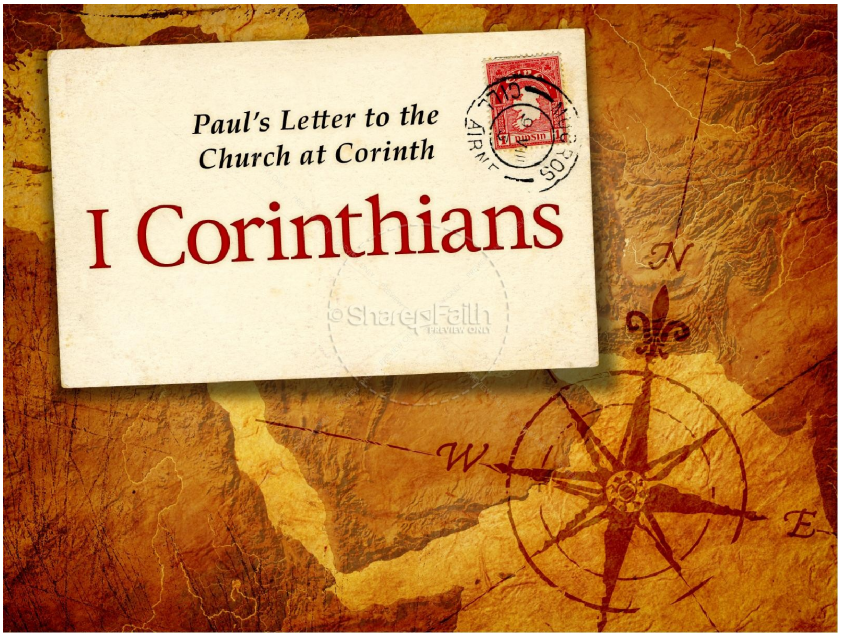
A Guided Inductive Study of 1st Corinthians



"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of Paul's Letter to 1st Corinthians

by Pastor Richard W. LaFountain

How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy

Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions, ask your own. In a self-directed study it will be harder to consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- A **P**-romise to claim.
- An **E**-xample to follow.
- A **P**-rayer concern.
- A **S**-in to avoid.
- An **I**-nstruction to obey.

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command here you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something you need to pray about in this passage? Why?
7. Is there a word / topic here you need to explore more deeply? What?

An Introduction

Paul's first letter to Corinth is a very blunt and practical letter to a worldly and dysfunctional church. He aims to divisions in the church, correct the ungodly lifestyles of new believers who continued to practice sinful lifestyles, and food sacrificed to idols. After that he moves to correct abuses the Lord's Supper, gifts of the Holy Spirit, and doctrines of the resurrection. Among these corrections is chapter 13 the Love Chapter.

It's a very practical message that needs to be preached in every church. We see many churches today departing from these truths to become "progressive churches" that are more in line with the world's standards. God's standards don't change with the times. Read it an weep for how far we have drifted for the Word.

1 Corinthians 1 - Divisions

Key verses to think about.

1:10 Divisions in the Church
Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that you* be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1:12 What Is Your Church Identity?
Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.”

1:17-18 The Cross of Christ
For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1:21 The Wisdom of God
For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe.

1:26 Your Calling
For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.*

27-29 God Chose Weak Things
But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

Main Truth:

The preaching of the cross is foolishness to the unsaved.

Questions:

1 What church do you belong to? What denomination? Is belonging to a denomination like claiming to be of Paul, Apollos, or Cephas? How is it different?

2 Preaching the Gospel, the Cross and preaching Christ were the same thing to Paul. How often do you hear the cross mentioned in your church?

3 Is your church a Christ centered church or is it a man centered church?

4 What is the foolishness of preaching? Why does the world think preaching is foolish?

5 Is Jesus Christ the center of your life or just an add-on to it?

Commentary:

We preach Christ crucified because it is the central theme of the whole Bible, everything in the Old Testament points to it, and everything in the New Testament looks back to it.

