

8 LOVE is more important than knowledge.
→ more knowledge can make us look good and feel that we are important however, we can easily develop arrogance and a know-it-all attitude.

Strong attitudes and strong opinions sometimes are not willing to open their ears and hearts to learn from God and others.

James 3:17-18 We can only obtain God's knowledge by loving Him. By loving Him, we get to know His character, nature, and plans for us.

1 John 4:7-8 We can only know and be known by God only when we model Him by showing love.

Ephesians 2:8-9 Our Christian freedom means our salvation is not based on our good deeds or legalistic rules, but by the free gift of God.

New believers are often highly sensitive to what's right or wrong; what they can and cannot do.
→ We must be very careful not to offend a sensitive or younger Christian OK by our example would cause them to stumble to sin.
Our Christian freedom must be used to strengthen our brothers & sisters' faith in Christ.

9 Being really famous as a persecutor of Christians, Apostle Paul sometimes got questioned of his motives in preaching the Gospel; He is also not part of Jesus' disciples and yet he is preaching and building churches in Jesus' name.

Apostle Paul's impact on others are evidences of change brought by the Holy Spirit in Him.

DOES MY FAITH HAVE IMPACT ON OTHERS?

Preaching the gospel is Paul's gift and he kept using it to glorify Jesus.

→ And I using my gifts to serve God & others?

FREEDOM + DISCIPLINE are important tools to be used in God's service. Too much Freedom might cause us to lose sight of God's will; too much discipline may lead us to legalism.

Important Principles for ministry:

- 1 find a common ground
- 2 avoid a know-it-all attitude
- 3 make others feel accepted
- 4 be sensitive to others' needs
- 5 look for opportunities to share about Christ

TRAIN DILIGENTLY. our spiritual progress depends on how we practice what we preach.



10 We are reminded not to forget the history and the learnings those experiences may bring.
→ overconfidence and lack of self-control are signs of spiritual immaturity

Today's worldly pressures make us forget about the past and we tend to repeat the mistakes.

Read the Old Testament and get key learnings from the history; you'll be surprised on how sometimes they are still applicable to our times.

Apostle Paul gave us strong encouragement about temptation

- 1 Wrong desires & temptations happen to everyone; don't feel singled out
- 2 Any temptation can be resisted because God will help you resist it
- 3 Others have resisted temptation, so can you.

God helps us resist temptation by helping us:

- 1 Recognize people and things that may bring you trouble
- 2 Run from anything that you know is wrong
- 3 Choose to do what is right
- 4 Pray for God's help
- 5 Seek friends who love God & can offer help when you are tempted.

2 Timothy 2:22 Running away from tempting situation is your first step on the way to victory.

Idolatry is still a serious problem. FLEE!
→ we must not put our trust in woods, stones, money, credit cards, work, etc.

As Christians, we must give full allegiance to Christ.

→ We can't dine in both the Lord's table & the Devil's table.

Christian Freedom: I am allowed to do anything but not everything is beneficial.

→ we must be concerned with others as well.

Romans 14 We must be sensitive to others and not cost of hurting them. We should learn the proper attitude - be sensitive and be gracious.



1 CORINTHIANS

11

There are proper attitudes and conduct in worship that the Apostle Paul reminded us.

→ If anything we do can easily offend members and divide the church, then change your ways to promote Church unity.

SUBMISSION is essential to understand.

→ it is a mutual commitment & cooperation

→ God created us equals (men & women) but God calls women to submit in order to achieve unity.

→ Submission between two equals is by CHOICE, and not by FORCE.

→ We serve God willingly, submitting to others in church, spouses, and government leaders.

Believers should look and behave in ways that are honorable within their own culture.

→ avoid appearances and behaviors that detract from our ultimate goal of being effective witnesses for Jesus Christ while demonstrating our faith.
→ the way we live

THE LORD'S SUPPER

It reminds us of Jesus' death and glorious hope of His return.

As believers, participating in it strengthens our faith through fellowship with Christ and other believers.

Those who create division only serve to highlight the genuine believers and not.

→ Setting: Corinthians show little sharing & caring during the Lord's Supper. Some eat & drink excessively, forgetting the real purpose of the fellowship.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 reminds us that the old covenant is not replaced by the new covenant. It is being fulfilled instead.

