (look also at verse 12)?

What are the key lessons 10:13 that makes it such a famous verse to help us in the heat of temptation?

10:14-22 returns to the topic of food sacrificed to idols, but focusses this time on the temptations that might very well still be present in Christian liberties or spiritual grey areas. How does the question in verse 22 help us evaluate our Christian walk through ethical difficulties?

10:23-11:1 describes some different ethical conundrums, but what are some of the guiding principles in that section?

11:2-16 is not an easy passage to understand, but the main points are very clear. What are they?

Lesson 13—The Lord of the Lord's Supper

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

What is the main issue for this passage, and what is the little side-issue, as stated in verses 17-21?

Since Paul was not one of The Twelve with Jesus at their Last Supper, how was he taught about the Lord's Supper?

What are the Lord's instructed components of a true "Lord's" Supper?

What two elements (23-25)?

What remembrance (24-26)?

What procedure is the most important (27-32)?

What is the repeated emphasis in verses 17, 20 and 33-34 that governs the context in which the Lord Supper is to be practised?

Lesson 14—Desire Spiritual Gifts

Scan through 1 Corinthians 12-14

What is the first problem among Christians regarding spiritual gifts that Paul addresses in 12:1-3?

How many spiritual gifts exist (12:4-30)?

Who decides the distribution of the gifts (12:11)?

What is the one singular purpose of Christians being given spiritual gifts (12:7; 14:26)?

What is the most repeated command to Christians regarding spiritual gifts (12:31; 14:1; 14:39)?

There are three *methods* that should govern our *practices* of the spiritual gifts. What are the verses that instill these methods in us?

1. How lovingly can I do it?
2. How orderly can I do it?
3. How maturely can I do it?

Lesson 15—The Zeal of Gospel Clarity

Read 1 Corinthians 15

It is a problem in the church when Christians are superficially over-familiar with the Gospel. What are some of the most basic Gospel truths in verses 1-4 that they were needing to be reminded of?

How do we know that the final part of the Gospel message (the resurrection of Jesus Christ) really happened (4-8)?

What are we doing to our own faith if we obscure Gospel truth (12-19)?

What are the implications of Jesus' resurrection being real (20-32)?

Just because we might have many questions about the resurrection, doesn't mean the resurrection is impossible (35-49). How do verses 33-34 guide our search for truth in Gospel matters?

Why is resurrection more necessary for reality than death?

According to the closing verse of this chapter, what is the practical effect of Gospel clarity on a Christian?

Lesson 16—Mature Coworkers

Read 1 Corinthians 16

This chapter is about ministry admin work.

What are some guiding principles for handling church finances (1-4)?

What are some guiding principles for assisting preachers/missionaries (5-12)?

What can you do to make yourself a coworker in the Gospel (12-24)?

How do each of these sections illustrate the exhortation of 15:58, and how does it guide you in excellence in your Christian work until the Lord returns?