

United in Christ

A Study in First Corinthians



*"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.
Let all that you do be done with love."*

- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

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How to Use This Study Guide

Each week, as you sit down to study, begin with prayer. Before reading the lesson and answering the questions, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. You may find it helpful to have a few study aids such as a dictionary, a concordance, and more than one translation of the Bible. You may also find the following online resources helpful: BibleGateway.com BlueLetterBible.org

Note: The New American Standard Bible (NASB) was used for this Study Guide with consideration of the New King James Version (NKJV) and the Amplified Bible.

The Bible is an endless mine of priceless treasure. The "Growing Stronger" section is designed to help you dig more treasures from God's Word that will strengthen your relationship and walk with Him. May what you find there dazzle you!

At the end of each week's study questions, there is a "Lift Your Heart" section. This will be an important and personal part of your study. You are encouraged to write in your journal what transpires as you listen and respond to the whispers from God's heart to yours. When you look back through your journal at the end of the study, you will be blessed and amazed at your insight and growth.

1 Corinthians 1:1-17... *Appeal for Unity*

God had blessed the church at Corinth, yet there were divisions between those who liked Paul's simple style and those who preferred a more sophisticated and philosophical approach. There are many things that divide people today, as well. In this lesson, Paul gives practical insights to help unite us in Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter One

Re-read verses 1-9

1. List the truths about God you find in verses 1-9.

Choose one of these truths and explain why it is important to you.

2. Define the word "sanctified".

How have you been sanctified? (verse 2)

3. Paul frequently began his letters by thanking God for his readers. What are some reasons for his gratitude?
4. What are some things about your church you are grateful for?

5. How does expressing gratitude to God promote unity in the Church?

"Humility is the secret of fellowship and pride the secret of division."

~ Robert C. Chapman

Read verses 10-17

6. What three appeals did Paul make in verse 10?

7. What are some ways in which the body of Christ (the church) is divided today?

8. What problem does Paul identify in verses 11-12?

What solution does Paul convey in verse 13?

9. According to verse 17, what was the main thrust of Paul's ministry?

Growing Stronger...

An important part of Bible study is applying its truths to everyday life. The following questions provide a plan of action for practical application and can be used for any portion of Scripture you are studying.

1. What truth from 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 would you like to take to heart this week?
2. How do you already see this truth affecting your life?
3. In what ways, if any, do you fall short and want to grow in this area?
4. What will you do to cooperate with God in letting this growth happen?
5. How can you make sure you will do what you have planned?

Lift Your Heart...

Verse 10 in the New King James Version uses the phrase "joined together". One commentary on "joined together" states: "A medical word used of knitting together bones that have been fractured, or joining together a joint that has been dislocated. The disunion is unnatural and must be cured." Take a few moments and consider the people in your life. Is there a fracture or disunion with anyone at home, work, or at your church? Write a prayer in your journal asking the Lord Jesus to show you how you can be joined together again.

Study notes for 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-31... *The Wisdom of God*

The Corinthians boasted in worldly wisdom and admired those who taught it. They felt intellectually and spiritually superior to others. In these verses, we are reminded that the ground is level at the Cross.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter One

Re-read verses 18-21

1. According to the following verses, what is the message "of the cross"?

Isaiah 53:4-6

1 Corinthians 15:3

Philippians 2:6-8

Colossians 1:19-23

2. Why do you think this message is "foolishness to those who are perishing"?

Why is the message of the cross "the power of God" to believers?

Read verses 22-25

3. What was the expectation of the Jews concerning their Messiah? (see Isaiah 9:6-7)

In light of their expectation, why is Jesus' crucifixion a "stumbling block"? (see Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

*"True wisdom doesn't have to do with "getting smart";
God's wisdom is received in and through the person of Jesus."
~ David Guzik*

4. According to 1 Corinthians 1:24, what has Jesus become to us?

Read verses 26-29

5. How do you see yourself in light of these verses?

6. How does the "message of the cross" destroy all boasting?

Read verses 30-31

7. List the truths you find in verses 30-31.

8. What reasons do you have for being humble rather than proud?

Growing Stronger...

In 1 Corinthians 1:30, Paul explains that Jesus is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Using a concordance or Bible dictionary, investigate what each of the following means:

Wisdom:

Righteousness:

Sanctification:

Redemption:

Lift Your Heart...

Prayerfully reflect on how you tend to solve problems in your life compared to how the world attempts to overcome its difficulties. Consider higher education, technology, medicine, and business. Why is the cross of Christ more powerful than any of these? How does the cross shape your everyday decisions? Record your thoughts in your journal.

