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1 Corinthians

Introduction

I. The City of Corinth

A. Historically

1. Corinth was an ancient city overtaken and burned by the Romans and then rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C.

2. Corinth was a conglomeration of Italians, Greeks, Jews, Syrians, Latins, Asians and Egyptians



B. Geographically

1. Located on a narrow isthmus which connected central Greece with the Peloponnesus peninsula

Isthmus – a narrow strip of land with water on both sides connecting two large land areas

2. Wealthy, commercial city with two major sea ports connecting Asia and Rome

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Ancient ships would come to one port, unload their cargo, carry the ship across the isthmus and then reload their cargo to continue their journey

3. The Acrocorinthus was a steep rock that rose to 1800 feet overlooking the city. It was used for guarding the city

C. Culturally

1. Religion – life in Corinth centered on the worship of the goddess Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, beauty and sexuality. During the Classical Age (4th – 5th centuries B.C.) there was a temple to Aphrodite that stood on the summit of the Acrocorinthus

A “Corinthian girl” became synonymous with the word prostitute. The term “to corinthianize” became synonymous with behavior of that of a prostitute

2. Entertainment – the Isthmian games were held in Corinth every other year. Events included chariot races, wrestling and musical and poetical contests

3. Trade – the public marketplace (Agora) became larger than any in Rome. Corinth was a prestigious, materially wealthy city

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II. Paul and the City of Corinth (Acts 18:1-11)

A. His Arrival

1. Paul visits Corinth on his second missionary journey
2. Paul became acquainted with Aquila and Priscilla, fellow tentmakers (they may have made ship sails)
3. Timothy and Silas join Paul in Corinth (They had stayed in Berea as Paul traveled to Athens and then Corinth)

B. His Ministry

1. Paul spoke in the synagogue to the Jews and the Greeks
2. Justus opened his home to Paul right next to the synagogue
3. Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue became a believer
4. Paul remained in Corinth for one year and six months (During this time he wrote both letters to the church at Thessalonica)

C. His Departure

1. Paul along with Aquila and Priscilla depart for Ephesus
2. They become acquainted with Apollos, who eventually returns to the church in Corinth
3. Paul writes this first letter to the Corinthians from Ephesus (A.D. 55)

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III. The Church at Corinth

A. Purposes of the Letter

- 1.** Correction – there are reports of sin in the church
- 2.** Instruction – answers to their questions regarding various issues

B. Summary Outline

- 1.** Introduction (1:1-9)
- 2.** Divisions in the Church (1:10-4:21)
- 3.** Discipline in the Church (5:1-6:20)
- 4.** Difficulties in the Church (7:1-14:40)
- 5.** Disbelief in the Church (15:1-58)
- 6.** Conclusion (16:1-24)

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1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul's Greetings to the Church at Corinth

I. Paul Sends His Greetings – Signature

- A.** His life of corruption
 - 1.** Present at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58)
 - 2.** Persecuted the church (Acts 8:1-3)
- B.** His life changed by Christ
 - 1.** His conversion (Acts 9:1-22)
 - 2.** His acceptance by the Church (Acts 9:23-27; 11:25-26)
 - 3.** His name changed (Acts 13:9)
- C.** His life commissioned as an apostle
 - 1.** Called – divinely appointed
 - 2.** Apostle – messenger
 - 3.** Will of God – God's divine grace and mercy shown to him
- D.** His companion – Sosthenes
 - 1.** Chief ruler of the synagogue in Corinth
Acts 18:17 Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.
 - 2.** Probably Paul's secretary

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II. Paul Sends his Greetings – Recipients

A. The local church

1. The place – Corinth
 2. The people – the church (ekklesia – those who have been called)
 - Corinth was founded by Julius Caesar
Church was founded by Jesus Christ
 - Great word at Corinth was Commerce
Great word in the Church was Calvary
 - Corinth was noted for its filth
Church was noted for its faith
 - Corinth was a place for business
Church was a place for believers
 - Commodity at Corinth was pleasure
Commodity in the Church was purity
 - Corinth was a product of the world
Church was a product of the Word
- a) Sanctified – set apart, made holy
b) Saints – set apart, made holy

B. The larger church

1. We share a common conversion
 - a) All who call upon the name of the Lord (Romans 10:13)
 - b) Not limited by time or location
2. We share a common commitment
 - a) We have the same Lord
 - b) Jesus is Lord of all

III. Paul Sends His Greetings – Salutation

A. The Substance

1. Grace – to the Gentiles
2. Peace – to the Jews

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B. The Source

- 1.** God the Father
- 2.** The Lord Jesus Christ

IV. Paul States His Gratitude

(I Thessalonians 5:18)

A. For their grace

- 1.** Grace – unmerited favor
- 2.** Getting something that we do not deserve

B. For their gifts

- 1.** They were enriched with spiritual gifts (spiritually made wealthy)
 - a)** Utterance – eloquence, discourse, something spoken
 - b)** Knowledge – general knowledge and understanding
- 2.** They had an established testimony (confirmed)
- 3.** They were not lacking in any spiritual gift
- 4.** They were waiting on the return of the Lord
 - a)** Eagerly expecting Christ's return (Rapture – the day of our Lord Jesus)
 - b)** Anticipating being blameless - unaccused

C. For their God

- 1.** God's faithfulness

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- a) We may let Him down but He will never let us down
- b) Any failure will be on our side
- 2. God's fellowship
 - a) Partnership
 - b) Participation

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1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Admonitions against Divisions in the Church

The church can suffer from porcupine syndrome. Like two porcupines on a cold winter night, church members desire the warmth and fellowship of closeness – but as soon as they get close enough to feel each other’s heat, they prick one another with their quills and they have to move apart.

The church is supposed to be a battleground where God’s people go to war against the world, the flesh and the devil. When we cease to do that, we inevitably end up fighting with each other usually because of strife and carnality.

I. We have some problems!

Genesis 13:8 (Abram & Lot)

- A.** We need to have the same doctrine (vs. 10)
- B.** There are *divisions* among you (schisms)
 - 1.** Tears in a garment
 - 2.** Differences of opinion
- C.** There are *contentions* among you (vs. 11)
 - 1.** Debates, quarrelling
 - 2.** Strife
- D.** There needs to be mending (vs. 10)
“*perfectly joined together*”

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1. Value each other's thinking
 2. Value each other's opinions
 - E. There needs to be unity (vs. 10)
"same mind and judgment"
 1. In their testimony
 2. In their philosophy
- Ephesians 4:3** Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

II. I have good sources!

- A. The house of Chloe (vs. 11)
 1. Nothing is said about this lady
 2. Evidently she was a church member there who was very trustworthy
- B. Trouble in the church travels faster than triumph.
- C. The church should be able to solve its own problems and maintain its unity

III. Can't we all just get along?

Quarreling over personalities instead of loyalty to Christ (1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:3-7)

- A. Followers of Paul – the expositional speaker
 1. Tremendous scholar/teacher
 2. Founder of the church at Corinth
 - a) Great loyalty to him
 - b) He may have led many of them to the Lord

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3. Those who desire to be spiritually fed
 - a) Purpose of a wonderful, spiritual meal is not to just say that you have had a good meal and talk about the menu
 - b) Purpose of being spiritually fed is so that we can be drawn closer to Christ and His Word
- B. Followers of Apollos – an eloquent speaker (Acts 18:24-28)
 1. Good motivator
 2. Likable personality
- C. Followers of Peter (Cephas) – an emotional speaker
 1. He would connect with the Jews
 2. He was adventuresome
 3. He was rather emotional – his actions and words were unpredictable
 4. Being with Peter was an experience
- D. Followers of Christ
 1. There should be no division in Christ
 2. There should be no division in the body of Christ

IV. Who baptized who?

- A. It is not important who baptized you, we are baptized upon our confession of faith.
 1. Paul had baptized Crispus (Acts 18:8)
 2. Paul had baptized Gaius (Romans 16:23)

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3. Paul had baptized Stephanas
(1 Corinthians 16:15)

B. We are to be baptized in the name of Christ,
the One who saved us (Matthew 28:19)

There can be unity in the body when we are all tuned to
the same standard – Jesus Christ – just as we tune
musical instruments

Thoughts on Baptism

- ❑ Baptism is not necessary for salvation
- ❑ Baptism means to immerse (to dip)
- ❑ Baptism is commanded after salvation
- ❑ Baptism is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ

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1 Corinthians 1:17-25

The Simple Gospel versus Man's Wisdom

I. The Preaching of the Cross Declared

(vs. 17-18)

- A.** Depicts Foolishness to them who perish
(Those who are on their way to destruction)
 - 1.** What is foolishness?
 - a)** Absurdity, silliness
 - b)** Stupidity, nonsense
 - 2.** Their reputation of intelligence
 - a)** They looked to great Greek orators
 - b)** They looked to great Greek philosophers
 - 3.** The cross of Christ
 - a)** The cross was used as a punishment for criminals, not for the learned
 - b)** Christ was rejected by men and crucified, He is no one to be revered
 - 4.** Our present world's mindset
 - a)** They are looking for answers from science, education, technology, medicine, psychology, government
 - b)** They fail to recognize that the power of the cross changes lives

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B. Demonstrates the Power of God to the Saved

1. What seems to the world as foolishness is God's plan for eternal salvation
2. The power of God is His salvation

II. The Preaching of the Cross Debated

(vs. 19-20)

A. An Old Testament Quotation (Isaiah 29:14)

1. The wisdom of man is foolishness when compared to God's wisdom
2. Certain punishment comes when we do not heed God's instruction
3. We cannot experience God's power until we set aside all of our own ideas, efforts and wisdom

B. A Few Thought-provoking Questions

1. Where is the wise? – the expert
2. Where is the Scribe? – the interpreter and writer
3. Where is the disputer? – the philosopher and debater
4. All of these who are intelligent and their knowledge are but foolishness when compared to God's wisdom
5. Man's wisdom states that salvation must be earned by good works or deeds – "you must do" compared to what has already been "done"

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III. The Preaching of the Cross Demonstrated

(vs. 21-25)