Apostle Paul's instructions on observing the Lord's Supper: (1 Corinthians 11:24-33)

- Take the Lord's Supper thoughtfully because we are proclaiming Jesus' death for our sins.
- We should take it worthily, with due reverence and respect.
- We should examine ourselves for any unconfessed sin or resentful attitude. We must be prepared based on our belief and love for Christ.
- We should be considerate of others. Waiting and eating in an orderly manner.

The Lord's Supper must not be a meaningless ritual!

It is a sacrament given by Christ to strengthen our faith through fellowship and not filling up our bellies.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Holy Spirit blesses us with spiritual gifts. → These many vary depending on God's plan for us.

All believers have specific spiritual gifts and Apostle Paul reminded us that no spiritual gift is superior than others.

Romans 12, Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4:10-11 gives us more examples of these spiritual gifts.

→ we are to use these gifts to serve God and build up Christ body - church, and not manipulate others or serving our own interest.

→ All of these gifts are from the Holy Spirit; we cannot boast for our own what is freely given by God.

→ All spiritual gifts are important and work harmoniously with other gifts; we are responsible to sharpen these gifts.

(Setting) The Corinthian Church uses these gifts as a symbol of spiritual power; it only causes rivalry and comparison of who is more "spiritual" because of these gifts.

Apostle Paul uses the body parts as a symbolism.

→ different body parts with different functions yet for a common goal; **WORK TOGETHER!**

As Christians, we must avoid the following mistakes:

- Being too proud of the abilities
- Thinking they have nothing to contribute to the Body of Christ (church).
- Thinking that their gifts are superior than others (spiritual pride)

Despite the differences, we have one thing in common - **FAITH IN CHRIST**. → promotes unity

As believers, we must consistently seek how can we contribute to Christ's body with the gifts given. → freely given, not earned.

ROMANS 12

Prophecy
Service
Teaching
Exhortation
Generosity
Leadership
Mercy

1 CORINTHIANS 12

Wisdom
Knowledge
Faith
Healing
Miracles
Prophecy
Distinguishing Spirits

1 PETER 4

Speaking
Service

DO YOU KNOW YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

12

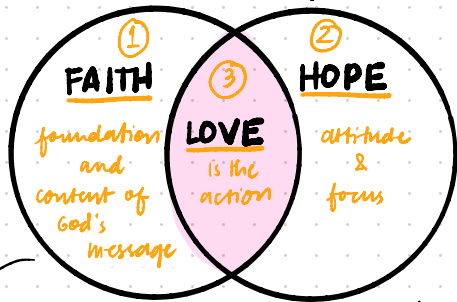
1 CORINTHIANS

Love is the Greatest 13

- In this present times, we are confused between LOVE and LUST.

Love must be directed towards others, not towards ourselves; it should be unselfish.
 We have to set aside our own desires and instincts, so that we can give love without expecting something in return. - Thus, we become more Christ-like.

- Apostle Paul reminds us that Love is more important than all spiritual gifts exercised.
- Love produces our heart to serve, our dedication and commitment to act, and our steadfast faith.
- Love makes our actions and spiritual gifts useful.
- We may have different spiritual gifts but LOVE is present to everyone.
- 1 John 4:8 Love is the greatest of all human qualities. It is an attribute of God Himself.



When FAITH and HOPE are in place, then you know how to LOVE completely.
 You start to understand how God loves us.
 You can never give what you don't have.

- We must understand the love of God through Jesus in order for us to reciprocate to others.
- Matthew 22:35-40 The greatest commandment

While Love must be our highest goal, we should also desire other spiritual gifts especially the gift to prophecy.

PROPHESYING - involves predicting the future events, but its main purpose is to communicate God's message to people, providing insights, warning, correction, and encouragement.

Speaking in tongues strengthens the person personally while prophecy strengthens the people around him.

14 (Setting) Corinthians uses speaking in tongues to lift themselves showing superiority among the rest. It causes DISORDER in the church.