1 Corinthians 2 - Preach Christ

Key verses to think about.

2:1 -2 I Preach Christ Crucified
I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

2:4-5 Preaching in the Spirit
My speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

2:7-8 The Wisdom of God
But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

2:11 The Spirit of Man
For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

2:12 The Spiritual Man
Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

2:14 The Natural Man
But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them,* because they are spiritually discerned.

Main Truth:

The gospel message is a mystery until God opens our hearts and minds.

Questions:

1 What is the “mystery” of the Gospel? Why is the Gospel a mystery?

2 Paul preached with the demonstration of the Spirit and power. What does that mean? Have you heard the gospel preached with power? What does that mean?

3 2 Corinthians 4:4 “The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. As a result, they don't see the light of the Good News about Christ's glory.”

1 Corinthians 3 - Your Body

Key verses to think about.

3:2 Saved, but Still Carnal
I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it,* and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal.

3:3 Evidence of Carnality
For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?

3:9 You Are God's Building
For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building.

3:11 Christ is Our Foundation
For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

3:16 Defiling the Temple
Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

3:17 The Temple is Holy.
If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

3:23 You Belong to Christ
And you *are* Christ's, and Christ *is* God's.

Main Truth:

You belong to Christ and you are God's Temple. Act like it.

Questions:

1 What does it mean to be still carnal or worldly? What is a carnal or worldly Christian? Describe him.

2 Are you still carnal on some ways? What ways? How can you know if you are still carnal?

3 What is the milk of the Word and what is solid food?

4 Are you able to digest the meat of the Word? (Check out Hebrew 5:12-14 and Hebrews 6:1-3 and 1 Peter 2:2)

5 What does it mean that God will destroy you if you defile His Temple?

1 Corinthians 4 - Faithfulness

Key verses to think about.

4:2 Be Faithful
Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

4:5 Judge Nothing
Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

4:15-16 Imitate Me
For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do* not *have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

4:20 Word and Power
For the kingdom of God *is* not in word but in power.

Main Truth:

Too often we judge performance above faithfulness.

Questions:

1 Who is your favorite preachers/teachers? Why are they your favorites?

2 Too often we judge performance above faithfulness. God looks at the heart of your preacher. How many popular preaches have fallen into sin or been exposed for the frauds they are? Mention a few.

3 Paul says "be imitators of me." Could you say that to your disciples or church members?

Commentary:

There seemed to be a great deal of arrogance and pride in the Corinthian church. It developed into a kind of competition and comparison of who was the best teacher or preacher.

1 Corinthians 5 - Sexual Sins

Key verse to think about.

5:1-2 Outright Sin Among You
It is actually reported *that there is* sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

5:5 Deliver Him to Satan
Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

5:9-11 Shun Sin-sick Believers
I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet *I* certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

Main Truth:

Public or known sexual sins must be condemned and discipline by the church because a little leaven spoils the whole lump.

Questions:

1 In our day our culture teaches the love is tolerant, non-judgmental, and accepting of immoral lifestyles. What does God say?

2 If there are openly gay couples in your congregation, according to Paul, what should you do?

3 If you have unmarried couples living together in sin, what should you (the church) do about it?

4 What is your personal responsibility toward them? What is Paul's instruction? Do you ever do it? If not, why not?

5 What does Paul mean by "deliver such a one to Satan"? Have you ever done this?

6 Does your church ever practice church discipline over open sin? Why not?

7 Is diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) a biblical position?

1 Corinthians 6 - What Is Lawful?

Key verse to think about.

6:9-10 Those Who Will Not Go to Heaven
Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

6:11 You Were Washed
And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

6:12 All Things Are Lawful
All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

6:15 Your Body
Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!

6:19-20 Your Body is God's Temple
Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Main Truth:

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We should treat our bodies just as we treat the Temple of God.