- A.** Public Exposure of the world's religions
 - 1.** Terrible blindness – the world by wisdom doesn't know God
 - a)** Man was created with intellect, emotion and will (a human spirit)
 - b)** Man was created with the ability to make choices and decisions
 - c)** Without the Holy Spirit in our lives, we are blinded to the truth
 - 2.** Transforming belief – preaching of God's Word
 - a)** The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin
 - b)** The Holy Spirit reveals to us the truth of salvation
- B.** Public Exposure of the world's rationalism
 - 1.** The Jews wanted to be convinced miraculously
(Even after Jesus had done so many miracles during His ministry here on earth they were still blinded. They wanted something that appealed to them emotionally)
 - 2.** The Greeks wanted to be convinced mentally
(They wanted to hear some new knowledge or wisdom that appealed to their intellect)
- C.** Personal Experiences
 - 1.** Negative reactions to preaching

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- a) The preaching to the Jews was a stumblingblock to them
- b) The preaching to the Greeks was foolishness to them
- 2. Positive reactions to the preaching
 - a) When we are called (invited) to Christ, we see the truth of salvation
 - b) The Holy Spirit reveals to us the foolishness of our thinking and the wisdom of God

. . . and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
(Colossians 2:2-3)

D. Practical Implications

- 1. The foolishness of God is wiser than men
- 2. The weakness of God is stronger than men

Titus 1:3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Romans 10:14-15 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

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1 Corinthians 1:26-31

How God uses a Nobody to be a Somebody The Ordinary to the Extraordinary

I. Who We would Expect God to Use

It may be easy for us to believe the lie that if we are not prominent, God cannot use us

A. God usually does not choose the wise or the sophisticated

Calling – those who are invited for service

Moses' life can be divided into three periods of 40 years each. During the first 40 years God allowed Moses to be a somebody as he served in Pharaoh's court. The second 40 years God put him in the barren desert and taught him how to be a nobody. During the last 40 years God brought him back to Egypt and taught him that God can take a nobody and make a somebody out of them. He was a prince, a pauper and then a prophet.

B. God usually does not choose the mighty or the self-sufficient (those who excel in things)

C. God usually does not choose the noble or those concerned about society (those with a recognized family name)

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*God calls us not because of who we are,
but in spite of who we are*

II. Who God Does Use

A. God uses foolish things to confound the gifted ones of this world (wise)

Foolish things – stupid, absurd

B. God uses feeble people (weak) to confound the great ones of this world

C. God uses those considered to be failures to confound the grand ones of this world

1. Those with no family or friends (base)

2. Those with no fame or fortune (despised)

3. Those with no face or form

Gideon – **Judges 6:15-16** And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

*The world's idea of a somebody is someone
with a recognized family name, social status,
financial success, or power*

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III. Why God Uses the Insignificant

A. All glory is to be directed toward God, not man

Salvation comes by grace not by our achievements or accomplishments

B. When we glorify men, we are taking away the glory from God

We try to take credit for what “we” did when in reality it is what “He” did

C. The wise of the world cannot understand how God changes sinners into saints

Examples of God using the Insignificant

David killing Goliath

Gideon and the Midianites (Judges 7)

Example of God not blessing Overconfidence

Joshua and the Battle of Ai

IV. Who We Are in Christ

A. Our Relationship in Christ

We have all that we need, we do not need to compete with each other or compare ourselves with each other

B. Our Resources in Christ

1. Jesus is made unto us wisdom – to transform our minds

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how

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unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

2. Jesus is made unto us righteousness – to transform our morals

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

a) The worlds standard of right and wrong are relative, cultural and accommodating

b) The world calls wrong right and right wrong

3. Jesus is made unto us sanctification – to transform our motives

1 Thessalonians 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

4. Jesus is made unto us redemption – to transform our members

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

C. Our Rejoicing in Christ

God wants us to become a nobody in the world's eyes, so that we can become a somebody in His eyes.

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1 Corinthians 2:1-13

Paul's Motivation for Ministry

I. The Gospel Centers in the Death of Christ (2:1-5)

A. Paul reminded them of his approach

1. His desire was to glorify God and not himself

Philosophers and teachers were dependent upon their wisdom and eloquence to gain followers

2. He came to preach the gospel (1:23)

a) Not with excellence of speech

b) Not with spectacular words of wisdom

Paul was a preacher because that was God's will for him – not because he enjoyed preaching or because he felt pressured into being one

1 Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

Preaching is still God's means for proclaiming His truth – in some churches preaching has been replaced

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3. He came to share with them Jesus Christ, crucified for our sins
- B.** Paul reminded them of his attitude
1. He lacked confidence in speaking
 - a) He did not depend on himself
 - b) He depended upon the Holy Spirit
 2. He was not an eloquent speaker
 - a) Not enticing words of rhetoric
 - b) Demonstration of being used by the Spirit was evidence of God working

The Word of God changes lives – why do some people give up sin so easily after salvation – not because of rules or expectations – but a conviction from the Spirit of God
- C.** Paul reminded them of his aim
1. Where is your faith directed?
 - a) In the wisdom of men?
 - b) In the power of God?

We must be careful about telling someone they are saved because of something that they did – if the Spirit of God isn't working then there is no salvation
 2. Trust in the message not the messenger God sent
- Don't trust in the explanation but put your faith in the Spirit's demonstration*

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Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

II. The Gospel is Part of the Father's Eternal Plan (2:6-9)

- A. This wisdom comes from God, not man
God's wisdom is not the same as man's wisdom
 - 1. The perfect (complete, mature) man is ready to receive God's wisdom
 - 2. The princes of the world and their wisdom do not compare to God and his wisdom
- B. This wisdom is a mystery
 - 1. The mystery is a truth that cannot be studied or understood, it can only be known as it is revealed by God
 - 2. The mystery is not that which is mysterious, it refers to the truth that lies beyond the range of unassisted human comprehension
- C. This wisdom has been hidden
 - 1. The natural man (unsaved man) through his own resources cannot figure out the things of God

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2. You cannot reason your way to Jesus Christ

D. This wisdom may not be understood

1. We will not always understand God's plan

2. We may have to "wait and see" for the outcome

III. The Gospel is Revealed by the Spirit through His Word (2:10-13)

A. The Spirit indwells believers at the time of salvation

We are not able to understand God without the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives

B. The Spirit searches the deep things of God
Just as no one but you knows your inner thoughts, the Spirit of God knows the deep things of God

C. The Spirit teaches the believer

1. Things freely given for us to know

2. Comparing spiritual things with spiritual
Spiritual methods are required to understand spiritual things

3. God's wisdom is revealed to us through His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit

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1 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:3

Three Kinds of People

Today, we categorize people in many different ways. We separate people by their nationality, religious beliefs, political views, age or economic status. The Bible separates people into three categories.

I. The Natural Man

A. The natural man is an unsaved person

B. The natural man does not have the Holy Spirit indwelling him

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

C. The natural man has spiritual limitations. He cannot understand or appreciate the things of God (spiritually discerned – need to the Spirit to discern them)

D. The natural man perceives that the preaching of the cross is foolishness

II. The Spiritual Man

A. The spiritual man is a saved person

B. The spiritual man has Spiritual understanding and discernment

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Hebrews 5:12-14 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk *is* unskillfull in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

C. The spiritual man has spiritual maturity

D. The spiritual man can have insight into the mind of God because he has the Spirit of God

The Word of God is our Spiritual Food

It is Milk ~ **1 Peter 2:2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

It is Bread ~ **Matthew 4:4** But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

It is Meat ~ **Hebrews 5:14** But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

It is Honey ~ **Psalms 119:103** How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

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III. The Carnal Man

- A.** The carnal man is a saved person
- B.** The carnal man is a babe in Christ
- C.** The carnal man is not spiritually mature
- D.** The carnal man is controlled by the flesh
- E.** The carnal man is unwilling to deal with sin in his life
- F.** The carnal man may need assurance of salvation
- G.** The carnal man needs to learn to read the Word and pray

Five Marks of Carnality

I. Childishness

- Someone who never grows up – immature
- Someone who cries because they don't get their needs met
- Someone who is always looking for what the church and others can do for them
- Someone who has a limited appetite – they can only handle milk
- Someone who has a limited spiritual understanding
- Someone who has a short attention span

II. Bitterness

- Someone who is jealous, envious
- Someone who has uncontrolled anger

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- Someone who hasn't yielded or surrendered to the Holy Spirit
- Someone whose life seems to be out of control
- Someone who is in need of recognition for what he has done or accomplished because he is serving self and not Christ

III. Selfishness

- Someone who is argumentative
- Someone who has relationship problems
- Someone who always has issues with non essential things
- Someone who is a high maintenance type person

IV. Divisiveness

- Someone who is divisive
- Someone who doesn't promote unity

V. Unfruitfulness

- Someone who acts like they aren't even saved
- Someone who doesn't produce any fruit in their life
- Someone who is a pretender - acting spiritual on the outside when really there is rottenness on the inside

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1 Corinthians 3:4-15

There are many examples and illustrations used in the Bible to describe the relationship of the Lord Jesus Christ to His Church

- The Church is the Bride and Christ is the Bridegroom (Revelation 19:7-9)
- The Church is the Flock and Christ is the chief Shepherd (John 10:11-16)
- Christ is the Vine and the Church is the branches (John 15:1-8)
- We are the body and he is the Head (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:12-16, 5:30; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12;)
- The church is a cultivated field and Christ is the gardener (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)
- The church is a building and Christ is the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:9-12)

The Church is a Cultivated Field (3:4-9)

I. There is a diversity of responsibilities

- A.** Sowing the seed
- B.** Cultivating the soil
- C.** Watering the plants
- D.** Harvesting of fruit

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II. There is a unity of purpose

- A. We are fellow workers – ministers
- B. We all have a part in the harvest – rewarded according to our labor

III. There should be humility of spirit

- A. It is God who gives the increase
- B. We are laborers together with Him

God gives the increase. We can't produce life, but watering, planting and cultivating is our responsibility as a part of God's plan

Fruit has in it the seed for more fruit

<h3><i>The Church is a Building (3:9-15)</i></h3>
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I. We must build on the right foundation

- A. The church does not belong to the preacher or the congregation – it is God's church
- B. The church cannot be built on gifted personalities or charismatic speakers
- C. The church must be built upon Christ and His Word (Paul, the architect, laid the foundation of the Word of God)

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

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II. We must build with the right materials

- A. God is concerned that we build His church with quality
- B. Gold, silver and precious stones
Permanent, beautiful, valuable, hard to obtain
- C. Wood, hay and stubble
Temporary, ordinary, cheap, easy to obtain
- D. We are to build His Church with the truths and doctrine of His Word as opposed to the foolish wisdom of mankind

III. We must build with the right motives

- A. Our motivations will be revealed
- B. Our faithfulness will be rewarded

<h3><i>Judgments and Rewards</i></h3>

I. Specific Judgments

- A. The judgment of **sin** – all men are sinners
Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- B. The judgment of **society**
God judged the world in Noah's day and he judged Sodom and Gomorrah for their sin

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C. The judgment of **sons** – his children

1. God punishes sin and chastens His children

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

2. We will not be chastened for that which we have repented and sought forgiveness

1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

D. The judgment of **servants** at the Judgment Seat of Christ

1. Only believers will stand before God at the Judgment Seat of Christ (This is not a judgment to determine if you will get into heaven)

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

2. We will be judged and rewarded for our service to Christ (**1 Corinthians 3:13-14**)

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3. We will not be punished for our sins
Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

4. The judgment seat is not a place for judgment of sin but a place of revelation, a place for reward and a place of regret (loss of reward)

E. The judgment of **sinner**s at the Great White Throne Judgment

1. Unbelievers will stand before God at this judgment

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2. Unbelievers will be judged according to their works

Revelation 20:11-12 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

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II. Specifics about the Judgment Seat of Christ?