1 Corinthians 2... *Spiritual Wisdom*

Paul did not present the gospel using worldly wisdom. Rather, he presented the simple message of "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified". It was a message offensive to Jews and Gentiles, but was "the power of God" for salvation.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Two

Re-read verses 1-5

1. Contrast the ways in which Paul did and did not come to Corinth.

did come...

did not come...

2. What was the main focus of his ministry? (verse 2)
3. Why is it important that your faith rest "on the power of God" rather than "the wisdom of men"?
4. How are people being drawn to follow persuasive or charismatic teachers rather than to Jesus?

"God's wisdom is rich and infinite – it needs no supplement."

~ John MacArthur

Read verses 6-13

5. What do you think it means to be spiritually mature?

6. Describe the wisdom available for those who are spiritually mature.

Where does this wisdom come from?

7. What roles of the Holy Spirit are revealed in the following verses?

John 14:16-17

Romans 8:26-27

1 Corinthians 2:9-13

Ephesians 1:13-14

Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

8. List some differences between the natural woman and the spiritual woman.

Natural	Spiritual

9. What do you think it means to have "the mind of Christ"?

How should this affect the way you think?

Growing Stronger...

The things of God are foolishness to those who do not have the Spirit of God. But as a believer, you have access through the Holy Spirit to the wisdom of God, a wisdom far greater than the wisdom of this world. Read the following verses; briefly describe some of the things you learn and how you can apply them to your life.

Psalm 37:30-31

Psalm 51:6

Psalm 111:10

Proverbs 2:6

Proverbs 12:15

Proverbs 14:1

1 Corinthians 1:30

Colossians 2:3

James 1:5

James 3:13

Lift Your Heart...

Sometimes it is good to stop for a bit and contemplate the many gifts we have received from our heavenly Father. They could be spiritual, physical, or emotional. Some are temporal and some eternal. Occasionally, they are even quite unusual (i.e. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" as accounted in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9). In your journal, list some of the gifts you have received; write a prayer thanking God for them.

1 Corinthians 3... *Watering, Working, Warning*

The Corinthians were worldly and quarrelsome because they misunderstood both the message and the messengers of the cross. Paul has been focusing on God's message; now he focuses on God's messengers. We are reminded of our true identity in Christ and how this should shape all Christian ministry.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Three

Re-read verses 1-4

1. How does Paul describe the believers in verses 1-2?
2. What is the evidence for this description?

Read verses 5-9

3. How does Paul describe himself and Apollos?
4. Why is it foolish to exalt one servant over another?

Read verses 10-15

5. Why do you think it is important to be careful how you build on the foundation, "which is Jesus Christ"?

*"There is only one secure foundation:
a genuine deep relationship with Jesus Christ."*

~ Charles Stanley

6. How do you feel about the quality of your work being revealed on the day of judgment?

What happens to the person who builds with the wrong materials?

7. List examples of "wood, hay, stubble".

In contrast, list examples of "gold, silver, precious stones".

Read verses 16-17

8. Read these verses in the Amplified Bible. What do they mean to you?

Read verses 18-23

9. Why should you abandon the world's wisdom?

10. What do you think "all things belong to you" means?

How does this prevent boasting about particular leaders?

Growing Stronger...

In verse, 11 Paul speaks of Jesus as being our Foundation. Using that same imagery, read the following verses and write what they mean to you.

1 Kings 5:17

Ezra 3:10-11

Psalms 89:14

Proverbs 10:25

Isaiah 28:16

Lift Your Heart...

In this chapter, Paul is encouraging the building of Christian community. It is not only building the house of God, but the family of God. Have you realized that your church belongs to God, not to you? Are His wishes and plans for it more important to you than your preferences? Is there any part of your attitude toward the church that you need to change? Record your thoughts in your journal.

1 Corinthians 4... *Humble Servants of Christ*

Paul knew his letter challenged the Corinthians, yet he appealed to them to remember both his fatherly love for them and their need to honor him as their spiritual father. He hoped they would take his admonishment to heart.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Four

Re-read verses 1-5

1. Describe what you think it means to be a "servant of Christ".

2. What is an important requirement of a "steward"?

In what ways do you fulfill this requirement?

Read verses 6-13

3. How would you answer Paul's questions in verse 7?

4. In what way did Paul use sarcasm to expose the attitudes of the Corinthians? (verse 8)

5. Contrast their attitudes with those of the apostles. (verse 10)

6. How did he further describe the experience of the apostles? (verses 11-13)

"Arrogance will always misrepresent truth..."

~ Keith R. Krell

Read verses 14-17

7. What was Paul's motive in writing these things?

8. Why was Paul sending Timothy?

Read verses 18-21

9. What was Paul's coming to them dependent upon? (verse 19)

Is this true of decisions in your own life? Explain your answer.

10. What do you think will determine **how** Paul will come to them? (verse 21)

Growing Stronger...