Questions:

1 What is wrong with suing a Christian brother? What about a Christian business owner who cheated you?

2 Paul list here and in other places those who will not inherit heaven. Are there any exceptions?

3 How can Paul say “all things are lawful for me” and then condemn a long list of sins?

4 Paul makes much of our bodies being the temple of the Holy Spirit. Practically speaking what things defile the body in today’s world? What do you think of smoking, vaping, taking drugs, abusing alcohol, specifically getting drunk?

5 Why should Paul include “the covetous” among those other obvious sins?

1 Corinthians 7 - Principles of Marriage

Key verses to think about.

7:1-3 On Marriage
Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

7:8-9 On Unmarried & Widows
But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion.*

7:10-11 On Divorce
Now to the married I command, *yet* not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from *her* husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to *her* husband. And a husband is not to divorce *his* wife.

7:12-14 Advice on Divorce
But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

7:15 Is This No Fault Divorce?
But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases.* But God has called us to peace.

Main Truth:

Marriage is sacred before God. “The Two shall be one flesh. What God has joined together let no man let no one separate.” (Mark 10:9, Matthew 19:6)

Questions:

1 Why should we take marriage advice from a single man?

2 How do we distinguish between Paul’s opinion and God’s commands?

3 Can a Christian divorce a wife or husband? Are there any exceptions?

4 Can a divorce Christian remarry? What are the conditions and exceptions?

5 What was Jesus teaching on marriage and divorce? (Matthew 5:31-32, Matthew 19:6-9, Mark 10:12)

1 Corinthians 8 - Weaker Brothers

Key verses to think about.

8:4 Eating Things Offered to Idols
Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one.

8:6 All Things Through Him
Yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live.*

8:9 Beware of Liberty' Stumbling Blocks
But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

8:12 Wounded Conscience
But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

Main Truth:

Don't let your liberty be a stumbling block to a weaker brother.

Questions:

1 As a Christian are you fee to do whatever you want? What are my limits?

2 If a weaker brother thinks something is sin, should you avoid doing it? (Smoking, drinking, dancing, R-rated movies, chewing tobacco or snuff, drinking coffee?)

3 How can my liberty wound the conscience of a weaker brother?

4 Shouldn't the weaker brother just suck it up and grow up?

5 Isn’t all this contradictory to what Paul taught about the law? Aren’t we free from the law, do’s and don’ts, and man-made rules?

1 Corinthians 9 - Preaching the Gospel

Key verses to think about.

9:14 Preach the Gospel
Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

9:16 Woe to Preach
For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

9:19-20 I am Free
For though I am free from all *men,* I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law;

9:22 I Become Weak
To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men,* that I might by all means save some.

9:25 I Run To Win
And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown.*

9:26-27 I Discipline My Body
Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Main Truth:

Preaching the Gospel of living the Christian life requires discipline.

Questions:

1 What does Paul mean when he says, “Woe to me if I preach not the Gospel? Was he afraid he would be punished by God for not preaching?

2 Do you agree that those who preach ought to be supported by the church? How much is too much for a pastor to earn?

3 What do you think Paul means by “To the Jew I became a Jew”? Isn’t that hypocrisy?

4 What does Paul mean by “I have become all things to all *men”? Does that mean he becomes a drunkard to win alcoholics?*

5 What does Paul mean by “I discipline my body.”? Does that mean he exercises, lifts weight, or jogs?

6 What does it mean to be disqualified? Disqualified from Heaven? Disqualified from
What?

1 Corinthians 10 - Temptations

Key verses to think about.

10:4 Spiritual Rock
For they (all) drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

10:6 Examples for Us
Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

10:8-10 Do Not Commit Adultery
Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

10:11 Examples
Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

10:13 No Temptation
No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it.*

10:21 Cup of the Lord
You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

10:23 All Things are Lawful
All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

10:31 Do For God's Glory
Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Main Truth:

It's found in 10:13 There is no temptation you experience that others haven't already faced.