A. Rewards will be given to believers

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

B. Rewards will be given according to our motivation for service

C. Rewards will be given in proportion to our faithfulness

1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

D. Rewards will be given to us after our life here on earth

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Luke 14:14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

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III. Specific Rewards

A. We will be rewarded for things which are permanent as opposed to perishable

1 Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

B. Crowns will be given as a reward

1. Crown of Life – given to those who love the Lord despite enduring a great deal of testing, trials and tribulations

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

2. Crown of Glory – given to pastors who feed the flock of God

1 Peter 5:2-4 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

3. Crown of Rejoicing – given to those who bring many to salvation

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are not*

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even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.

4. Crown of Righteousness – given to those who look forward to the coming of Christ
2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

5. Incorruptible Crown – given to those who yield themselves to the Spirit of God rather than the flesh
1 Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible

Revelation 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

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1 Corinthians 3:16-17

The Church Building

I. The Foundation is Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

II. The Flooring is the Word of God given to us by the prophets and apostles

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

III. The Framework is Godly leaders

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

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For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.

IV. The Furnishings are Spirit-dwelled believers

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (*The church is the temple of God*)

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (*Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit*)

V. The Fortification is God's protection

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

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1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Humility

I. We are the Temple of God

A. Don't deceive yourself – let the Word of God reveal to you the truth

James 1:22-23 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

B. Compare the wisdom of God to the foolishness of this world

C. Don't give glory to men – give glory to God

II. We possess all things in Christ

A. No matter who – any person

B. No matter where – any place

C. No matter what – life or death

D. No matter when – today or tomorrow

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1 Corinthians 4:1-5

The church had been evaluating and examining Paul, Apollos and Cephas, but how does God measure and evaluate a Christian's service?

Faithfulness!

I. Who are the Leaders?

A. The Role of Leadership

- 1.** Ministers – servants, under-rowers, being underneath someone else's authority
- 2.** Stewards – manager of a household, taking oversight

We are not owners, but managers

B. The Accounting of Leadership

- 1.** Account – take inventory, estimate, reckon, evaluate
- 2.** Faithfulness to the master – trustworthy in their duties

We are to please the master, not win a popularity contest

II. Who should Judge?

A. Man's judgment

- 1.** Man's judgment and criticism will come
- 2.** Serving God is more important than serving man

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B. Self judgment

1. We can over evaluate ourselves – “there is nothing wrong with me”
2. We can under evaluate ourselves – “there isn’t anything good about me”

C. God’s judgment

1. Through His Word

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2. Through the Holy Spirit

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

3. Through a friend

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

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4. At the end of life

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

III. How to Judge?

A. Judging at the wrong time

1. God will judge us at the end of our lives

2. God will judge those things which were done in secret

3. God will judge our motives

It is very easy to misread a situation, or misjudge a person

B. Judging by the wrong standard

1. We tend to judge based upon our own preferences

2. We tend to judge by making comparisons with others

C. Judging with the wrong motive

1. Don't tear someone down in order to build someone else up

2. Evaluate their faithfulness and service to God

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1 Corinthians 4:6-21

Pride

I. The Plea to be Humble (vs. 6)

A. Paul used himself and Apollos as an example to the Corinthian church of demonstrating humility

B. We should not lift up any man too high – all men have weaknesses

C. We should not inflate ourselves up with pride and arrogance

II. Three Intriguing Questions (vs. 7)

A. Who made each of us unique? – God did

B. What talents do you possess that were not given to you by God?

C. Why do you boast of your talents as if you acquired them in your own strength?

III. Sarcastic Illustrations (vs. 8-10)

A. Kings or prisoners

1. Paul described the Corinthians as having lived like kings, full and rich

2. Paul contrasts the lives of the apostles as being last. They were theatrical spectacles put into the coliseum to die for their faith

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- B.** Wise men or fools
 - 1. Paul described the Corinthians as being full of wisdom
 - 2. Paul contrasts the knowledge of the apostles as being foolish
- C.** Strong men or weak
 - 1. Paul described the Corinthians as being strong
 - 2. Paul contrasts the lives of the apostles by calling them weak
- D.** Honorable or despised
 - 1. Paul described the Corinthians as having a place of honor
 - 2. Paul contrasts the status of the apostles as being despised

Paul was making comparison to the pride and recognition that they so desired to the spiritual attitude of humility

IV. A Personal Illustration (vs. 11-13)

- A.** Paul had experienced physical hardships
 - 1. He was hungry
 - 2. He was thirsty
 - 3. He had need of clothing
 - 4. He had been beaten
 - 5. He had not place to rest his head

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- B.** Paul had experienced mental hardships
 - 1.** Laboring alone
 - 2.** Suffered reproach – blame and disgrace
 - 3.** Run away from danger – persecuted
 - 4.** Defamed – slandered
 - 5.** Considered as filth – refuse (offscouring – that which is wiped off)

V. Paul's Warning as their Spiritual Leader (vs. 14-21)

- A.** Paul had founded the family
 - 1.** He reminded the Corinthians that they were his children
 - 2.** You can have many teachers, but only one father
 - 3.** Paul had led them to the Lord and was their spiritual parent
- B.** Paul was an example to the family
 - 1.** He wanted them to follow (mimic) him
 - 2.** He sent Timothy to them so that he could remind them of what Paul had taught them
- C.** Paul was faithful to discipline the family
 - 1.** Some thought that Paul would not come to Corinth to correct the situation
 - 2.** If the Lord allowed, Paul would come to Corinth and put to test their speech and their actions

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3. He urged them to have a teachable spirit and accept his correction

Paul continued to demonstrate this spirit of humility

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

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1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Sexual Sin in the Church

I. The Activity which Plagued the Church

A. Reported commonly – everyone knew what was going on

B. Fornication – any kind of sexual sin (porneia)

C. Male church member sleeping with his stepmother (incest)

2 Corinthians 7:12 Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, *I did it* not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.
(The sinner and the one suffering)

II. The Attitude which Permeated the Church

A. Inflated with pride (puffed up)

There is a danger of being proud of our own spirituality while condoning (overlooking) sin or becoming tolerant of sinners.

B. Insensitivity – mourning

We should mourn over the sin of others

2 Corinthians 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not

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that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

Churches tend to have more passion regarding petty issues that we do over living holy lives

C. Inaction – separation

When there is known sin present in the church, action needs to be taken

III. The Action which Purifies the Church

A. Paul gave specific judgment although he was not physically present

(There was no doubt about the sin that was taking place or the people participating)

B. Paul gave specific instructions on how the church should deal with this situation

(Apparently, the man was unwilling at this time to repent or cease from his sin)

C. Paul gave specific disciplinary measures

1. Removal from the church body

2. Exclusion from fellowship

IV. The Anticipated Purposes of this Church Discipline

A. Repentance of the sinner

(Realization and acceptance of their sin)

B. Restoration of the sinner

(Recognition of the need for Godly fellowship)

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C. Purity of the church body

(Hate the sin, love the sinner and protect the saints)

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

V. The Arguments for the Necessity of Church Discipline

A. Boasting (glorying) about your spiritual condition is not good

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

B. A little leaven (sin) affects the whole lump

1. Maintain purity in the church

(Sin spreads and infects others)

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

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2. Put away malice (desire to hurt) and wickedness
3. Embrace sincerity (purity) and truth

VI. The Advice Given to the Church

A. The Previous Command – do not associate with fornicators

B. The Command Clarified – we are not isolationists

1. The world is full of sinners – fornicators, covetous, (greedy) extortioners, (robbers) idolaters (servers of sin)

2. We must live in this world without being of this world

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

C. The Present Command

1. Do not keep company with an unrepentant brother in Christ

2. Do not sit down and have fellowship with an unrepentant brother

D. The Principle of the Command

1. The Church can judge those within

2. God will judge those without

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1 Corinthians 6:1-8

Lawsuits between Believers

I. The Problem Addressed

- A.** The Believers were taking their lawsuits with other Christians before unsaved judges and the secular courts
- B.** The Believers had not considered taking their disputes before Godly Christians

II. The Rationale Explained

A. These are small, petty things which should be worked out among yourselves – someday, believers will judge the world and angels with Christ during the Millennium

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

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B. These are things related to our short time here on this earth – these things will not matter in light of eternity

III. The Overlooked Judge

A. A sarcastic statement – the least spiritual Christian in the church would be more competent than an unsaved secular judge

B. A rhetorical question – isn't there at least one wise man in the church who could judge these small matters?

IV. The Difficult Alternatives

A. Recognize that you have already lost your case – your problems with your Christian brothers have already caused enough harm to your testimony

B. Humble yourselves – be willing to give up your rights

C. Endure suffering – take the loss yourself knowing that things will not be fair

D. Forgive – extend forgiveness to your brother

Mark 11:25-26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

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E. Love those who take advantage of you
Matthew 5:38-48 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

V. The Specific Principles

- A.** The Bible is not teaching that it is always wrong to go to court
- B.** The Bible is not teaching that the secular courts are incompetent
- C.** The Bible is teaching that it is wrong to take another Christian to court

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D. The Bible is reminding us that sometimes we need to suffer a personal loss for the cause of Christ and our personal Christian testimony

E. The Bible directs us to utilize wise Christians who can give Godly counsel when these situations arise

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is safety.*

F. Taking someone to court reveals our heart attitude and motivations

G. We should follow the Biblical guidelines in **Matthew 18:15-17** on resolving disputes with other believers

H. Christians should avoid co-signing for others

Proverbs 17:18 A man void of understanding striketh hands, *and* becometh surety in the presence of his friend.