Our God knows us intimately and yet loves us deeply. Read the following verses and record what you learn about yourself and your loving Father in heaven.

Psalm 19:12-14

Psalm 33:13-15

Psalm 139:1-4

Psalm 139:23-24

Hebrews 4:12-13

Lift Your Heart...

Paul said his conscience was clear, yet that did not make him innocent of sin. God knows our hearts and our motives better than we do. He is faithful to reveal areas of sin throughout lives. How does God convict your heart of sin? How do you respond? Prayerfully think on this and record your thoughts in your journal.

1 Corinthians 5... *Church Discipline*

Growing churches are not filled with well-scrubbed saints, but rather with a grubby group of sinners who are being sanctified. Moral problems can come from incorrect thinking about God and the Bible; beliefs lead to behavior. Like an infection, if immorality is left unchecked it has the potential to infect the entire body.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Five

Re-read verses 1-5

1. Paul expresses concern over several things in verses 1-2. What are they?

Which ones are possible concerns in the church today?

2. Explain what action the church should take when an unrepentant member is practicing gross sin.
3. Read Matthew 18:15-17. How do the commands of Jesus align with Paul's instructions?
4. In what way does this discipline potentially benefit the individual?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

5. If sin is not dealt with appropriately, what will happen?
6. What does it mean to you that "Christ" is "our Passover"?

Read verses 9-13

7. Why is tolerating and associating with immoral people in the church more dangerous than keeping company with immoral people in secular society?

8. Define each of the following sins. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Covetousness:

Reviling:

Why are these sins on the same level as sexual immorality and idolatry?

9. When is it appropriate for the church to judge the sin of others? (verse 12)

When is it not appropriate for the church to judge?

"While Christians are not to judge one another's motives or ministries, we are certainly expected to be honest about each other's conduct."

~ Warren Weirsbe

Growing Stronger...

In verse 7, Paul refers to Jesus as our "Passover". Read Exodus 12:17-28.

What did the blood of the Passover lamb achieve for God's people in Egypt?

Why was leaven significant?

As one who Christ died for, how should you live according to 1 Corinthians 5:8?

Lift Your Heart...

Perhaps you know someone who is in the grip sin. Pray fervently for that individual. In your journal, write a prayer asking God for wisdom in your relationship with this person. Thank Him for Jesus Christ, your Passover Lamb, who has made you a new lump of dough without the "leaven of malice and wickedness".

1 Corinthians 6:1-11... *Dealing With Conflict God's Way*

There were problems in the church in Corinth, which were actually symptoms of a more serious issue - they neither understood nor lived in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul wanted them to grasp the full truth of the gospel and to live by God's standards rather than those of the world. He pointed out the contradiction between how they were living and the truth of who they were in Jesus Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter 6

Re-read verses 1-6

1. What behavior among the believers was Paul concerned about?
2. Name two future roles of the church.
3. By pointing out their shame, what do you think Paul wanted them to realize?

Why is it foolish to "go to law before the unrighteous"?

Read verses 7-8

4. How can taking a fellow believer to public court hurt the credibility of the gospel?
5. Read John 13:34-35. What "new commandment" did Jesus give?

Describe the love Jesus has for you that you are to have for one another.

What would be the result of loving others this way?

6. Explain the point Paul was making in verse 7.

How can you apply this to your own life?

7. What was Paul's charge against them? (verse 8)

*"The truly good man will always
choose to suffer wrong rather than do wrong."
~ Anonymous*

Read verses 9-11

8. What is the final end of those who practice unrighteousness?

9. In what ways are believers different from the unrighteous?

Growing Stronger...

The world views some people as evil and others as good. Yet the salvation of one is not any more miraculous than the salvation of another. We are all sinners saved by grace. Read the following verses and record some of the things you observe.

Romans 3:21-24

Ephesians 2:4-10

Titus 3:3-7

Lift Your Heart...

One of the benefits of keeping a journal is the ability to look back and see how much you have grown in your walk with Jesus. You were washed, sanctified, and justified at the moment you accepted Jesus as your Savior. However, there is also a process of sanctification which continues throughout your life as you become more and more like Jesus. Consider who you were as compared to who you are now. Note in your journal some of the growth you see in your life and thank God for all He has done.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20... *Glorify God In Your Body*

The Corinthians believed that participating in temple prostitution brought good fortune and blessing from the pagan gods. Cultural blind spots are nothing new; they still permeate the church today. Paul is correcting these false views and explaining their new position as temples of the Holy Spirit.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Six

Re-read verses 12-14

1. What are some things which are "lawful" for you but may have a detrimental effect on your walk with Christ?

2. What do you think Paul meant when he said "I will not be mastered by anything"?

List some things in your life which try to "master" you?

