# 1 Corinthians 1:1-17, Unity in Christ

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 1 Corinthians 1:10 ESV

### Key Point / Theme

1. To understand how division is unacceptable is the Body of Christ.

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. Who joined with Paul in addressing this letter to the Corinthians? (1; see also Acts 18:8,17)
2. Define sanctified. (2)
3. What kind of things did Paul express thanks for from the lives of these brethren? (4-8)
4. What is the “day of our Lord Jesus Christ?” (8)
5. What is fellowship in Jesus Christ our Lord? (9)
6. What problem does Paul address first? Who reported this problem to him? (11-13)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. What did these brethren lack? Grace? Gifts? What was manifesting as a result? If the brethren continued with these items lacking, what would happen to the church in Corinth?
2. What mind and judgement should we have? How should it differ amongst the brethren?
3. What does 1 Corinthians 1:17 say? What does it mean? What is our application?i

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i This type question is a method of studying the Bible. Start with the literal words of God (what does it say?), then our interpretation (what does it mean?), and then what should we do with it (what is our application?).

# 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Boasting in the Lord

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV

### Key Point / Theme

1. To see why our boasting should be only in the Lord.

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. Why does Paul turn to a discussion of wisdom and foolishness? What is the connection between this discussion and the previous section (1:1-17)?
2. In what two ways do men view the preaching of the cross? (18)
3. What did the Jew and Greek seek? (22)
Did they get what they were seeking (cf. Matthew 12:38-42, 1 Corinthians 1:30)?
4. How did the preaching of Christ crucified appear to the Jews and the Greeks? (23)
5. Who were those who were called? (24) What kind of calling is this? (cf. Hebrews 3:1, Ephesians 4:1, Philippians 3:14) Who was it successful with? (26)
6. Upon what grounds may we boast? (31)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. What do we see about God’s attitude toward the wise, mighty, and noble? What is our opportunity to boast?
2. How much righteousness, sanctification, and redemption do we obtain on our own? What then should we do?
3. What are two conclusions for us to reach about the discussion of wisdom and foolishness?

# 1 Corinthians 2, Natural Man versus Spiritual Man

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

And my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. To further appreciate God’s wisdom versus worldly wisdom.
2. To see the need for and understand the inspiration process.

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. How did Paul give “demonstration of the Spirt and of power” (ESV – 4)?
2. Define “mystery” and “secret.” What do they mean in verse 7 (translation dependent)? (7)
Mystery:
Secret:
In context:
3. What did the understanding and wisdom of man lead man to do? (8)
4. What does verse 9 say? What does it mean? What is our application? (9)
Verbatim:

Meaning:
Application:
5. Who knows the mind of God? (11)?
6. How can we receive the mind of God? (12-13)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. How can we have the “mind of Christ”? Please provide specific methods and applications you have successfully employed.
2. Why does the “natural” man not understand the actions of a “spiritual” man? Provide specific examples of spiritually discerned items the natural man cannot understand.
3. Paul proclaims he knew only Jesus Christ and Him crucified amongst the Corinthian brethren. Is that something worth emulating today? Why or why not?

# 1 Corinthians 3:1-17, God Gives the Increase

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. The proper place of preachers and teachers in the work of the Lord
2. To appreciate God's view of the church as the temple of God

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. Why where the Corinthian brethren not ready for solid food? (1-3)
2. In verse 3 we see a progression of carnality, what was it? (3)
*Began with:
Led to:
Ended in:*
3. Paul uses the illustration of a hired gardener in 6-9. Identify the stated and unstated objects and actions and what they represent. (6-9)
4. Paul uses the illustration of a building being constructed and tested in 10-15. Identify the stated and unstated objects and actions and what they represent. (10-15)
5. Who is God’s temple? (16-17)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. Many refer to the physical building where they meet to worship God as “church”, is that proper? Does it matter? Why or Why not?
2. Why do preachers and teachers preach and teach the gospel?
3. How can we know if our preachers and teachers do so with the proper motivation? How can we help preachers and teacher become and stay motivated for the proper reasons?

