

1st Corinthians



DOING CHURCH TOGETHER

ACTIVE LOVE CHURCH OCTOBER 3, 2021

- Announcements
- Worship
- Testimonies
- Teaching
- Communion



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WHY 1ST CORINTHIANS?

“The most intensely practical of all of Paul’s letters. It was written to meet immediate needs of his converts.”

A. H. McNeile – An Introduction to the Study of the New Testament

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1ST CORINTHIANS SERIES

- **Unity and Power Evangelism (1-2)**
- Unchristian Conduct and Attitudes (3-4)
- Christian Conduct (5-7)
- Christian Choices (8-10)
- Christian Worship (11-12:11)
- Christian Relationships and Spiritual Gifts (12:13-13)
- Use of Prophecy and Tongues (14)
- Rapture, Resurrection, and Giving (15-16)

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THEMES

- Doing Church Together (1:10)
- Christian Living in a Pluralistic Society
- Conduct in Worship
- Bodily Resurrection

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WHERE AND WHEN

- Stayed in Corinth for 18 months on 2nd missionary journey AD 50-52. (Acts 18)
- Wrote Corinthian letters while living in Ephesus during 3rd journey in AD 53-54.



Wrote 1 Cor in response to a letter written by the Corinthian church that Paul received while in Ephesus

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CONTEXT

- Corinth was a bustling sea port
- Melting pot of cultures
- Pagan religions, prostitution, and other vices abound
- Very much like a post modern, relative moralism, pluralistic, metropolis like Los Angeles

Temple of Aphrodite in Corinth had 1000 temple prostitutes

McGregor is still fairly Christian conservative, we are lucky. But our local culture is quickly following the way of the national culture.

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UNITY

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- 10: Live in harmony with each other, no divisions in the church
- 10: Be united in thought and purpose
- 11: Chloe cared enough to seek resolution to quarrels
- 13: Do not follow celebrity preachers, follow Christ!
- 17: Preachers add nothing to the power of the Christ crucified

v1: Sosthenes is mentioned briefly in Acts 18, but it is unknown if it is the same person. If it is, then it is a testament to the transforming power of God's grace. If it is not, it may have been the scribe writing the letter.

v7: Even though much of 1 Cor is about the proper use and understanding of Spiritual Gifts, he praises them in verses 5 thru 7 that they "already have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of Jesus".

v11: Chloe is not mentioned anywhere else in the bible, but it's apparent that this house church meets at her house.

Wisdom

"The gospel doesn't make sense, why did God kill Jesus?"

19: Earthly wisdom and knowledge is worthless

25: This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest plans of humans.

28: God uses the powerless to shame the powerful.

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POWER EVANGELISM

- 4: My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.
- Eloquent speeches produce ephemeral faith.
- The Power of God creates a foundation for your faith.

"Eloquent speeches produce ephemeral faith" – Nate Moehring 9/29/2021

"A man with an argument is no match for a man with an experience."

Show them God's power and you will have fertile soil to plant God's love.

I feel like part of my responsibility as a pastor and a father is to create opportunities for people to witness the power of God, and tell testimonies about them.

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WISDOM FROM TONGUES

- 10: The Holy Spirit shows us God's deep secrets.
- **12: We have received the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.**
- 13: We speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.
- 16: We understand these things because we have been given the mind of Christ.

Tongues, aka a "prayer language", is an avenue for receiving spiritual truths from the very mind of God.

We can know God's plans!

We can think like Christ!

God can give us thoughts that have divine origin and purpose!

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UNITY VS UNIFORMITY

- Power Evangelism, Tongues, and Personal Revelations from God are not unifying topics in the Christian church, yet Paul emphasizes these immediately after calling for unity.
- Unity – Union or harmony of a group of people
- Uniformity – Always having the same manner, form, or degree
- **We do not need to agree on everything in order to be in union with other churches**

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NEW MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 2:12:

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

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INSTRUCTIONS

- Write down the memory verse: 1 Corinthians 2:12
- Read 1 Corinthians 1-2
- Pray about the promises, truths, and commands in the text
- Pray for one another