How can you overcome these things in your life?

3. Read the following verses. Record what God did when He raised Jesus from the dead.

Acts 2:24

1 Corinthians 6:14

Ephesians 1:19-20

Read verses 15-17

4. What does it mean to you that your body is a "member of Christ"?
5. Read Genesis 2:24. In what context should "two become one flesh"?

Read 1 Corinthians 18-20

6. What do you learn in the following verses about God's will and purpose for your life?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

7. Explain what Paul urged in Romans 12:1.
8. In light of 1 Peter 1:18-19, what does it mean to you that Jesus paid a valuable price for you?
9. List some ways you can "glorify God in your body".

"Glorify God in your body and the spiritual side will take care of itself."

~ Harry Ironside

Growing Stronger...

"...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? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

The temple of God in the Old Testament was sacred to Him. As a New Testament Christian, you are the temple of His Holy Spirit. The realization of this truth should influence the way you live. You have a choice to honor God or to pollute His temple. Read the following verses and comment on how they encourage you to "glorify God in your body".

Romans 12:1

Romans 14:7-8

Galatians 2:20

Philippians 1:20-21

Lift Your Heart...

When you try to comprehend that the Creator of the universe willingly allowed Himself to be crucified for your sin... well, it can be pretty overwhelming. Jesus loves you and desires an intimate relationship with you. Write Galatians 2:20 in your journal along with some thoughts of what it means to you.

1 Corinthians 7... *Remain Where You Are, If You Can*

In this chapter, Paul shifts his focus from correction to instruction and begins to answer the Corinthian's questions. Instead of seeking to change our circumstances to bring us satisfaction, we are to be satisfied where we are in Christ. Whether we are single or married, we are to use our circumstances to serve God.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Seven

1. Using this chapter, how would you describe Paul's view of marriage?

2. In your own words, explain what Paul teaches about married couples in these verses:

7:2-5

7:10-11

7:39

Re-read verses 12-16

3. If you are married to an unbeliever, why should you stay married?

4. Why should you allow a divorce if the unbeliever wants it?

"Remain where God has called you until He calls you elsewhere."

~ Ron Stone

Read verses 17-40

5. What general principle does Paul state repeatedly? (verses 17, 20, 24, 26)

Why is this so important?

6. Why is "keeping the commandments of God" more important than our circumstances?
(verses 19-20)

7. What is Paul trying to "spare you" from?

8. List some advantages of being single.

9. How does Paul's teaching guard us against making...
too much of marriage?

too little of marriage?

Growing Stronger...

God's calling for Paul's life was one of great sacrifice. He was unmarried and rejected by his own people. He faced tremendous hardships that included physical, mental, and spiritual challenges and yet he was content. Using the following verses, record some of the ways you can find contentment.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Philippians 4:11-13

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Hebrews 13:5

Lift Your Heart...

At times we are all tempted to be discontent. We think, "If only I was _____". You can fill in the blank with any number of things like being richer, or single, or married; the list can be endless. But discontentment will not take root if you become thankful for all that you are blessed with. In your journal, write out James 1:17 and list some of the gifts your Father has given you. Express your gratitude with a prayer of thanksgiving.

1 Corinthians 8... *Knowledge and Love*

Paul now addresses some principles regarding our conduct toward fellow believers. Knowledge and understanding can give us liberty, but our love for God and others should always rule our actions. Our freedom in Christ is not a license to harm others.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Eight

Re-read verses 1-6

1. Contrast "knowledge" and "love". (verse 1)

Give an example of this which you have seen or experienced.

2. What are two examples of things we know? (verse 4)

3. Fill in the blanks for verse 6.

"...for _____ there is but _____, the Father, _____ whom are _____ things, and _____ exist _____ Him; and _____, Jesus Christ, _____ whom are _____ things, and _____ exist _____ Him." (NASB)

Explain what this verse means to you.

Read verses 7-13

4. What is Paul's concern in verse 7?

How does this apply to you today?

5. Describe some ways in which your "liberty" can "become a stumbling block for the weak".

In contrast, how could you show them love?

6. What are some consequences of "stumbling" a fellow believer?

How can you prevent this from happening?

*"We are given great freedom as Christians,
but the greatest is the freedom to consider the welfare of others over our own."
~ Unknown*

7. How important should it be for you to protect others from "stumbling"?

Why?

Growing Stronger...

The mere attainment of knowledge cannot guarantee that we will have right attitudes or make proper choices. Walking in love will make us humble and considerate of others. What do you learn about knowledge and love from the following verses?

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 2:6

Romans 12:10

Romans 14:15

Galatians 5:13

Colossians 2:2-3

Lift Your Heart...

