

Author: PAUL

audience: Church from Corinth and for Christians everywhere

Problems: jealousy, divisiveness, sexual immorality and failure to discipline members that led to idolatry.

Blueprint: (A) Paul Addresses the Church Problems (1:1-6:20)

1. Division in the church
2. Disorder in the church

(B) Paul Answers Church Questions (7:1-16:24)

1. Instruction on Christian Marriage
2. Instruction on Christian Freedom
3. Instruction on Public Worship
4. Instruction on Resurrection

Themes:

- Loyalty → Allegiance must be to Christ
- Immorality → We must never compromise with sinful ideas & practices
- Freedom → Never abuse Christian Freedom
- Worship → Must be carried out in a proper manner
- Resurrection → We are to live today knowing we will spend eternity with Christ.

■ Paul knew about the problems in Corinth while he was in Ephesus.

■ The purpose of this epistle is to correct those problems and answer questions given from previous letter.

■ Sosthenes, believer; well-known to the members of the Corinthian church. He mentioned his name in the opening for familiarity.

■ Paul said that the Corinthian church already have all the spiritual gifts they need but instead of using them to witness for Christ, they were arguing over which gifts were more important.

■ Do not create factions and division in the church for we are all saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

■ Ephesians 1:7-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 9:28 Guarantee that all who believe in the Lord Jesus will be considered blameless when Christ returns.

■ We are reminded to keep unity in the church by avoiding petty differences that leads us astray.

■ During this time, NO written New Testament yet. Believers heavily depended on

preaching and teaching spiritual insights in to the meaning of the Old Testament.

↳ Some listened to Paul, some listened to Peter (Pephas)

↳ Some listened to Apollos (Acts 18:24)

↳ This causes division of "who preach better" that leads to factions.

↳ Paul reminded us that it is GOD'S message that is much more important than any human messenger.

■ "Christ did not send me to baptize"

↳ Matthew 28:19 Great Commission;

Jesus commanded us to baptize

↳ Acts 2:41 Baptism was practiced by the early church

↳ Paul did not minimize the importance of Baptism but he emphasized that no one person should do everything. Paul's gift is preaching and that's what he did.

■ Isaiah 29:14 God's way of thinking is not the world's way. God offers eternal life that the world cannot give. We spend too much on gaining wisdom but fail to secure and grow a personal relationship with Christ.

personally knowing Christ is the greatest wisdom

■ NO ONE CAN BOAST in the presence of God.

↳ no amount of human knowledge can replace or bypass Christ's work on the cross. If it could, then the knowledge of Christ can only be exclusive to the educated and not to ordinary people nor children.

↳ If you want to boast, boast ONLY about the Lord.

■ God is the source of and the reason for our personal & living relationship with Christ.

■ If we truly know Christ, there will be unity and we stand firm on it.

# 1 CORINTHIANS

# 2 WISDOM

→ sharing God's words  
→ seeking God's wisdom

- Just like the apostle Paul, we should keep the gospel **simple** and **basic**.
- We must not overwhelm other people in sharing the gospel because it'll just highlight one's intellect and might over shadow the message itself. **JESUS**.
- We must **seek** for the Holy Spirit so that it will give power to our words and use them to bring glory to God.
- The Apostle Paul was known for his intellect yet, he doesn't rely on his own knowledge in sharing the gospel. **The Holy Spirit** is guiding his words. → **wisdom**
- Effective teaching and preaching of God's words = **Bible Study** + Guidance of the Holy Spirit. → **we need to be prepared always**
- Rely on the Holy Spirit **AT ALL TIMES!**
- God's "mystery, the hidden wisdom" was originally unknown to humanity until **Jesus' Resurrection**.  
→ **1 Peter 2:10-12** His resurrection proved that He had power over death and it is offered to us as well.  
→ **Romans 16:25-27** God's plans is however still hidden because they either accept or ignore it.
- Most of the times, we get frustrated not knowing God's plans for us yet, we cannot truly comprehend using our human knowledge. Thus, it prevents us from seeking and trusting Him.
- Isaiah 65:17; Revelations 21:1** He will create a new heaven and a new earth. We will eventually live with Him eternally. But not until then, we need the Holy Spirit to guide and help you.  
→ **Holy Spirit brings comfort through God's promises.**
- Proverbs 20:27** The Lord's light penetrates the human spirit, **exposing** every hidden motives.
- No one can know God's thoughts except God's own spirit.  
→ This is why we pray that may the Holy Spirit would guide us, bless us with **discernment** in reading, studying, and interpret God's words.



