

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Lessons from 1 Corinthians

1 Cor. 1-3

*** Who wrote the letter?**

Paul and is with Sosthenes (Acts 18:12-17)

*** What do we know about the city of Corinth?**

A city of commerce, culture, and corruption. A diverse city with Greek and Roman influence.

*** What do we know about the church at Corinth?**

See Acts 18 for background on the establishment of the church. The church had problems and Paul writes to address the worldly problems that had crept into the church.

*** What is the message to the church?**

1 Corinthians deals with a number of issues — the importance of unity within the church, the proper approach to sex, church discipline, the resurrection and our response to it, love, spiritual gifts, the Lord's Supper, victory over sin, etc. The church needed to hear that the Gospel was enough and should infiltrate their life.

Review 1 Corinthians 1-3. What should we apply to our lives today?

1. Remember who you are as a follower of Christ. (1:1-9)

- note the work of Christ in you and our relationship to Him. Read the first 9 verses. Note the many references to Jesus and to Him as our Lord. We are reminded that we are who we are because of Jesus and He is to be our Boss.

- realize the blessings given to you by Christ. He has richly blessed our lives — He has sanctified us, given us grace, changed our lives, bettered our lives, equipped us for service, and made us forever His.

—> **Is Christ the center of my life?**

—> **Do I remember God's work in me and thank Him for His grace each day?**

2. Protect unity within the church. Avoid strife and division within the local church. (1:10-17; 3:1-9)

- our message can become one of strife instead of grace and love.

- guard against dependence upon Christian leaders and personalities instead of Jesus. We can easily drift into reading more information from a particular author than from the Bible.

- > remember the speaker, the one who baptizes, etc. is an instrument in God's hands. Our allegiance must be to Christ and His message. We should check the words we hear to make sure they are aligned with God's Word. (3:5-9)

> we do not grow because we only depend on others versus growing in our relationship with Christ. (3:1-4)

> dependence on others over Christ is wrong.

- remember that true wisdom comes from God and not from others or ourselves. (3:18)

—> **Do I get all of my spiritual nourishment from others and not from a growing relationship with Christ?**

—> **Am I one who promotes unity within the body of Christ?**

—> **Am I growing in my Christian life?**

3. Walk in victory in your Christian life and be what He made you to be. Focus your heart upon Him. He has given us everything we need to follow Him. (1:18 - 2:16; 3:5 - 23)

- Our power is from our Lord Jesus (1:18 - 2:5)

> our message is the cross of Christ and we must proclaim it. This message overcomes any “wisdom” of the world. We have a special, unique, privileged calling (1:26).

> we must not be intimidated by the so-called “wisdom” of this world

- Our provision is the Spirit of God (2:6 - 3:9)

> God is in us and will lead us each day

> we have the mind of Christ to lead us

> God does the work in others (3:6)

- Our purpose is to glorify God and live for Him (1:31, 3:5-17, 23)

> work together as servants of God for the Kingdom of God (3:5-9)

> live for **eternal goals** (3:10-17)

> remember where your allegiance lies. We belong to Christ. Yield to Him and say to Him, “I am Yours”. (3:21-23)

—> **Am I focused on His work and His glory?**