As dawn breaks, the change from night to day is at first barely perceptible. The darkness of night tries to hold on just a bit longer. The same is true in some aspects of our new life in Christ. When we give our lives to Christ, our former opinions, beliefs, and superstitions can still influence our thoughts and actions. Think about how you have matured in your walk with Christ. Who has been an example and encouragement to you in your growth as a Christian? How have they done this? Ask God to show you ways in which you can be an example and a loving encouragement to those who are less mature in their walk. Record your thoughts in your journal.

1 Corinthians 9... *Relinquishing Rights*

We hear a lot about human rights and freedoms in our culture. Paul, however, seems to be saying the opposite in this chapter. For him, rights and freedoms are unimportant compared to the privilege of living for Christ. What are our rights and how should we use them? What does freedom in Christ include? Paul's answers may surprise us.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Nine

Re-read verses 1-6

1. What are the proofs that Paul is a genuine apostle? (verses 1-2)

2. What rights of an apostle has he given up? (verses 5-6, 11-12)

Why has he done this?

3. Name some rights you would be willing to give up for the sake of the gospel.

"Where would I be if Jesus Christ had insisted on His rights?"

~ Tim Temple

Read verses 7-14

4. Why does Paul have the right to be supported by those he ministers to?

5. How does this apply to the church today?

Read verses 15-23

6. What do you think Paul means by saying he preaches “under compulsion”? (verses 16-17)

7. How has Paul given up the freedom to live whatever lifestyle he prefers?

Why?

8. Describe some ways in which the principles stated in verses 19 and 22 apply to your lifestyle among unbelievers.

9. What lifestyle choices are you making that hinder the gospel?

Read verses 24-27

10. In giving up the rights mentioned in chapters 8 and 9, how are you like an athlete in training?

Growing Stronger...

Paul mentions an “imperishable crown” (NKJV) in 1 Corinthians 9:25. Using the Amplified Bible, look up the following verses and research the crowns believers will receive.

1 Corinthians 9:25

2 Timothy 4:8

James 1:12

1 Peter 5:4

Lift Your Heart...

What rights do you have a hard time giving up for the sake of others? Your weekends? Time with your friends? A particular kind of music? Your desire to do what you want, when you want? Write out verse 19 in your journal and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any rights you may be clinging to.

1 Corinthians 10... *Warnings from Israel's History*

Since the believers in Corinth were predominantly Gentiles, Paul needed to ensure they fully understood the dangers and consequences of idolatry. Though idols themselves are nothing, the real objects of idolatry are demons. Here Paul draws a comparison between the experiences of the Corinthian Christians and the wilderness wanderings of Israel.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Ten

Re-read verses 1-13

1. Despite all of the miraculous things God did on their behalf, what happened to the Israelites? (verse 5)

What are some of the reasons this happened?

2. In light of these examples, what do you think is the significance of Paul's warning in verse 12?

3. Write verse 13.

What does this promise mean to you?

"Ability to resist temptation is directly proportionate to your submission to God."

~ Ed Cole

Read verses 14-22

4. In verse 14, what is the "therefore" there for?

5. What is the significance of the cup and the bread we share during the Lord's Supper?

6. Contrast the sacrifices of Israel to God with the sacrifices of the Gentiles to idols.

7. What do you think it means to "provoke the Lord to jealousy"?

Read verses 23-33

8. Explain verse 23.

9. How can you personally put verse 24 into practice?

10. In "whatever you do", what should your ultimate goal be?

In what specific ways can you do this?

Growing Stronger...

Paul gives an account of God's faithfulness in verses 1-4. Though all of the Israelites received God's blessings, most were disobedient and did not please Him. List the five blessings from Israel's history which Paul wanted the Corinthians to remember, and consider their significance.

all under the cloud... (Exodus 13:21-22)

all passed through the sea... (Exodus 14:21-22,29-30)

all were baptized into Moses... (Exodus 14:31; Numbers 12:6-8, Luke 9:35; Matthew 28:18-20)

all ate... (Exodus 16:2-5,31,35; John 6:32-35,48-51)

all drank... (Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:7-14)

Lift Your Heart...

It has been said, "If we do not learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it." Learning from the mistakes of others can save you a lot of heartache. However, learning from the lives of those who have endured temptation and trials victoriously can be life altering. The Bible has countless examples of people, such as Paul, who can inspire you to live for Him and for the good of others. As you read through the Bible, make note of some of these people in your journal and what you find inspiring about them. Ask God to help you become more like them as you serve Him.