- Non-believers may not understand God's plans and the concept of the Holy Spirit.
- People who rejects God will never know God's beautiful plans.
- Romans 11:34** NO ONE can comprehend God but through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Believers may get insights on God's plans, thoughts, and actions.  
→ us, believers, understand all of these, because we have the **mind of Christ**.

- The apostle Paul called the Corinthians as **infants** in their Christian life — evident through their jealousy, quarrels, and other sins.  
→ They were not yet spiritually healthy and mature
- Immature Christians are "worldly" and still controlled by their desires. Mature Christians always seek alignment to God's desires.
- Following our own desires will only stunt our growth.

## followers of Christ

- we shouldn't identify ourselves as a follower of Paul, Apollos, or any messenger of God. Remember, we are all followers of Christ. **one temple.**

### MESSAGE > MESSENGER

- Planting Seeds** — sharing the gospel
- Watering the seeds** — when we help the believers grow their faith
- Growing of seeds** — Only God can do



## 1 CORINTHIANS

- we are all workers for God's kingdom. <sup>gifts & abilities</sup>  
 G no superstars in this task! only members performing specific roles.
- set aside personal desires to become useful members of God's team
- Galatians 1:10 Seek God's approval and not of men. Work for the Lord.
- The TRUE gospel = FIRM FOUNDATION  
 G Second to none. <sup>not easily swayed by the world</sup>  
 G preachers must have a sound teaching
- AND I WILL BUILD MY LIFE UPON YOUR LOVE  
 IT IS A FIRM FOUNDATION  
 AND I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN YOU ALONE  
 AND I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN

- what's the use of gaining wisdom if it holds you back from God? It is not wisdom at all!  
 G never argue for the sake of worldly wisdom like the Corinthians.  
 G avoid comparing and evaluating leaders and teachers.  
 G The presentation of the message is useless if we missed the actual message.
- "Stop deceiving ourselves" The day of judgement shall reveal the sincerity of our work.  
 God can see right through us if we have been faithful to Jesus' instructions. → the Great Commission  
 G the greatest commandment
- 1 John 4:18 Death will eventually come to both believers and non-believers → fear of death  
 G enjoys and uses life well because they understand its true purpose; we do not fear death because we know Christ has conquered it all.
- Death is actually the beginning of eternal life with God.

- # 4
- leaders are servants found to be trustworthy. A servant trusts what his master tells him. G us G obey  
 G God G Bible & teachings
  - Apostle Paul reminded us to be careful in judging fellow Christians. Only God knows our hearts and He is the only one who has the right to judge. → who is a better servant for Christ
  - We are warned not to be attached to spiritual leaders who could cause any division to the church. Each leader is a representative of Christ.
  - Everything we have as a leader is from God.  
 G wisdom, knowledge, heart, provisions  
 so that we won't boast

- Apostle Paul's tone in this epistle uses tough words. However, they are motivated with LOVE.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11 Just like a father's love to his children → kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk
- A lot of people talk about faith - but no actions. We may know the right words to say but we oftentimes don't live accordingly
- If we say we are Christians, it must reflect on our daily lives.
- Let your life show that Christ is really living inside you.