Proverbs 22:26 Be not thou *one* of them that strike hands, *or* of them that are sureties for debts.

I. Christians should take responsibility for their debts

Proverbs 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

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1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Our Physical Bodies

I. Reminders about Holiness

A. Characteristics of the Unrighteous

Don't be deceived into thinking that your salvation gives you a license to sin

1. Fornicators – sexual sin without control
 2. Idolaters – worship of something other than God (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes)
 3. Adulterers – unfaithfulness in marriage
 4. Effeminate – desiring the qualities of a female
 5. Abusers of themselves – homosexuality
- Romans 1:26-27** For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.
6. Thieves – those who steal
 7. Covetous – greedy
 8. Drunkards
 9. Revilers – abusive with their words
 10. Extortioners – seize by violence

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A saved person may fall into sin, but these characteristics should not be predominant in their life

B. Character of a Christian

1. Washed – from what we used to be

Titus 3:3-5 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

2. Sanctified – progression in the Christian life of becoming more like Christ and less like the world

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

3. Justified – declared righteous

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

II. The Purpose of Our Bodies

A. The Common Belief

1. The world's philosophy is that anything that you desire to do – go ahead, but we do not have the freedom to do whatever we desire

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All things are in my power, but I shall not be brought under the power of any

2. There are many things that may be possible that are not profitable (expedient)

B. The Truth Illustrated

1. The stomach was designed for food – so can we satisfy those appetites as we please?

2. Sex was designed for the physical body so can we satisfy those desires as we please?

3. Sex is more than just a natural desire. The body was not designed for fornication – physical relationships with multiple partners

C. The Biblical Mandate

1. Our body was created by God and belongs to Him

2. The purpose of our body is to glorify God and not to please self

3. Joining our body to someone else is more than just a physical exercise

a) The sexual bond is not just physical, it is emotional and spiritual

b) When two come together in a physical way – they become one

4. Sexual intimacy is to be reserved for within the bounds of marriage

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III. Corrective Actions Regarding Our Bodies

A. Flee fornication

1. Run away from sexual temptation

Genesis 39:7-12 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what *is* with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?* And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, *or* to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that *Joseph* went into the house to do his business; and *there was* none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

2. Sexual sin involves not only the physical body but the whole person – there is damage that cannot be undone. The after-effects are physical, emotional and spiritual

B. Glorify God in your body

1. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit

2. Our body does not belong to us – it belongs to the Lord

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1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Being Happily Married

Paul begins here to answer questions that had been asked by the Corinthian church. The first question is regarding marriage. Adultery and prostitution were a common practice in Corinth. Some believers thought it would be best to never marry, even some thought those who were married should divorce their unbelieving spouses. Paul addresses these questions.

I. God Intended Marriage to be Good

A. God saw that His creation was good
(Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25)

B. God declared that all His creation was very good (*Man & woman were created on the sixth day*)

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

C. God said it was not good that the man should be alone

Genesis 2:18-22 And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of*

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the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

D. God's intention for marriage is one man and one woman for life (*Two become one*)

Genesis 2:23-25 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

***God's plan for marriage
was soon distorted***

- Polygamy (Lamech)

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- Adultery (Abraham & Hagar)
- Homosexuality (Sodom & Gomorrah)
- Incest (Lot & his daughters)
- Rape (Shechem & Dinah)

II. God's Principle of Mutual Relief

A. The physical relationship between a man and a woman is reserved for the marriage relationship

(Touch – kindle a fire)

B. It isn't required that everyone be married

C. A happy marriage brings relief from sensuous temptations

D. Sex is a beautiful thing created by God although not the only reason for marriage

Purposes of Marriage

- Reproduction (be fruitful and multiply)
- Relationship (two become one)
- Recreation (pleasure)

Proverbs 5:18-19; Ecclesiastes 9:9

III. God's Principle of Mutual Restriction

A. Today's society promotes multiple sexual relationships and allows for multiple partners if your first marriage doesn't work out

B. God's plan is for one man to be committed to one woman and vice versa

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IV. God's Principle of Mutual Responsibility

- A.** It is not a spiritual thing to deprive yourself of sexual activity with your spouse
- B.** Each spouse has a responsibility to fulfill the other
- C.** Sexual intimacy is to be freely offered by each partner, not a selfish satisfaction of a personal desire
- D.** The power to fulfill each other lies within you giving of yourself to each other
- E.** Sexual privilege is never to be used as a reward or a punishment

V. God's Principle of Mutual Restraint

- A.** Abstaining from your sexual relationship should only be for a short time and should be mutually agreed upon
- B.** The only reason for abstaining is a spiritual desire to fast and pray

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1 Corinthians 7:6-16

Instructions about Marriage

I. Instructions to the Unmarried (Singles) and Widows

A. It is permissible to remain unmarried

Matthew 19:10-12 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with *his* wife, it is not good to marry. But he said unto them, All *men* cannot receive this saying, save *they* to whom it is given. For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from *their* mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive *it*, let him receive *it*.

B. It is appropriate for them to seek a marriage relationship rather than to submit themselves to sexual temptation

1 Timothy 5:9-14 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work. But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal

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they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

II. Instructions to the Married

A. A wife is not to divorce her husband

Matthew 19:3-9 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Mark 10:11-12 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

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- B.** If there has already been a divorce, there should be no remarriage
- C.** The wife should try to reconcile with her husband
- D.** The husband should not initiate separation/divorce by leaving his wife

III. Instructions to those Married to an Unbeliever

A. A marriage relationship is not to be broken because one spouse becomes a believer
Many times one spouse will come to Christ before the other

B. Jesus recognized that there would be strife between a believing and an unbelieving spouse
Matthew 10:35-36 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

C. This principle does not give permission to marry an unbeliever

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

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D. The believing spouse is not defiled by the unbelieving spouse

The unbelieving spouse does not automatically become a Christian but they are influenced by the believing spouse

E. The believing spouse is to be a testimony and an example toward the unbelieving spouse and to their children

F. If the unbelieving spouse departs, the believer should let them go.

They should continue to seek reconciliation as long as possible

G. There should be a desire to have peace within the relationship

H. There is the great possibility that the unsaved spouse will come to Christ because of the testimony of the believing spouse

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1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Instructions about Marriage

I. Contentment in Marriage

A. God has a plan for each individual

B. We must be content with our individual plan (vs. 17, 20, 24)

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

C. Religious Illustration – circumcision

1. The Jewish believers were pressuring the Gentile believers to become circumcised

Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

2. Paul reminds them that circumcision was a sign of the covenant with Israel not a means to salvation

Genesis 17:10 *This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.*

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D. Social Illustration – slavery

1. The slaves that had accepted Christ were told that they were “free in Christ” and that they should no longer be servants

2. Paul reminds them that salvation did not give them the freedom to leave their particular situation

3. We have been made free in Christ, but we are called to be His servants

E. Both illustrations point to the fact that there was pressure from others to marry or to remain single. Paul tells them to be content with their situation – single, married happily, or married to an unbeliever. A change in circumstances is not the answer to your problem.

II. Commitment in Marriage

A. Be committed to God’s Word (vs. 19)

Others may put pressure on you to do certain things – but our commitment should be to what God’s Word clearly says

B. Be committed to God’s Will (vs. 20, 25)

God is in your situation and He will walk you through each trial and difficulty

C. Be committed to God’s Way

God’s ways are not our ways – we have to trust in Him

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1 Corinthians 7:25-40

Is it okay to be Single?

I. Acknowledge it as Good

A. Singles are not second class

1 Corinthians 7:8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

B. Married couples should realize that many singles desire to be married and should accept them either way

Why aren't you married yet?

Just pray hard and God will send someone.

II. Accept it as a Gift

A. To remain single is a gift from God

1 Corinthians 7:7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

B. If God has given you the gift of being single then devote your life and abilities toward serving Him

III. Allow it for your Growth

A. Allow God to direct your life whether it be to pursue marriage or to remain single

B. Don't be pressured by others or society to get married

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C. Is it more important to be in God's will or to marry the one you love?

D. There is something worse than being unmarried – being married to someone who doesn't have the same love and commitment to the Lord

IV. Activate if for God

A. A single person is free from the stress and strain of married life – taking care of a spouse, children etc.

B. Focus on the advantages of being single instead of the disadvantages of not being married

V. Affirm it with Gratitude

A. Be thankful for the things that you can do as a single person

B. Realize that God will bring others into your life that will be your family (church family, students, friends, neighbors, etc.)