1 Corinthians 11:1-16... *Ordained Authority*

There is a trend in our society that contrives to make us independent people by blurring the differences between the sexes. Unisex clothing, perfumes, and even unisex bathrooms are commonplace. This trend works to undermine our reverence toward God, respect for one another, and relationships between men and women. However, followers of Jesus are neither dependent nor independent, but interdependent.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Eleven

Re-read verses 1-7

1. According to 1 Timothy 4:12, how can you to be an imitator of Paul and of Christ?
2. Fill in the blanks for 1 Corinthians 11:3.
But I want you to _____ that _____ is the _____ of every _____, and the _____ is the _____ of a _____, and _____ is the head of _____. (NASB)
3. Christ submitted to the Father in all things. Did that mean He was inferior to the Father? Why or why not? (see John 1:1 and 10:30)

"It is essential to understand that being under authority does not equal inferiority."

~ David Guzik

Read 1 Corinthians 11:8-10

4. Why was the woman created? (see Genesis 2:18)

What was the man's response? (see Genesis 2:23)

5. According to 1 Corinthians 11:10, what does the head covering Paul is referring to symbolize?

Read verses 11-16

6. How do verses 11-12 balance verses 7-9?
7. In what ways do you think today's Christian woman can symbolically cover her head?

8. What point is Paul trying to drive home in the following verses?

Romans 3:22-23

Galatians 3:28

1 Corinthians 12:13

9. Why do you think it is important, even in the face of current cultural pressures, to maintain a biblical distinctiveness for each gender?

Growing Stronger...

Jesus was not concerned about power or position. He knew Who was in authority over Him and He gladly submitted to His Father's will (John 5:30). Jesus treated everyone, including women, with the same respect. In fact, He has done more to elevate the position of women than any other religious or world leader. Read about the women in the following verses and write about how Jesus changed their lives.

Mark 5:25-34

John 20:1-18, Mark 16:9-11

John 4:7-42

Lift Your Heart...

In your journal, why not try writing your own psalm of praise to God? Praise Him for the order in which He is the head of Christ, Christ is the head of man, and man is the head of woman. Praise Him for the way He made men and women to complement each other with their respective roles. Ask Him to help you understand and fulfill your own role in His Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34... *The Lord's Supper*

Communion in New Testament times was celebrated during a common meal or "love feast", much like our potlucks today. But the Corinthian believers were not very loving at these meals. Paul puts forth a more God-honoring way to celebrate the most sacred meal of all: the Lord's Supper.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Eleven

Re-read verses 17-22

1. Using a Dictionary or Concordance, define "divisions" and "factions".

What kind of divisions do you think Paul was referring to? (see 1 Corinthians 1:10 and 3:3)

2. What abuses had crept into the meal being shared?

Read verses 23-27

3. List some essential truths about the Lord's Supper and Jesus Christ's work for us.

4. How should this affect the way you celebrate it?

5. Why is partaking of communion important? (verse 26)

6. Why should you avoid taking the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner? (verses 27, 29)

Read verses 28-34

7. How can you participate in communion in a worthy manner?

8. What does it tell you about the Lord's Supper that some in Corinth had become sick and even died because they did not participate with the proper attitude?

9. How will you prepare yourself the next time you celebrate communion?

*"Whenever we receive communion,
we must do so in humility and brokenness before God."
~ Michael Youssef*

Growing Stronger...

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) Sin is a barrier to communion with God and others. What specifics do each of the following verses give for healing our relationship with God and others?

Psalm 32:5

Proverbs 28:13

Matthew 18:21-22

James 5:16

Lift Your Heart...

“...and when He had given thanks...” (Mark 14:23) In church custom, the Lord’s Supper is often called the Eucharist, which comes from the Greek word for gratefulness or thanksgiving. In your journal, write some of the things about our Lord Jesus Himself that you are thankful for.

1 Corinthians 12... *Using Spiritual Gifts*

In their letter to Paul, the Corinthians had questions about spiritual gifts. Paul uses an analogy to teach how the church is to function as the body of Christ, using all of the gifts given by God through His Holy Spirit.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Twelve

Re-read verses 1-3

1. What was Paul's desire for the believers in Corinth?
2. How do the following Old Testament prophets describe idols?

Isaiah 44:14-17

Habakkuk 2:18-19

3. In contrast, what do the following verses say about God?

Psalms 33:8-9

Luke 24:44-47

John 14:15-17

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4. Who "is given the manifestation of the Spirit", and why?
5. What are these "manifestations"?

6. Who works “all these things”, and how?

Why do you think we are not all given the same gifts?

7. Describe how the Spirit works in your life.

Read verses 12-31

8. How does Paul compare the body of Christ to a human body?

How can this help you understand how and where you fit in the life of the church?

*"God has gifted you to be an important part
of the body of Christ to bring Him honor."*

~ David McCasland

9. In verses 25-26, what conclusions did Paul arrive at concerning the body of Christ?

10. What gifts do you "earnestly desire"?

Growing Stronger...