# 1 Corinthians 3:18-4:21, I am a fool for Christ

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. The proper place of preachers and teachers in the work of the Lord
2. To learn a lesson in humility by observing the examples of the apostles

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. Why are we to become a fool? (3:18-19) How will people view us when successful? (4:10)
2. Why should we not glory in men? (3:21-23)
3. How should Christians properly think of and act toward preachers? (4:1)
4. Who judges? When? (4:3-5)
5. What is Paul’s point and goal in 4:8-13? (4:8-13,14)
6. Is Paul being counterproductive, encouraging faction in 4:16? What does it mean? (4:16)
7. What does Paul warn about at least three times in this material? (4:4,18,19)
8. Why focus on power and not words of the arrogant? What is this power? (4:19-20)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. Was Paul guilty of arrogance (his sarcasm, warning of coming with a rod, imitate me, etc.)?
2. How are we to become a fool for Christ? How can this be accomplished?
3. The Corinthian brethren were suffering from factions with various preachers (unwillingly) as the dividing line. What application is there to us today? Why do you think Paul continues to mention Apollos?

# 1 Corinthians 5, Purge the Leaven

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. To understand church discipline – who, what, where, when, why, and how

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. What was the nature of the immorality that existed in the church at Corinth? (1)
2. What was the church doing? How was this an exhibition of arrogance? (2)
3. What should the church have done? (2-5)
4. Why was this to be done (at least two reasons)? (5-6)
5. Can a Christian associate with sinners? (10)
6. Why must we be concerned with sinners in the church? (6, 11)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. How does a church “purge the evil person from among you” (aka: withdrawal)?
2. “Purge the evil person from among you.” This is a command. How does a church determine the “line” as to who/what is to be purged? Consider Jude 22-23.
3. Can you meet with an erring brother/sister to discuss their sin and bringing them back to Christ over a meal? Why or why not?
4. Could we be guilty of the same arrogance today, harboring something that is not even accepted by the majority of non-religious people? If so, what? How do we guard against this?

# 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Defrauded for Christ

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? 1 Corinthians 6:7 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. To see how brethren in Christ should settle their differences
2. To be impressed with the power of the gospel to transform the lives of people

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. What was especially hypocritical about the Corinthians’ actions in chapter 6:1-11 when you compare it to their lack of actions against the sinning brother in chapter 5? (5:1, 6:1,6)
2. What key issue do these lawsuits continue to exhibit about the Corinthian brethren? (1:10,25; 2:14; 3:3,18; 4:3; 5:6,12; 6:1-8)
3. How do/will saints judge the world? (2; cf. 1 Peter 4:6; Hebrews 11:7)
4. How do/will saints judge angels? (3; cf. 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6, Matthew 12:41-42; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 2:26-27)
5. We may not come to a crisp answer on 3 and 4 above, but what point is clear about how we should be able to judge? (4-5)
6. Why is being righteous important? (9)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. Can a Christian seek justice in criminal court? Civil court? Why or why not? Consider Romans 13:1-6.
2. Consider the key verse, 1 Corinthians 6:7; what are several applications of this attitude?
3. How should Christians respond to those practicing any of the things listed in 9-10 if the ones practicing are inside the church? Outside the church? Is there a difference in the hope offered to either?

# 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Glorify God in Your Body

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. To appreciate the proper use of our bodies in service to God

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. Though something may be lawful, what two other criteria does Paul mention which should govern our use of it? (12)
2. How does Paul differentiate between food and sexual immorality as it relates to the body? (13; 8:8)
3. What is a Christian doing when he/she commits sexual immorality? (15)
4. Paul quotes Genesis 2:24, “The two will become one flesh.” What is the point? What isn’t the point? (16)
5. How are Christ and the Christian united? (17; Galatians 2:20)
6. What is unique about sexual immorality? Why? (18)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. How can one flee sexual immorality?
2. How should we glorify God in our body? (consider text similar to 6:20 in your answer)
3. Is the answer to: “Is it lawful?” enough to guide our actions? Explain. If not, what other questions should we ask ourselves to help determine our actions?