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1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Christian Liberties Come with Responsibilities

I. The Corinthian Situation

- A.** Paul continues to answer questions from the Corinthian church – this question was regarding eating meat that had been previously offered to an idol
- B.** Meat that was offered to idols would be sold in the market or served at public gatherings
- C.** Some believers thought nothing of eating the meat – knowing that the idol was nothing
- D.** Other believers thought that they should abstain from eating the meat – equating the meat with the sin of idolatry

II. Knowledge – acquired by learning, effort or experience

- A.** The believers knew that idolatry was wrong and that these idols were nothing
- B.** The believers were guilty of taking their knowledge and holding it up for all to see
- C.** Their knowledge turned into an arrogant spirit of presenting themselves as more spiritual than others

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III. Love – how we act or react

- A. Love has a responsibility toward others
- B. Love looks beyond the fact that something may not be wrong to do – but is it appropriate and the best choice?
- C. Love has a responsibility to be aware of each specific situation
- D. Love considers the impact that your actions will have on others
- E. The good Samaritan demonstrated love although the priest and the Levite had the knowledge of what they should have done

IV. Conscience – internal knowledge of what is right or wrong

- A. Our conscience depends on knowledge
Romans 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)
John 8:7-9 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

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Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

B. Some believers have weak consciences because they are immature

Hebrews 5:11-14 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

1. Their conscience may be defiled (8:7)
2. Their conscience may be wounded (8:12)
3. Their conscience may be offended (8:13)

V. Our Response to the Weaker Believer

A. The stronger believer is to defer to the weaker believer so that he might help him to mature

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- B.** Maturity brings with it the ability to discern between what is right and wrong and whether a certain action is appropriate
- C.** Offending a weaker brother is a sin against Christ
- D.** It is better to abstain from something so as not to offend the weaker Christian
- E.** Romans chapter 14 addresses not hurting a weaker brother

Today's issues similar to eating meat offered to idols

- Eating at a restaurant that serves alcohol
- Owning a television
- Smoking
- Public dancing
- Mixed swimming
- Women wearing pants
- Going to the movie theater
- Playing cards
- Attending a funeral/wedding – another religion
- Eating meat – vegan

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1 Corinthians 9:1-18

Paul's Personal Priorities Illustrating His Liberties and Responsibilities

I. Paul's Position as an Apostle

A. Paul gives proof that he is an apostle

1. Apostle – messenger, sent one

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

2. The apostles included the original eleven disciples, Matthias, Paul and Barnabas, Andronicus and Junia and possibly others (Acts 1:26; 14:14; Romans 16:7)

3. The apostles were used by God to write Scripture, perform miracles, execute judgment and evangelize the world

4. Paul wasn't under obligation to be an apostle – he was free

5. Paul had seen the risen Christ, one of the qualifications to be an apostle (Acts 1:21-22; 9:17)

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6. Paul had led many Corinthians to the Lord – they were proof of his apostleship

B. Paul answers his critics regarding his apostleship and being financially supported

1. His material rights

a) He had the right to eat and drink

b) His rights should not to be regarded as rules

2. His marital rights

a) He had a right to be married if he wished

b) He gives the example of Jesus' brothers and sisters and Peter's wife (Matt. 13:55-56; Acts 1:13-14; Mark 1:30)

There will always be criticism – if he had accepted money for his ministry he was greedy – if he declined support he was too independent; if he was single he was suspicious, if he was married but left his wife at home – he was not a good husband, if he brought her along – that would be too expensive

II. Paul's Policy Regarding Financial Support

A. Did he and Barnabas have the right to leave their secular work and be supported by the church?

B. They had the right to financial support even if they chose to be self-supporting

C. Specific illustrations

1. The man who goes to fight is compensated

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2. The man who plants seed has the right to eat the fruit

3. The man who guards the sheep has the right to enjoy the milk

4. The Old Testament law

Deuteronomy 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out *the corn*.

E. Specific principle

1. He that plows, does so in hope, just as the reaper

2. They both receive profit from the harvest

F. Paul had invested in them spiritually and had a right to material support

If we receive spiritual blessings, then we should in turn share material blessings

G. Paul relinquished his right to financial support

1. He did not want to hinder the message of the gospel

2. He didn't want anyone to think he was serving just for money

H. Practical illustration

1. The Old Testament priests were entitled to a share of the sacrifices that were offered (Leviticus 6:16, 26; Numbers 18:8-9; Deuteronomy 18:1-4)

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2. The New Testament preachers were to live off of the gospel (Matthew 10:9-13; Luke 10:7-8)

I. Paul wasn't asking for money, nor was he bringing these things to light for his own benefit

III. Paul's Preaching

A. He was determined to preach the gospel, woe is me if I don't preach the gospel

B. His motivation was seeing others come to Christ

C. He may have had the right to financial support for preaching, but he had no choice in whether he would preach

D. Paul focused on his spiritual reward rather than his material compensation

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1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Paul's Motivation and Purpose in Preaching – to Gain

I. Paul's Passion in Preaching

A. He preached to all regardless of their social status

1. He could speak to those who were upper class or to those who were underprivileged (free or slave)

2. He could speak to all classes; soldiers, prisoners, slaves, poor, rich, famous, governors

Paul was a Jew, raised as a Pharisee, well-educated and a Roman citizen; he was also familiar with the working class making tents

B. He preached to all regardless of their spiritual status

1. He could speak to the Jew and God's commandments – he knew the Jewish law could not save

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2. He could speak to the Jew and God's covenants – he knew that circumcision (the sign of the covenant) could not save
 3. He could speak to the Jew and God's promises – the Jews rejected the promised Messiah
- C.** He preached to all regardless of their secular status
1. He could speak to the legalist
 2. He could speak to the lawless
 3. He could speak to the mature
 4. He could speak to the weak
- D.** He preached to all to win them to Christ (that I might gain)
1. He reached out to each person so that they might be saved (all things to all men)
 2. He wanted to be a partaker of a heavenly reward

II. Paul's Purpose in Preaching

- A.** The Contest
1. All members in the race are participants, they should strive to win, not just to finish
Don't just try to win, train to win
 2. Running the race is serious business, it takes discipline

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- a) Sober minded – to be of a sound mind, to control the thoughts
- b) Temperate – have control over the body

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

B. The Crown

1. Men today will strive for a corruptible crown, even so we should strive for an eternal reward

2. Eternal crowns are mentioned in Scripture

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

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III. Paul's Motivation in Preaching

- A.** Strive with certainty and focus
- B.** Running to win, fighting to win
- C.** Bringing your body into subjection

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

- D.** Guard against being disqualified or rejected from winning the prize (castaway)

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1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Don't be an overconfident Christian
Don't be a castaway (1 Corinthians 9:27)

I. The Illustration of the Israelites

A. All received God's blessings

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

(All believers are indwelt by the Spirit)

1. Under the cloud of direction

Exodus 13:21-22 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Exodus 14:19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

2. Passed through the Red Sea

(The Red Sea was a symbol of a permanent separation from Egypt)

3. Baptized unto Moses in the cloud and sea

a) They were identified with Moses

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We must understand that sexual sin is destructive

4. Their wicked ways (rebellion) Numbers 21
Replacing Christ with religion

- a)** The people became discouraged
- b)** The people spoke against God
- c)** The people spoke against Moses their leader
- d)** God sent fiery serpents among the people and many died

We must not blame God for our problems

We must not speak against the faithfulness of God

5. Their wicked words (murmuring) Num. 16
Skepticism and rebellion against God

- a)** Korah, Dathan, Abiram and 250 princes spoke against Moses and his authority
- b)** The earth opened up and swallowed Korah, Dathan, Abiram and their families
- c)** The Lord consumed the 250 princes with a fire
- d)** The next day the Israelites complained that Moses had killed them and God sent a plague and an additional 14,700 were killed

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We must remain loyal to our God given leadership

Not being a castaway

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (*disqualified, rejected*)

- God may take away His power from your ministry
- God may remove you from the ministry because you have been disqualified
- God may remove you from this earth

II. The Application

A. These are written for our example

B. These are written for our warning

1. We must learn from situations
2. We must not repeat these sins

C. Don't be overconfident – these things can happen to you

1. Don't assume that the power to overcome sin is only contained in God's provisions
2. The power to overcome sin is found in God Himself

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1 Corinthians 10:13-14

Overcoming Temptation

I. Temptation is a Common Experience

A. Everyone goes through the same types of temptations

Noah's drunkenness, Abraham's deception, Moses' temper, Elijah's murmuring, David's sexual sin, Jonah's rebellious spirit, Peter's denial, John Mark's quitting, Paul's quarrel with Barnabas

B. Satan's sources of temptation

1 John 2:15-16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the **wiles of the devil**.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary** the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

C. Jesus knows what it was like to be tempted

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin.

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Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour (help, sympathize with) them that are tempted.

Luke 4:1-2 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

II. Temptation is Contained in a Controlled Environment

- A.** God will not allow you to suffer more than you are able to bear
- B.** God knows our limitations
- C.** Temptation is not based on what we think we can bear, but upon what God knows we can handle
- D.** Temptation itself is not a sin
- E.** God will deliver us
2 Corinthians 1:8-10 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who **delivered** us from so great a death, and **doth deliver**: in whom we trust that he **will yet deliver** us;
- F.** God doesn't allow things to get out of control

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G. Temptations help us mature

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

III. Temptation has a Certain Escape

A. The way of escape is certainly there although it may not be clearly seen

B. God has not promised to take away the temptation, but to provide a means of escape

IV. Principles for Resisting Temptation

A. Rejoice in the temptation

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Romans 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Acts 16:23-25 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, . . . And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

B. Remain constant during the temptation

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1. Enduring the temptation is to learn the lesson that God has for us to learn

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- 2.** We tend to want to ask God to remove the temptation
- C.** Request help in advance of the temptation
Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.
Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.
- D.** Flee from certain temptations
1 Corinthians 6:18 **Flee** fornication.
1 Corinthians 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **flee** from idolatry.
2 Timothy 2:22 **Flee** also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
1 Timothy 6:10-11 For the love of money is the root of all evil: But thou, O man of God, flee these things;
- E.** Remove things in our lives that are temptations
Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.
- F.** Replace bad influences (people) with good ones
Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
- G.** Refuse to live on the road of tolerance and compromise

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1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Idolatry

I. Flee from Idolatry

- A.** Idolatry is the worship of false gods
- B.** The Corinthians had questioned Paul regarding eating meat that had been offered to idols
- C.** Paul had taught the church that the meat itself was nothing special, now he adds to that teaching and shows the connection with that meat with the worship of these false gods

II. Judge what I Say

- A.** Paul knew that the Corinthians were intelligent listeners
- B.** Determine yourselves if what I say is true

III. Partaking in the Lord's Supper Demonstrates Worship

- A.** When we partake in the Lord's Supper we are really worshiping God
 - 1.** Our blessing is our praise to God
 - 2.** Our communion is fellowship and partnership with God

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B. When we partake of the Lord's Supper together as believers, we are showing publicly that we are united together

C. If the Corinthian believers participated in public feasts to idols, they would be uniting with the idol worshippers

D. Paul was warning them about participating in the public feasts given to the idols

E. Jesus reminded us that we cannot serve two masters

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

IV. Participation Equals Fellowship

A. The Israelites participated in the sacrificial feasts and showed publicly that they had fellowship with God

B. Those who worship together show that they are united together

C. Paul had already taught that the idol itself was nothing

1 Corinthians 8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is

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nothing in the world, and that *there is* none other God but one.