There are other gifts of the Holy Spirit listed elsewhere in the New Testament. God calls on each of us to serve Him in many different ways. He is faithful to equip us for the task at hand with different kinds of gifts.

Read Romans chapter twelve.

Re-read verses 6-8. List the gifts and how they are to be exercised.

Using verses 9-21, describe a life filled with the Holy Spirit.

How do the gifts you receive from the Holy Spirit enable you to live this way?

Lift Your Heart...

God wants us to earnestly desire spiritual gifts; to value them. These are not just gifts to collect, but are to be used in building up the body of Christ. In your journal, record some ways you have used a spiritual gift to serve the body of Christ. Thank God for the gifts you have been given and for the opportunity to serve Him with them.

5. Give an example of a time when you were called upon to show at least one of these qualities.

*"If we have the true love of God shed abroad in our hearts,
we will show it in our lives."*

~ Dwight L. Moody

Read verses 8-13

6. How is love different than all of the other gifts?
7. What do you think Paul is referring to in the following phrases?
- "when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away"
- "now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face"
- "then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known"
8. How is love greater than faith or hope?

Growing Stronger...

What does Jesus say about love in the following verses?

Matthew 5:43-44

Matthew 22:36-39

John 3:16

John 13:34-35

Lift Your Heart...

Perhaps the most abused phrase in the English language is, "I love you." Instead of communicating true unselfish caring, it often expresses self-interest or hollow sentiment. Re-read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and list in your journal some practical ways you can tell others that you love them without using words.

1 Corinthians 14... *Orderly Worship*

In chapter 13, Paul established that love should motivate the use of all of the gifts of the Spirit. In this chapter, Paul focuses on the exciting potential of God-inspired speech in the Christian community. He now turns to an example of two gifts wherewith we can love with words. But for these gifts to be truly loving, they must be understood and used for the glory of God.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Fourteen

1. Why does Paul prefer prophecy to (un-interpreted) tongues? (verses 1-5)
2. According to verse 3, what does it mean to "prophecy"?
3. What are the basic principles that should guide all use of spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 13:1

1 Corinthians 14:12,26

1 Corinthians 14:20

1 Corinthians 14:33,40

*"But all things should be done with regard to decency
and propriety and in an orderly fashion."*

~ 1 Corinthians 14:40 Amplified Bible

Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-20

4. What illustrations does Paul use to show why (un-interpreted) tongues do not build up the church? (verses 6-12)

What remedy does Paul suggest? (verses 13-19)

5. In your own words, explain what Paul is saying in verse 20. (see also Hebrews 5:13-14)

Read 1 Corinthians 14:21-25

6. Why would prophetic speech, rather than tongues, cause visitors to sense God in our midst?

Read verses 26-33

7. What are the guidelines for when people should speak in tongues and when they should remain silent? (verses 26-28)

8. Under what circumstances should prophets speak or remain silent? (verses 29-33)

Read verses 34-40

9. Explain Paul's reasons for saying "women are to keep silent in the churches".
10. What have you learned about the gifts of tongues and prophecy from studying this chapter?

Growing Stronger...

Spiritual gifts are given to you by the Holy Spirit as He lives in and works through you. The Holy Spirit Himself is a gift. Where does this splendid gift come from? Explore the following verses for the answer.

John 7:37-39

John 14:16-18

John 15:26

John 16:7

Lift Your Heart...

Words are powerful. The Bible you read contains the very words of God. Do you recall a time when someone's words encouraged you? In your journal, write what they said and how it made you feel. If possible, tell that person how important their words were to you and thank them.

1 Corinthians 15:1-34... *The Resurrection, Our Hope*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a central doctrine of Christianity; it is the foundation of our hope. However, just as there were in Corinth, there are those today who deny bodily resurrection. In this chapter, Paul plainly shows the difference between the hope of eternal life and the futility of unbelief.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Fifteen

Re-read verses 1-11

1. What are the essential points of the gospel?

15:3

15:4a

15:4b

2. What does Paul give as evidence of the resurrection? (verses 5-8)

3. In what ways does Paul's apostleship rest solely on grace? (verses 9-10)

Read verses 12-28

4. If there is no resurrection, what then is true of Christianity and Christians?

5. What did the resurrection of Jesus Christ accomplish?

Romans 6:4

Romans 6:8-11

Romans 8:11

6. Why is "fallen asleep" a good way to describe believers who have died?

7. Explain the hope we, as believers, have because of Christ's resurrection. (verses 20-28)

Read verses 29-34

8. How does belief or disbelief in the resurrection affect a person's lifestyle?

How can your lifestyle affect a world bent on "eating and drinking"?