# 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, Get Married or Don’t but Put God First Always

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. 1 Corinthians 7:7 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. To be impressed with basic principles governing marriage
2. To see the importance of studying scripture in context, while not ignoring other scripture

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. Who wrote “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman”? (1) What was Paul’s position? (2)
2. Is Paul’s position on marriage consistent with what God said in Genesis 2:18 and other writings by Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 5:14, and Ephesians 5:22-33?
3. What conditions must be met for “depriving one another” of conjugal rights? (5)
4. What are the advantages of being married in trying to serve God? (2, 5, 9) What are the disadvantages? (7-8, 32, 35, 37, 40) Consider again after switching the word married to single and switching the verse references.
5. Paul says in verse 6 “Now as a concession, not a command, I say this…,” in 10 says, “not I, but the Lord” and in 12, “I, not the Lord.” Please explain each of these in context. Address binding/not binding, inspired/uninspired, etc. (6, 10, 12)
6. Is the believing spouse to divorce their unbelieving spouse? (12-13) What if the unbeliever divorces the believer? (15)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. 1 Corinthians 6 taught against sexual immorality and the goal to flee from it. Chapter 7 begins with the proper attitude of sexual relation in marriage, again with the goal of fleeing sexual immorality. What principles about marriage can be learned in 1 Corinthians 7:1-5?
2. How does a believing spouse make their unbelieving spouse holy? Their children holy?
3. Though likely discussed as the answer in multiple questions, please discuss further the impact of selfishness in marriage.

# 1 Corinthians 7:17-40, Serve God in Whatever State You Are In

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. 1 Corinthians 7:35 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. To be impressed with basic principles governing marriage
2. To see the importance of studying scripture in context, while not ignoring other scripture

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 is often titled “Live as You Are Called.” Categorize the examples given. What conclusions can be made? What conclusions are inappropriate? (17-24)
2. What two principles for service to God do we see in verses 19 and 24? (19, 24)
3. Is it fair to state that verse 25 and 40 should be interpreted as Paul’s advice? (25, 40) What if we chose to not follow it? (28, 36) What was Paul’s advice?
4. What circumstance was the reason for Paul’s advice? (26).
5. What was Paul’s concern about the married? (33-34) What is the goal? (32, 35)
6. Who are the people identified in 36-38? Father and daughter? Fiancée and his espoused? All of the above? (36-38)
7. What does “only in the Lord” mean as it relates to a widow remarrying? (39)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. Should external circumstances (being a slave or not, circumcised or not, married or not) impact our service to God? Do we sometimes allow these types of things to dictate our service to God? Why?
2. Many twist and distort the lessons on marriage to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:14-18), teaching doctrines contrary to God. What is God’s position on divorce? What allowances for divorce does God provide?
3. Consider verses 29-31, what is this promoting? What should be our focus no matter what state we are in?

# 1 Corinthians 8, Knowledge Puffs Up, Love Edifies

### Key Verse / Memory Verse

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. 1 Corinthians 8:1 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. To see the relationship between knowledge and love
2. To understand how we might misuse liberty we have in Christ
3. To realize the responsibility we have to our brethren who may be weak or lacking in knowledge

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. How is knowledge without love a type of arrogance? (1-3) What had the Corinthians allowed their knowledge to do to them? (1; 4:6,18-19; 5:2; 13:4)
2. Is knowledge without love valuable? (1-3, cf 13:2) Many might strongly warn about the knowledge of science, philosophy, psychiatry, etc., but what type of knowledge does Paul warn the Corinthians about?
3. What must we have to be known by God? (3)
4. Are the other gods of the pagans the enemies of God? Are they lesser deities? Do they even exist? Is Paul affirming that there are many gods in heaven and earth, or that men believe in many? (4-5, cf. Romans 1:18-25; Acts 17:16-31).
5. How could knowledge embolden someone else to sin? (10) Can you think of a similar scenario that could happen today?
6. Why does Paul state he would never eat meat again? (11-13)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. Sincerely evaluate your evangelism practices, are knowledge and love in their proper places? How do you know?
2. Paul states he will give up eating meat rather than causing his brother to stumble. Provide your thoughts on this attitude. What was Paul’s expectations in telling others his position? Why not simply tell others to not eat meat?
3. Current American culture is focused on identifying when we are offended. Christ teaches against offending others (Matthew 18:6 KJV). Compare and contrast Christ’s teachings and American culture related to offending.