D. The pagan Gentiles were offering sacrifices to these idols – to their devils

E. Paul was teaching that it just wasn't about eating the meat – it was about the fellowship and participation in worshiping a false god

V. Fellowship with Devils

A. There should be no fellowship with demons

B. Paul reminded them that they could not sit at the Lord's table and worship God and later on sit at the feast table and show their participation with the worship of an idol

VI. A Jealous God

A. Do we provoke the Lord? We say that we love Him, yet He sees us embrace the things of this world

Exodus 20:3-5 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the

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fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

B. Modern idolatry is anything that takes the place of God in our lives

1. Materialism
2. Power
3. Nature
4. Success
5. Pleasure
6. Career

C. Modern idolatry is connected with our participation and partnerships

1. What we do with our time
2. What we do with our money
3. How we spend our energy

D. True Worship

1. If you worship the Lord, you will become Christ-like
2. If you worship idols, then you will become like the demons behind those worldly things

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1 Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1

*The Christian has Freedom in Christ,
but we must Consider the Impact
of our Actions on the Lives of Others*

I. We are to Live by Biblical Principles

A. Some things are right and wrong based upon our **motivation** for doing them

B. Some things are right in themselves, but they become wrong by our **association** with others

C. Some things are right to a point, but wrong beyond a certain point – all things in **moderation**

1 Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate (self-restraint) in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

D. Some things are right in our conscience, but wrong to the conscience of others – these are personal **convictions**

II. The Principle of Gaining Control

Will my actions become addictive or uncontrollable?

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1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

III. The Principle of Demonstrating Good to Others

A. Although my actions may be permissible, will they be profitable?

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 All things are lawful (*permissible*) for me, but all things are not expedient: (*profitable*) all things are lawful for me, but all things edify (*build up, strengthen*) not. Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

B. Will my actions build up the body of Christ?

C. Are my actions motivated by my desire to please and satisfy myself?

1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's *wealth*.

Romans 15:1-2 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.

D. Paul gives three illustrations of how we should consider how others will be affected by our actions

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1. It was okay to buy the meat that was sold in the markets – no need to ask whether it had been offered to an idol

1 Corinthians 10:25-26 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, (*markets*) that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

2. If an unbeliever has you over for dinner, feel free to eat what is put before you – no need to ask where the meat came from

1 Corinthians 10:27 If any of them that believe not bid you *to a feast*, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

3. If you are clearly aware that this meat has been offered to idols – don't eat it – others are watching you

1 Corinthians 10:28-30 But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof: Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?

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IV. The Principle of Glorifying God

Will my actions only please myself, or will they glorify Christ?

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

V. The Principle of Giving no Offense

Will my actions make me a stumbling block or a stepping stone?

1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

1 Corinthians 8:13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

VI. The Principle of a Godly Example

Will my actions help to win the lost to Christ or turn them away?

1 Corinthians 10:33 Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

Following men and women who follow Christ

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1 Corinthians 11:2-16

***Hair – the Long and Short of It
It’s all about Heads – not Hats***

I. Questions to Ask Yourself

- A.** Is a woman’s hair her covering or does she need an artificial covering?
- B.** Is this additional covering only necessary during the public church service?
- C.** Is this additional covering necessary while being anywhere in public?
- D.** Is this additional covering necessary in the privacy of your home?
- E.** Is this additional covering a sign of a woman’s submission?
- F.** Does the additional covering need to cover her whole head or is it merely symbolic?
- G.** Does this covering apply to unmarried women?

II. Introductory Remarks

- A.** The issue of the head-covering is only mentioned one time in Scripture – it is an issue that seemingly was unique to the Corinthian church

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1. The head-covering or veil is not mentioned in 1 Timothy 2:8-12 when addressing the issues of modesty and submission

1 Timothy 2:8-12 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

2. No veil or additional head-covering is mentioned in 1 Peter 3:1-7 when dealing with women having a meek and quiet spirit

1 Peter 3:1-7 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who

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trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

B. The issue of the head-covering is not a fundamental of the faith that we should die for

1. There are many good believers who differ on this issue
2. There are many Biblical scholars who differ on this issue
3. The issue is not definitive
4. We should be acceptant of other viewpoints

C. The context of the passage is addressing believers serving in the public church service

D. No one should claim total understanding of this passage – there are many viewpoints

1. The head-covering is in addition to the hair and should be worn at all times (Mennonites)

(If a woman is always supposed to have an artificial covering, then men should never have a covering)

(This belief ignores the issue of only having a head-covering during public worship service)

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2. Women only need an additional covering when praying or prophesying in the public worship service

(Women were instructed to be silent in the church)

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

3. The head-covering was a cultural issue that applied only to the Corinthian church and does not apply to today
(Historical views vary as to what the customs were in Corinth)

4. The passage is only dealing with proper hair length and headship

III. Paul's Introduction (11:2)

A. The word “ordinances” and “delivered” are similar words that mean – that which is given by instruction

B. Paul did not want this teaching to be his opinions, he was passing along what had been taught to him

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IV. God's Divine Order of Authority (11:3)

(Head means either the physical head or the spiritual head)

- A. The Head of the man is Christ
- B. The Head of the woman is the man
- C. The Head of Christ is God

V. Dishonoring your Head (11:4-5)

A. Prophesying – receiving and speaking direct revelation from God; it is not exactly the same as preaching (Preachers study God's written Word)

B. Covered – down from the head

1. *Kata* – is the Greek word used for covered

2. It is used 378 times in the New Testament and is translated into 54 different words (according, after, and against are used most often; covered used only once)

C. Dishonoureth – put to shame

D. Uncovered – not covered

1. *Akatakalyptos* – is the Greek word used for uncovered

2. It is used only in verse 5 and in verse 13

3. *Kalupto* means to cover

4. Shaven – to shear or shave

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VI. The Symbolism of the Hair (11:6)

- A. Covered – *katakalupto*
- B. The hair is the covering
- C. Without a covering is the same as being shorn – having been shaved

VII. The Precedent at Creation (11:7-9)

- A. Man is the image of God
- B. Woman is the glory of the man
- C. The woman was created from the man
- D. The woman was created for the man
- E. Man is born of a woman

VIII. An Example to the Angels (11:10)

- A. The angels understand authority and submission
 1. They were present at creation when headship began (Job 38:4-7)
 2. They understand that it was rebellion against headship that caused Satan and 1/3 of the angels to fall (Isaiah 14:12-15) (Revelation 12:4)
 3. They are present around God's throne to worship Him (Isaiah 6:1-3)
- B. A woman should recognize her place of submission so that the angels looking in would be pleased

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IX. The Biblical Principle (11:11-16)

- A.** The Biblical principle of authority and submission is again repeated
- 1.** The emphasis is not on equality – men and women are equal
(Christ was equal to the Father but was submissive to the Father as a man)
 - 2.** The emphasis is on the order of authority
(Women are equal to men, but they are to be submissive to their husbands)
- B.** Men and women are not to be independent of each other
The wife is not to compete with her husband – she is to complement her husband
Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.
- C.** Normal, natural thinking is that a man should have short hair and that a woman should have long hair
- 1.** A woman's glory is her hair
 - 2.** It is her glory, honor and dignity
 - 3.** Specific hair length is not mentioned although the principle is that there should be a distinct difference
- D.** Her hair is her covering
- 1.** Her hair is her natural covering
 - 2.** For – instead of, in place of

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3. Her hair is given to her instead of a covering
4. Covering – used here is a different word
 - a) Peribolaion
 - b) That which is thrown around, wrap

E. Contentions and Customs

1. There should be no arguments about this
2. Consider what is customary at other churches

X. Conclusion

- A. Paul's words are not so much as women wearing hats in church as they are about women not wearing the pants in the family
- B. A woman who wears a hat in church today isn't conveying the same message as the women of Corinth, and the Lord doesn't require it. The lack of a veil was an illustration of the rebellion in their hearts
- C. Submission is shown in behavior, conversation and actions – not necessarily in an artificial head-covering

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1 Corinthians 11:17-34

The Lord's Table

I. The Problem in the Church at Corinth

- A.** The Declaration (vs. 17)
 - 1.** You are coming together as a church for the worse and not for the better
 - 2.** The passage is dealing with the church being assembled together
- B.** The Divisions in the church (vs. 18)
 - 1.** There is a division among the church
 - 2.** The church is to be assembled together in unity
- C.** The Differences of Opinion (vs. 19)
 - 1.** There are heresies, differing viewpoints and perspectives
 - 2.** Some are taking sides; there is discord
- D.** The Distinction of Members (vs. 19)
 - 1.** The differences among people should be brought to light
 - 2.** Identification of each should distinct
- E.** The Definition of the Purpose (vs. 20)
 - 1.** Coming together for a fellowship meal is not the Lord's supper

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2. The purpose of the Lord's supper had been changed from remembering Christ's death to something else

F. The Disorder at the Meal (vs. 21)

1. Each one was eating separately

2. The rich were not sharing with the poor

3. Some were hungry, others were out of control (drunken)

G. The Disrespect in the house of God (vs. 22)

1. You have your own homes to use for food and entertainment

2. Why have ye misused the house of God?

H. The Discrimination of the Poor (vs. 22)

1. We bring shame upon those who do not have as much to bring

2. There is no praise for these actions

II. The Pattern for the Lord's Supper

A. The Establishment of the Lord's Supper (vs. 23)

1. It was instituted by Jesus himself

2. The pattern was given at the last Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples – the same night Judas betrayed him

B. The Symbolic Elements of the Lord's Supper (vs. 24-25)

1. These elements are merely symbols given to us by Christ – we do not believe that they

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become or contain the actual body and blood of Jesus

2. We do not believe that partaking in the Lord's Supper brings any forgiveness of sin

3. The broken bread (unleavened bread) symbolizes Christ's body given for us (Exodus 12:18-20)

4. The cup (fruit of the vine) represents Christ's blood shed for us (Matthew 26:27-29)

C. The Solemn Memorial of the Lord's Supper

1. We must remember that He died

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

2. We must remember why He died

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

3. We must remember how He died

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

D. The Significance of the Lord's Supper

(vs. 24-26)