*"Outside of the cross of Jesus Christ, there is no hope in this world.
That cross and resurrection at the core of the gospel
is the only hope for humanity."
~ Ravi Zacharias*

9. Using the following verses, explain how you can gain the "knowledge of God".

Psalm 119:99

Proverbs 2:3-5

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 10:5

Growing Stronger...

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul explains the gospel “according to the Scriptures”. The only Scriptures Paul can be referring to are in the Old Testament. It has been said that Jesus Christ is on every page of the Old Testament. What do the following verses say about Him?

Job 19:25-27

Psalm 16:10

Psalm 22:14-18

Isaiah 53:5-6

Isaiah 53:11-12

Lift Your Heart...

How is 1 Corinthians 15:10 true of you? What is God’s grace accomplishing in you? Are there any areas in your life that you feel are beyond the touch of His grace? Record your thoughts in your journal.

1 Corinthians 15:35-58... *Victory Over Death*

Paul has given strong evidence that Christ was raised from the dead and that Christians will be raised from the dead also. But the Corinthians could not get past the problem of a perishable body, which decays, being raised to immortality. How are the dead raised?

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Fifteen

Re-read verses 35-49

1. What illustrations does Paul use to explain the resurrection of our bodies? (verses 35-41)
2. How will our resurrected body be different from our natural body? (verses 42-47)
3. Explain what Paul is saying in verses 48-49.

Read verses 50-58

4. Why do you think "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God"?
5. Compare what Jesus said in the following verses with 1 Corinthians 15:52.

Matthew 24:31

John 5:28

How should these verses influence your life?

6. What will be the result of our mortal bodies becoming immortal? (verses 54-55)

7. Use the following verses to explain why "the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law".

Romans 5:12

Romans 6:23

Romans 4:15

Romans 7:7-8

8. How has God given us "victory" over sin and death? (see Isaiah 53:10-12 and Romans 6:5)

*"As the grave could not detain the Head,
so it shall not detain the members."
~ J. C. Ryle*

9. What is the final exhortation for those who are weary of this world and long for heaven?

Growing Stronger...

One of the great Feasts of the Lord in the Old Testament is the Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah. Why does a trumpet herald the resurrection? What do trumpets represent? Use the following verses to help you in your investigation.

Leviticus 25:9

Numbers 10:2-3

Isaiah 27:13

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

What other verses can you find about trumpets?

Lift Your Heart...

How should 1 Corinthians 15 affect your attitude toward death? What difference should it make to your life that death is defeated? Use your journal to answer these questions and ask the Lord to enable you to live in the victory Jesus has won over sin and death.

1 Corinthians 16... *Final Exhortations, Tender Farewell*

Paul has had some hard words for the Corinthians, but he closes with loving encouragement to “stand firm in the faith” and “be strong”. In this chapter, he gives specific practical ways to abound “in the work of the Lord”.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapter Sixteen

Re-read verses 1-4

1. What do the following verses reveal about Paul’s heart for giving to others?

Acts 24:17

Romans 15:27

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Galatians 2:10

Explain the importance of giving in your life.

Read verses 5-12

2. In verse 7 Paul expresses his hopes and wishes, but what is really guiding him?
3. Why do you think Pentecost was important to Paul? (see Acts 2)
4. Contrast Genesis 11:1-9 with Acts 2:4-8. What do you think God was accomplishing in these two events?

5. Explain what is happening to Paul in 1 Corinthians 16:9.

What should your response be when things like this happen to you?

Read verses 13-20

6. Paul gives five exhortations in verses 13-14. Using the following Scriptures, explain some of the different aspects of these exhortations.

Matthew 24:42; 1 Peter 5:8

Galatians 5:1; Philippians 1:27

Joshua 1:9; 2 Samuel 10:12

Ephesians 6:10; 2 Timothy 2:1

Romans 13:10; 1 Peter 4:8

7. How does 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 differ from 1 Corinthians 16:15-20?

Read verses 21-24

8. What does "Maranatha" mean? (see Philippians 4:5 and Revelation 22:20)

*"Let us embrace the nearness of Jesus' coming. Be watchful, faithful,
and loving toward others as we ready ourselves for His return."*

~ Maria Roser

9. What is Paul's final blessing for the church? (verses 23,24)

Growing Stronger...

As we close our study of 1 Corinthians, consider that this is not just a letter to an ancient church, but words for you to live by today. What have you learned about the following topics?

Divisions in the church

Wisdom

Conflict

Marriage

Rights and Freedoms

The Lord's Supper

Spiritual Gifts

Love

Lift Your Heart...

In your journal, thank God for all you have learned from studying 1 Corinthians. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas of your life He wants to work on and ask Him to encourage you as He does so. Finally, choose a favorite verse from this book and write it out.