Questions:

1 Paul say all the Old Testament stories serve s purpose for us. What is that purpose?

2 Obviously sexual sin is wrong, but Paul adds to that "tempting Christ" and then "complaining." What is tempting Christ? How are we guilty of that?

3 We like to put sins in categories or worst and "not so bad" sins. Paul lists "complaining" as bad as sexual sin. Why? Is it so bad? Do you complain? Do you complain about God? How about people, troubles, sickness, politics, life's un fairness?

4 How do we in today's age "drink the cup of devils"? When we step into, peak at, or participate in Satan's world we are drinking at his table. What are some Satanic drinks we in today's world sip at and taste?

5 How can we do all things for the glory of God? Can you go shopping for the glory of God? Can you drive your car for the glory of God? Watch TV, movies, read books, surf the Internet, go to parties, drink beer, smoke cigarettes or cigars for the glory of God? It makes you think doesn't it. What do we do for the glory of God, and what do we do for our own pleasure?

1 Corinthians 11 - Communion

Key verses to think about.

1:1 Imitate Me
Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

11:3 Headship
But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God.

11:13-16 Head Coverings
Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for *her* hair is given to her for a covering. But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor *do* the churches of God.

11:26 Showing His Death
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

11:23-24 Communion
For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same night* in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

11:27 Eating/Drinking Unworthily
Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and bloody of the Lord.

11:28-29 Examine Yourself
But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

11:30 Weak and Sickly
For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

Main Truth:

The Lord's supper is a serious matter, not to be done lightly, quickly, or frivolously.

Questions:

1 This is the second time Paul said "Imitate me." How do we imitate Paul? What's that mean? Imitate what? Can you tell other believers to imitate you? What would you like them to imitate about you? What would you hope they do not imitate?

2 Head coverings: Why do we today not observe this custom? There was evidently contention or disagreement on this even in Paul's day.

3 How does Communion "declare, show, or proclaim" the Lord's death? Why do we need to do that? How often?

4 What does it mean to "eat and drink in an unworthy manner"? How do we prevent doing that?

5 What does it mean to be "guilty of the body and bloody of the Lord"? What is the consequence of that? (See verse 30)

1 Corinthians 12 - Spiritual Gifts

Key verses to think about.

12:1 Spiritual Gifts
Now concerning spiritual *gifts,* brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

5-7 Ministries, Activities, and Manifestations
There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the common good.

12:8-10 Gifts Were Given
For to one is given …
…word of wisdom….
…word of knowledge…
…faith…
…gifts of healing...
…working of miracles…
…prophecy…
…discerning of spirits…
…different kinds of tongues…
…interpretation of tongues.

12:11 & 18 God Chooses Gifts
11 He (God) distributes them to each one, just as he determines.
18 God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

12:30 All Do Not Have Same Gifts
Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

Main Truth:

Every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift. Find yours and use it.

Questions:

1 Even today many are “ignorant” of spiritual gifts. Why do you think that is so?

2 If everyone has at least one gift, what then is yours? Of the listed gifts, do you have one of those? Which? How do you know you have it? How are you using it?

3 Do you think some gifts disappeared with the Apostles? Why would you think that?

4 Perhaps the gift of tongues is the most controversial and confusing of the gifts. There are various teaching from it doesn’t exist today, to everyone needs to speak in tongues because it is the sign of the Holy Spirit’s filling. I think Paul clearly answers that when he said, “Do all speak with tongues?”

5 What do you think about tongues today? Is it real? Does it exist? How do you discern between faking tongues and real tongues?

1 Corinthians 13 - Love Chapter

Key verses to think about.

13:1 Tongues Alone is Just Noise
If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

13:4-8 Love Defined
Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails.

13:11 Adult Childishness
When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

13:12 Someday!
For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Main Truth:

Love is more important that all the spiritual gifts combined. Love never fails. When all else fails, try it!