1. Remembrance of Christ (memorial)

2. Communion/fellowship with Him

3. Testimony to others of Christ's death

4. Anticipation of His return

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E. The Seriousness of the Lord's Supper

(vs. 27-34)

- 1.** There should be preparation for the Supper
 - a)** No one is worthy to take of the elements
 - b)** We must partake of the elements in a worthy manner (reverently)
 - c)** All are sinners at the Lord's table
- 2.** There should be participation in the Supper
 - a)** We should examine ourselves
 - b)** We should participate by partaking
- 3.** There is the possibility of judgment/condemnation
 - a)** Due to the manner in which they were partaking, many were sick, weak, and some even to the point of death
 - b)** Distinguishing the Lord's body – distinguishing bread for food and bread that symbolizes Christ's death
- 4.** Then the problem was again addressed
 - a)** We are not to judge one another
 - b)** We are to look out for one another
 - c)** We are to provide for one another
 - d)** There is to be unity in the body of Christ

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1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Spiritual Gifts

I. The Passage Theme – Unity & Diversity

A. We must all confess the same Lord (vs. 1-3)

1. Paul wanted them to know the truth about spiritual gifts

2. Their past influences demonstrated false prophecies and counterfeit spirits

3. The test for one speaking by the Spirit of God was for them to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

B. We must all depend upon the same God (vs. 4-6)

1. Different gifts (spiritual endowments)

2. Different administrations (service opportunities, ministry)

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- 3.** Different operations (energy expounded)
- C.** Gifts are given to minister to the same body (vs. 7-11)
 - 1.** Each gift is given to benefit all
 - 2.** The gift is not to showcase human talent or ability
 - 3.** Each gift is different but the Spirit is the same
- D.** We must all experience the same baptism (vs. 12-13)
 - 1.** There is unity in the body of Christ
 - 2.** Baptism places the believer into the body of Christ (salvation)
- E.** Each gift has differing functions (vs. 14-20)
 - 1.** Various functions of our body have a specific purpose
 - 2.** Various gifts given to believers have specific purposes
- F.** Dependence upon one another (vs. 21-26)
 - 1.** Each body function is dependent upon the others
 - 2.** Each part is important no matter the size or prominence
 - 3.** We are all to depend upon each other
 - 4.** There is to be no division in the body
- G.** Diversity fulfills God's will (vs. 27-31)
 - 1.** Everyone can't have the same gift
 - 2.** We are to desire the most useful gifts

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II. The Principles about the Gifts

- A.** The gifts were given to the early church and are still applicable to believers today
- B.** Some gifts were foundational gifts which are no longer needed today
- C.** All believers have been given at least one gift which they are to utilize today
- D.** Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural abilities – they are not acquired through practice or coaching
- E.** Having a spiritual gifts does not make one godly
- F.** Each gift will be uniquely used based on the personality of each person

III. The Problem with the Gifts

- A.** The spirituality problem – we think that we will become spiritually mature when we discover our gift
- B.** The specialist's problem – we discover our spiritual gifts and then use the excuse that we are not gifted in other areas of ministry
- C.** The personnel problem – every member has to utilize his/her gift. It shouldn't be 10% - 15% of the membership doing 99% of the work

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IV. The Passages Listing the Gifts

A. Four gifts mentioned

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

B. Nine gifts mentioned

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

C. Eight gifts mentioned

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

D. Seven gifts mentioned

Romans 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

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V. The Gifts Organized

A. Support/Speaking gifts – Foundational gifts

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

1. Apostles/Word of wisdom

- a) In the early church the apostles had absolute spiritual authority (Acts 6)
- b) They established churches
- c) They wrote Scripture
- d) They performed miraculous signs and wonders which authenticated their role
- e) Apostles were only those who had seen the risen Christ (1 Corinthians 9:1)
- f) Apostleship did not pass on beyond those mentioned in the New Testament

2. Prophets/Word of knowledge

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

- a) The apostles were sent forth just as the prophets spoke forth
- b) Prophets communicated God's Word for the present – forthtelling
- c) Prophets communicated God's Word for the future – foretelling
- d) The gift of prophecy was limited to those who voiced God's direct revelation – today we have God's completed Word

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3. Evangelists

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

a) Communicate the good news, the gospel

b) They have a gift for explaining the gospel with creativity and clarity

c) Evangelist seeks to find the lost

4. Pastors

1 Peter 5:2-3 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

a) Shepherd the flock

b) Comfort, encourage and guard

c) Instruct, reprove and equip

5. Teachers

1 Peter 4:10-11 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God

a) Teachers communicate the Word of God accurately

b) The teacher explains what has already been revealed in God's Word

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- B. Serving gifts**
- 1. Ministry/Serving/Helps/Hospitality**
 - a)** Assist and support others
 - b)** Behind the scenes work
 - 2. Exhortation**
 - a)** Gives encouragement, comfort and counsel
 - b)** Excels in applying truth to everyday living
 - 3. Giving**
 - a)** Ability to give in a financial way
 - b)** Give generously, frequently and cheerfully
 - c)** Don't need coerced to give or public recognition
 - d)** Don't grumble about opportunities to give
 - 4. Ruling/Governments**
 - a)** Ability to organize and lead projects
 - b)** Able to lead people tactfully
 - c)** Able to see the larger goal
 - 5. Showing Mercy**
 - a)** Able to sense others needs and embrace them with comfort and hope
 - b)** Perceptive of pain in others

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C. Sign gifts

A superhuman ability which authenticated God's spokespersons by convincing people that they were bona fide servants of God

Hebrews 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

1. Faith – not the same as saving faith
 - a) Ability to discern God's will
 - b) Great confidence and trust in the Lord and in His promises
2. Healings
 - a) Not the natural healing process
 - b) Biblical healings were immediate and complete physical or mental restorations that bypassed natural laws of healing
3. Miracles
 - a) Extraordinary, unexplainable events that manifest supernatural power
 - b) The purpose of miracles was not to draw a crowd or attention to a person, but to point people to Christ
4. Discerning Spirits – discernment
5. Tongues
 - a) The ability to speak in a known language that has never been learned with a goal of presenting the gospel
6. Interpretation of tongues

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1 Corinthians 13:1-13

The Greatest of these is Love

I. **A More Excellent Way** (1 Corinthians 12:31)

A. The Corinthians were comparing their gifts and ranking them by what they considered to be the most important

B. Paul reminds them that all of the gifts must be exercised with love

1. Speaking in tongues without love is like a sounding brass – just creating noise

2. Having the gift of prophecy and understanding all mysteries is useless without love

Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

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3. Having great faith that can move mountains is nothing without love (the greatest miracle is the love of Christ demonstrated to us)
4. Giving to the poor of all of your resources without love profiteth nothing (physical food profiteth little compared to spiritual food)
5. Sacrificing your own body without love is vain (making yourself a martyr for the wrong reason)

II. The Greatest Love

A. Four Greek words for love

1. Eros – physical, sensual love
2. Storge – love of a parent for their child
3. Phileo – brotherly love
4. Agape – spiritual love (translated charity)

B. What is charity?

1. God's love that gave us His Son
John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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2. Jesus' love who gave us Himself

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

3. A love that is unconditional

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

4. A love that is undeserving

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (appeasing God's wrath) for our sins.

C. Love is a priority commandment

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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III. Love Described

- A.** Love never gives up
Love is patient (suffers long)
- B.** Love cares more for others than for self
Love is kind and helpful
- C.** Love doesn't want what it doesn't have
Love envieth not
- D.** Love doesn't strut or have a swelled head
Love doesn't brag and isn't arrogant
- E.** Love doesn't force itself on others
Love does not behave unseemingly (improperly)
- F.** Love doesn't have to be first
Love seeks not her own
- G.** Love doesn't fly off the handle
Love is not easily provoked
- H.** Love doesn't keep score of other's sins
Love doesn't rejoice in iniquity
- I.** Love finds no pleasure in wrongdoing
Love rejoices with the truth
- J.** Love puts up with anything
Love bears all things
- K.** Love looks for the best
Love believes all things
- L.** Love stays put
Love endures all things
- M.** Love never fails
Love always works

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IV. Gifts that will end

- A.** Prophecy
 - 1. They will reduce to inactivity
 - 2. Direct prophecy from God is no longer needed because we have the completed Old and New Testament
- B.** Tongues
 - 1. They will cease – come to an end
 - 2. The gift of tongues is not needed today
- C.** Knowledge
 - 1. Special knowledge given by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Used by the apostles during the infancy and establishment of the church

V. God' Word Completed

- A.** The early church did not have the complete New Testament (partial knowledge)
- B.** The sign gifts (that which was in part) were needed until the New Testament was completed (that which is perfect)
- C.** Children grow and mature just as the early church grew and matured
- D.** Until the New Testament was completed, it was as if the early church was looking through a dark glass

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VI. Permanent Gifts

- A.** Faith looks back to Calvary
- B.** Hope looks to Christ's Second Coming
- C.** Love is for now and forever

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1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Misuse of the Gift of Tongues

I. Edification in the Church Service (vs. 1-5)

A. The Corinthian church had overemphasized the gift of speaking in tongues

B. Paul contrasts the gift of tongues with the gift of prophecy

C. Prophecy speaks to men, tongues to God

1. No one can understand what is being said

2. The message is a mystery

D. Prophecy edifies the church, tongues edifies the speaker

1. The message to the church needs to be edifying, encouraging and comforting

2. The one speaking in tongues draws attention to himself

E. Speaking in tongues is not edifying without someone to interpret what is being said

II. Understanding in the Church Service

(vs. 6-25)

A. It is not enough for the speaker to impart information – the listeners must receive the message

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B. Three practical illustrations of listening and finding understanding

- 1.** Musical instruments – when a song is played you want to recognize the song that is being played
- 2.** Trumpet or horn – the soldier must understand the sound to retreat or to charge
- 3.** Local conversation – languages and even local dialects and clichés need to be accurately understood in order to communicate accurately

C. The Application of these truths is that exercising these gifts is to build up the church

- 1.** There is too much emphasis today on a spiritual experience
- 2.** The emphasis should be on imparting and receiving spiritual truth