## WALK THE talk

- # 5
- Apostle Paul doesn't expect anyone to be sinless → only Jesus can!
  - All believers struggle w/ sin daily.
  - The Church must not tolerate sins that might affect others. G deliberate G guiltless G calloused
  - that are left uncorrected may confuse and divide the congregation
  - US, believers, must pray, encourage, and uplift to build up one another but we must be intolerant to sin.
  - Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15-17; Titus 3:10-11; 1 Timothy 5:20; James 5:19-20; Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:15 The bible has written it all over. Rebuke with love without judgement
  - We should not stop being with non-believers so that we can still carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

- We must distance ourselves from people who claim to be a follower yet lives otherwise
- Never rationalize your sins.
- Church leaders must be ready to correct, in love, for the sake of spiritual unity.
- Sins that can harm others are to be corrected. We must always correct them out of love and not out of revenge.
- Mark 4:11 Some people may not yet be ready to accept & understand God. We must pray for the Holy Spirit to open their hearts.

## 1 CORINTHIANS

6

■ Apostle Paul wants us to avoid lawsuits with fellow believers. Why? secular courts

- ① Judge & Jury may not be Christians; Sensitivity to Christian Values is essential.
  - ② The basis of going to courts is often for revenge. This should not be a Christian motive
  - ③ This may cause unbelievers to focus on the problem rather than on its purpose.
- lawsuits are a defeat for you. Why not accept the injustice and leave it to that? Why not let yourself be cheated? Because we always seek to get even with those who wronged us. We want to reciprocate with revenge.
- We were reminded that we were also once like those people who wronged us. However, now we are cleansed because of Jesus' blood.  
 ↳ we were no different at all before.

## Sexual Sin → FLEE

- With the freedom given to us by Christ Jesus, not everything that we want to do may be good for us. ↳ bounded by Jesus' instructions
- ↳ while we are allowed to do everything, we must not make ourselves slaves to it.
- ↳ we were bought with a high price and we are to offer everything as slaves to Jesus. With His love, we were given freedom from the slavery of sin.

freedom

- freedom must not be abused; this may just hurt ourselves and others.

■ **SEX** is created by God to be a beautiful and essential to marriage.

- ↳ sex outside marriage will always hurt someone. ↳ partner (respect)  
↳ family (expectations)  
↳ God (personal desire over His)  
ourselves (potential diseases, heartbreaks)



- Jesus bled and died for us. That is the high price we were bought from. We now become filled with the Holy Spirit, thus, we must live according to the high standard of Christ.

■ Colossians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Hebrews 13:4

We must distance ourselves from sexual immorality. Repent and don't hold back a sin like this. We are called to honor and respect the concept of marriage just as God beautifully created it for us.

- Ephesians 5:3 let no sexual immorality, impurity or greed rule in our lives. Such sins have no place for God's people.

■ Ephesians 5: Apostle Paul teaches more about marriage.

■ Corinthians suffer from sexual immorality and prostitution thus, they asked Apostle Paul if it's still good to get married. (Setting)

■ Sexual Temptations are difficult to withstand because it appeals to the normal and natural desires that God has given us. provided inside marriage

■ Marriage provides God's way to satisfy these desires and to strengthen the partners against temptations.

■ Husband and Wives then now have responsibilities for one another. ↳ not to withhold & fulfill those desires

■ What if a spouse is a believer and the other is not?

↳ Do not leave him/her.

↳ the believer in the marriage may bring holiness to the marriage and to the family. bring the spouse to Christ

■ **STAY PUT!** For now, be contented wherever God has placed you. If you are married, don't seek of being single. If you are single, don't rush to get married.

↳ we must live God's way, one day at a time, He will show us what to do. TRUST HIS TIMING.

■ Marriage and Singleness are both gifts from God. One is not morally better than the other, and both are valuable to accomplish God's purposes.

■ Apostle Paul's instructions in marriage came from Genesis 2:24 and Mark 10:2-12.

↳ marriage

↳ marriage & divorce

■ **STAY TOGETHER** - this God's ideal view of marriage.

■ 1 Corinthians 7:15-16 is always misused to get out of marriage

↳ Apostle Paul reminded us that the purpose of his answer to their marriage queries is to seek unity.

↳ 1 Peter 3:1-2 The believer spouse can win the other over to Christ by way of life and not just by words.

■ For both married & singles, always seek the Holy spirit to guide and equip us to perform our specific roles in God's kingdom.

↳ whatever status you have right now, we must always think on how can we magnify God's glory.

1 CORINTHIANS