Questions:

1 It is interesting that Paul chooses to insert this chapter in between his teachings on spiritual gifts. Why do you think he did that?

2 Love is defined here as nowhere else. Make a list of the negatives “love does not…” Then make a list of the positives, “Love is …” REMEMBER, NO ONE GETS 100%. Now evaluate yourself on each. How do you measure up? If you’re married, how do you and your spouse measure up? In your opinion how does Paul measure up?

3 What childish thing do you need to put away?

4 We all probably evaluate ourselves a little better than reality. Our mirror is distorted. Only in heaven will we see and known as God sees us. (If you are insecure or have an inferiority complex you may be too severe on yourself) What “grade” would you give yourself based on 1-100, one hundred being perfect? Where do you need to improve?

1 Corinthians 14 - Rules for Tongues

Key verses to think about.

14:1 Desire Spiritual Gifts
Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

14:27-28 Tongues
If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

14:39-40 Be Eager to Prophesy
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

14:40 Decently and In Order
But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

Main Truths:

Spiritual gifts are important to the body of Christ. .We need each other. A few gifted people are not enough. Every believer has at least one gift. Find yours and use it.

Questions:

1 What spiritual gift to you earnestly desire? Or maybe I should ask, do you desire any spiritual gift? If so, which?

2 What are the rules for using tongues in church? Can you discern here? (Verses 4, 9b, 13, 19, 22, 28-31)

3 What does Paul mean by “be eager to prophesy”? Is he talking about preaching, predicting the future, sharing a word of knowledge or revelation, or edifying one another?

5 What does he mean by “let everything be done in an orderly manner”? What problem do you think he was addressing?

6 Have you experienced any Pentecostal or charismatic service that felt crazy or “out of order”? Share your experience.

7 What was Paul’s teaching about women preachers? Female pastors? Female teachers? What is your belief about it? (Verses 34-37)

1 Corinthians 15 - Resurrection Truths

Key verse to think about?

15:2-4 The Essentials of the Gospel
By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importancefn: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures…

15:5-8 Resurrection Appearances
He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

15:12-14 Faith in Vain
But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

15:17 Faith That Is Futile
If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

15:19 Most Pitiful People
If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Main Truth:

The fact that Jesus rose again is essential to the gospel message.

Questions:

1 What are the essentials of the gospel? How often you hear it preached?

2 How many people were eyewitness to the resurrection? Would that stand up in a court of law?

3 What if Jesus didn't really rise from the dead? Would that make a difference to your faith? Why? What difference? Isn't enough that Jesus died for our sins?

1 Corinthians 16 – Living and Forgiving

Key verses to think about.

16:1 Collections
Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.

16:2 Giving
On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

16:9 Open Doors
A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

16:10-11 Forgive
Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

16:13 Be Strong
Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

16:22 Be Cursed
If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord!

Main Truth:

When we serve Christ we are strong, courageous and bold in our faith.

Questions:

1 Paul gives us insights into principles of giving which go beyond just this passage. (See Matt. 6:4, 2 Cor. 8:3, 2 Cor. 9:7, Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:10)

2 Forgive" What does it mean to forgive? Does it mean excuse? Cancel a debt? Ignore their behavior?

3 "So that Satan might not outwit us." How does Satan sometimes outwit us?

4 "For we are not unaware of his schemes." What are Satan's schemes?

5 "Be on guard, strong, firm, courageous." Can you point to instances where you have obeyed these commands? When? Where? With Whom?

6 "Let him be Anathema" meaning "Be cursed!" or "Be damned." It signifies a formal curse or excommunication by a church authority, originating from Greek, meaning a person or thing devoted to destruction or cursed. Are we permitted to curse some people? Is that what this means?

7 Come, Lord! "Maranatha."
Do you believe in the immanent return of Christ? Immanent means "at any moment." The word Maranatha served as a sacred phrase in the first-century church to identify believers and affirm their faith, often indicating the expectation of imminent return.