D. Speaking in tongues must build up the individual speaking – he must have understanding in his mind, not just an experience

- 1.** He should pray for interpretation
- 2.** Prayer and singing without understanding is not edifying

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E. Speaking in tongues must build up the local church assembly

- 1.** How can a believer say “Amen” to what has been said if he doesn’t understand what was said?
- 2.** The quantity of words spoken was not as important as the quality of those words and the understanding of the listeners
- 3.** Speaking in tongues is not a sign of spiritual maturity nor is it a sign of a special blessing from the Holy Spirit

F. Speaking in tongues was a sign to the unbeliever – not for the believer

- 1.** An unbeliever in a public service will be confused if everyone was speaking in a different language
- 2.** An unbeliever needs to hear the truth and understand it

III. Order in the Church Service (vs. 26-40)

A. The believers in the Corinthian church were using the public worship service to display their spiritual gifts

- 1.** Everyone wanted to share their song, devotional thought etc.
- 2.** The emphasis should have been on edifying the church and not on edifying self

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B. The church had traded edification for exhibition

1. If you think your contribution to the service is more important than someone else's then you will be impatient until they are finished or you will interrupt them
2. For those who wished to speak in an unknown tongue:
 - a) Only two or three may speak at any given service
 - b) Only one at a time
 - c) Must be an interpretation

C. The church should not have a competition or a contradiction in the message

1. There should not be a competition to for each one to share what the Lord has showed them
2. There should not be a competition for each one to share publicly
3. Those prophesying should speak one at a time
4. The goal is that things be done in order and that all may learn

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D. Order vs. disorder

- 1.** Nothing said in the public worship service should be contrary to God's Word
- 2.** The women were to be silent
 - a)** The principle here is not that women have to always be silent, but that they should not address the assembly publicly without being invited to do so (Silence doesn't apply to singing etc.)
 - b)** There needs to be order in the public service – there should not be disturbances or confusion
 - c)** Women should not interrupt the church service nor should they speak in tongues
 - d)** Married women were to learn at home from their husbands
- 3.** We must recognize that we all need to have a teachable spirit and be ready to learn from God's Word

E. The gift of prophesy was superior to the gift of tongues – emphasize prophecy

F. The public service needs to be done decently and in order

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There are only three examples of speaking in tongues mentioned in the Scripture

- Acts 2:4-13 – Peter spoke to the Jews at Pentecost and 3,000 were saved
- Acts 10:44-48 – The believing Jews were taught that the Gentile could also believe – they heard the Gentiles speak in tongues
- Acts 19:6-7 – About twelve believers of John the Baptist spoke in tongues after Paul witnessed to them

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1 Corinthians 15:1-19

The Resurrection of Christ

I. Paul's Fruit in the Gospel

- A.** What he preached
 - 1.** It is easy to believe that Jesus died
 - 2.** It takes faith to believe that Jesus rose again
- B.** What they professed
 - 1.** Salvation is based on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - 2.** A dead Christ means we have a dead religion

II. Paul's Facts of the Gospel

- A.** The Cross – Jesus' death
- B.** The Cemetery – Jesus' burial
- C.** The Calendar – Jesus Rose on the third day
- D.** The Confirmation
 - 1.** Seen by Peter
 - 2.** Seen by the other disciples
 - 3.** Seen by 500 followers
 - 4.** Seen by James (his half brother)
 - 5.** Seen by other apostles (followers)
 - 6.** Seen by Paul himself

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III. Paul's Faith in the Gospel

- A.** His testimony
 - 1.** The least of the disciples
 - 2.** Paul was a persecutor of Christians
- B.** His triumphs
 - 1.** He would be nothing without the grace of God
 - 2.** He would have accomplished nothing without the grace of God
 - 3.** No one would have been saved without the grace of God

IV. Paul's Defense of the Resurrection

- A.** If There is No Resurrection, Our Preaching Is Meaningless
 - 1.** The Resurrection is the foundation for Preaching
 - 2.** The Resurrection is evidence of Christ's power that saves us and empowers us
- B.** If There is No Resurrection, Our Personal Faith is a Mistake
 - 1.** We put our faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of our sins
 - 2.** That faith is empty if there is no Resurrection

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C. If There is No Resurrection, Our Profession is a Misrepresentation

1. If Christ was not Resurrected, then our witness is false

2. We are hypocrites if Christ is not risen

D. If There is No Resurrection, Our Promise for the Future is a Mockery

1. Without the Resurrection, those who have died are just dead in the grave

2. The Resurrection is our Hope of Eternal life

E. If There is No Resurrection, Our Prospect for this Life is only a Misery

1. The Resurrection gives us meaning for this life

2. The Resurrection fills the void of living life without a purpose

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1 Corinthians 15:20-58

The Resurrection of Christians

I. Christ as an Example of the Resurrection

A. Christ, the Firstfruits

- 1.** The Feast of Firstfruits was celebrated by the Jews and is associated with Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread
- 2.** The Feast celebrated the spring harvest
 - a)** Firstfruits (Jesus)
 - b)** Great harvest (Rapture)
 - c)** Gleanings (Those saved during the Tribulation)

B. Christ, the Savior

- 1.** Through Adam, all have a sin nature
- 2.** Through Jesus Christ, born as a man, all men can have eternal life

C. Christ, the King will Reign

- 1.** Believers will be raised at the Rapture
- 2.** Tribulation for 7 years
- 3.** Millennial reign of Christ for 1,000 years
- 4.** Final defeat of Satan
- 5.** Finally, death is defeated

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II. Paul as an Example of Believing in the Resurrection

A. Baptisms

1. It seems there were some who were being baptized to save the dead
2. What good is baptism for the dead if there be no resurrection?
3. What good is Biblical baptism if Christ was not raised?
 - a) Baptism pictures Christ's death
 - b) Baptism pictures Christ's burial
 - c) Baptism pictures Christ's resurrection

B. Persecutions

1. Why should we risk danger for the cause of Christ if we don't believe in the resurrection?
2. Paul faced danger and death on a daily basis
 - a) He had faith that if he died, he would live again
 - b) He had faith in that one day he would be resurrected

C. Associations

1. Don't be deceived – others are misleading you
2. Shame on you for not following the truth of the Word of God

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III. Believers and Their Resurrected Bodies

- A.** Our physical body has to undergo Death
 - 1.** A grain has to die before it can become a new plant
 - 2.** New life comes from death
- B.** Our new bodies will be Different
 - 1.** Our new bodies will not have the same physical flesh we have now
 - 2.** We will have new spiritual bodies after we are raised
- C.** Our new bodies will be Distinct
 - 1.** We will be given a new spiritual body
 - 2.** We will keep our identities
- D.** Our new bodies will be designed for a new Dimension
 - 1.** Our physical bodies are designed for this earthly (terrestrial) home
 - 2.** Our new bodies will be patterned for our new celestial home
- E.** Our new bodies will have a change of destiny
 - 1.** A corruptible body is destined for the grave
 - 2.** An incorruptible body is destined for glory
- F.** Our new bodies will have a change of dress
 - 1.** Our earthly body is filled with lust (dishonor)

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2. Our heavenly body will be clothed in light (honor)

G. Our new bodies will have a change of disposition

1. Our earthly bodies are feeble (weak, sickly)

2. Our heavenly bodies will be flawless (power)

H. Our new bodies will have a change of dynamics

1. Human bodies are engineered for this world

2. Heavenly bodies are engineered for another world

I. Our new bodies will have a change of dynasty

1. Adam was given a physical body (made in God's image) to which God breathed into him life

2. We will be given spiritual bodies made in the likeness of God

3. Physical bodies (flesh and blood) cannot inherit the kingdom of God

4. The old dynasty of a sin nature and death will be replaced by a new dynasty

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What Will Our New Bodies Be Like?

- They will be different than our physical bodies
When Jesus was Resurrected, many didn't recognize Him at first (Mary Magdalene, two men on the road to Emmaus)
- They will not be made of flesh and blood
There will be no pain or suffering associated with our physical bodies
- They will have similar qualities to our earthly bodies
Jesus body had similar qualities to our bodies: could be touched, able to walk, (through walls) could eat, and could disappear
- They will be of a perfect age
Those who died as babies will be able to communicate with God fully
- They will be recognized by others
Moses and Elijah were recognized by the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration

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IV. Believers at the Time of Resurrection

A. Rapture for some

1. There will be believers alive at the time of the Resurrection of the dead
2. Those who are alive will not suffer death and then be raised

B. Renewal for all – change

1. It will be sure
2. It will be sudden
3. The trumpet will sound

C. References from the Old Testament

1. Death is swallowed up in victory

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

2. Death, where is thy sting?

Hosea 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

D. Reminders

1. We have the victory

- a) Over sin
- b) Over death
- c) Over the grave (hell)

2. We have much to do

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1 Corinthians 16:1-24

The Conclusion

I. Needs

- A. Collection for the saints in Jerusalem
 - 1. The church at Galatia was a good example to follow
 - 2. The collection was to be systematic
 - a) Set aside something every week
 - b) Give as God had prospered you
 - c) No pressure at the last minute
 - 3. The collection would be delivered to Jerusalem
 - a) They should suggest some men who could deliver the collection
 - b) Paul might accompany these men
- B. Paul's Coming to Corinth
 - 1. Tentative plans
 - a) After coming through Macedonia, he would come to Corinth
 - b) Probably stay all winter at Corinth
 - 2. Immediate plans
 - a) On his way to Macedonia
 - b) Stay in Ephesus for a time
 - (1) Many opportunities

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(2) Many adversaries

II. News

A. Timothy

1. He may be fearful
2. He is doing the work of the Lord
3. Do not despise his youth or inexperience
4. Care for him there and bring him forward on his journey
5. Watch for him and those accompanying him

B. Apollos

1. He was unable to make this trip
2. He desires to come at a more convenient time

III. Notes

A. Practical comments

1. Be watchful – on guard
2. Stand firm
3. Act like men
4. Be strong
5. Do all things with love

B. Personal comments

1. Recognize the conversion of Stephanas
2. Recognize their consecration (addicted to the ministry)
3. Recognize their commitment to others
 - a) Helping