# 1 Corinthians 9, Liberties Forsaken to Spread the Gospel

### Key Verses / Memory Verses

If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. 1 Corinthians 9:11-12 ESV

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.
1 Corinthians 9:19 ESV

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:27 ESV

### Key Point(s) / Theme

1. To be impressed with Paul's own example of restricting his liberty in Christ so as to save others
2. To understand the Biblical authority for supporting those who labor in the preaching of the gospel

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. This chapter might seem like a quick subject change, but Paul is providing personal examples of forsaken liberties. What were those listed and what principle is Paul following? (4-14)
2. Not taking payment might have been leading some to discount his apostleship. What evidence does Paul provide for his being an apostle? (1-3 cf. 2 Corinthians 12:11-13; 13:3a)
3. Did Paul have the right to accept financial support? What evidences are provided? (6-14).
4. What was Paul’s ground for boasting? Why was Paul preaching? (15-18)
5. Why does Paul discipline his body? (27)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. What principles can churches and preachers learn about financial support from this passage? (make two lists)
2. Paul was free to make his own choices (1, 19), what did he chose to do with that freedom? (19-23) Should we apply this example to our life? Why? How?
3. Consider how you live your life. What aspects do you spend the most time and thought on? Are these aspects related to a perishable or imperishable prize?

# 1 Corinthians 1-8, Review

The number of the item indicates the source chapter

### Key Verses / Memory Verses

1. I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 1 Corinthians 1:10 ESV
For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV
2. And my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 ESV
3. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 ESV

So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 ESV

1. …
2. Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7 ESV
3. To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? 1 Corinthians 6:7 ESV
Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV
4. I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. 1 Corinthians 7:7 ESV
I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. 1 Corinthians 7:35 ESV
5. Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. 1 Corinthians 8:1 ESV

### Key Points / Themes

1. To understand how division is unacceptable is the Body of Christ.
To see why our boasting should be only in the Lord.
2. To further appreciate God’s wisdom versus worldly wisdom.
To see the need for and understand the inspiration process.
3. The proper place of preachers and teachers in the work of the Lord
To appreciate God's view of the church as the temple of God
The proper place of preachers and teachers in the work of the Lord
4. To learn a lesson in humility by observing the examples of the apostles
5. To understand church discipline – who, what, where, when, why, and how
6. To see how brethren in Christ should settle their differences
To be impressed with the power of the gospel to transform the lives of people
To appreciate the proper use of our bodies in service to God
7. To be impressed with basic principles governing marriage
To see the importance of studying scripture in context, while not ignoring other scripture.
8. To see the relationship between knowledge and love
To understand how we might misuse liberty we have in Christ
To realize the responsibility we have to our brethren who may be weak or lacking in knowledge

### Home Study / Check Your Understanding

1. What problem does Paul address first? Who reported this problem to him? (1:11-13)
2. How can we receive the mind of God? (2:12-13)
3. Why where the Corinthian brethren not ready for solid food? (3:1-3)
4. What does Paul warn about at least three times in chapter 4? (4:4,18,19)
5. What was the church doing in chapter 5? How was this an exhibition of arrogance? (5:2)
6. Though something may be lawful, what two other criteria does Paul mention which should govern our use of it? (6:12)
7. What are the advantages of being married in trying to serve God? (7:2, 5, 9) What are the disadvantages? (7:7-8, 32, 35, 37, 40) Consider again after switching the word married to single and switching the verse references.
8. What must we have to be known by God? (3)

### Class Discussion / Applications

1. What did these brethren lack? Grace? Gifts? What was manifesting as a result? If the brethren continued with these items lacking, what would happen to the church in Corinth?
2. How can we have the “mind of Christ”? Please provide specific methods and applications you have successfully employed.
3. How are we to become a fool for Christ? How can this be accomplished?
4. The Corinthian brethren were suffering from factions with various preachers (unwillingly) as the dividing line. What application is there to us today? Why do you think Paul continues to mention Apollos?
5. Could we be guilty of the same arrogance seen in chapter 5 today, harboring something that is not even accepted by the majority of non-religious people? If so, what? How do we guard against this?
6. Consider 1 Corinthians 6:7; what are several applications of this attitude?
7. Discuss the impact of selfishness in marriage.
8. Paul states he will give up eating meat rather than causing his brother to stumble. Provide your thoughts on this attitude. What was Paul’s expectations in telling others his position? Why not simply tell others to not eat meat?