- Speaking in Tongues according to Apostle Paul:
 - It is a spiritual gift from God. (14:2)
 - It is a desirable gift though not a requirement of faith (12:28-31)
 - It is less important than prophecy & Teaching (14:4)
- Spiritual Gifts are beneficial if used to help others in church, and not make ourselves feel good.
- 1 Corinthians 14:9 Public worship must be understandable and edifying to the whole church.
- Speaking in tongues is not prohibited as long as there is someone with the gift to interpret it, so then it'll be edifying to the whole church as well. Else, we can use this gift privately.
- It is better to speak 5 basic words so that others can understand them 10,000 words that they cannot.
- Ephesians 1:17-18; Colossians 1:9; Philippians 1:9-11
 - When we sing, we should think about the meaning of the words.
 - When we pour our hearts in prayer, we should not turn off our capacity to think.
 - True Christianity is neither barren intellectualism nor thoughtless emotionalism.
 - This is why we need to dwell in God's words and faithfully practice our spiritual disciplines.
- (Setting) Women in Corinth culture were not allowed to confront men in public. However, others were using their new found Christian freedom to question men in public worship. This caused division in the church.
- Women were just asked not to flaunt their Christian freedom during worship TO PROMOTE

UNITY.

- In worship, everything must be done properly and in an orderly manner.
- The Apostle Paul's main goal is to encourage the Corinthian church to set aside superiorities, paganism, comparisons, and other things that causes division to their church. It is in unity that they should endure and persevere until Christ comes back.
- If the church couldn't attain unity, how then can they truly serve and function as one body — without LOVE as its core, every effort is USELESS.

1 CORINTHIANS

RESURRECTION

- Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthian Church of the Good News (Gospel) that they have already heard from him and read from the Scriptures.
Jesus died for our sins → buried → He rose again!
- Apostle Paul mentioned the facts of Christ's Resurrection.
 - ↳ Peter; the 12 disciples; more than 500 believers; James (Jesus' brother), all the Apostles & Paul himself witnessed the risen Lord.
- Evidence that Jesus actually died and arose:
 - ↳ Mark 15:44-45 A Roman soldier declared Him dead
 - ↳ John 19:32-34 Roman soldiers did not break His legs because He is already dead. They pierced Jesus' side with a spear.
 - ↳ John 19:38-40 Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus wrapped Jesus' body and placed in the tomb.
 - ↳ Matthew 27:59-61; Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw Jesus placed inside the tomb.
 - ↳ John 20:3-9 On Sunday morning, Peter & John also went to the same tomb.
 - ↳ Matthew 27:65-66 The tomb was sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers
 - ↳ Acts 12:2 The disciples were ready to die for their faith. Stealing Jesus' body would have been admitting that their faith was meaningless.
 - ↳ Mark 16 Other evidences on the resurrection
- Apostle Paul was humble to admit that he is unworthy to be called an apostle; the way he spent his life persecuting Christ & His believers.
- Apostle Paul gave credit to God for all of his hard work & achievement as an apostle. He recognizes that he is worthless if it wasn't for God.
- We are reminded that we must always recognize God's work in our lives. Having the right perspective on who we are and acknowledging His grace in developing our abilities.
- Jesus' Resurrection is the center of the Christian Faith.
 - ↳ It is as promised that what He said is true - He is God.
 - ↳ We have certainty that our sins are forgiven.
 - ↳ He lives and represents us to God.
 - ↳ He defeated death; we know we will be raised too.
- Romans 5:12-21 Death came to the world as a result of Adam & Eve's sin. This gives a parallel between Adam's death and Christ's death.
- We are reminded that whatever we are doing today will matter for eternity. → sin is a foolish gamble
 - ↳ we all know that there will be life after death just as Jesus had risen from the grave.

- "I die daily" means Apostle Paul has daily exposure to persecution or danger.
 - We must not allow other people to lead us away from the truth of Resurrection; this may cause our faith to waver.
 - Philippians 3:21 our resurrected bodies/forms shall be perfect and without disabilities, sickness or disease.
 - A plain seed → must die first → transformed into a plant / tree that it is intended to be.
 - We all face limitations. We will be given with new bodies when Christ returns; this promise can help us go through all our suffering and gives us hope.
 - Genesis 3 Satan seemed to win in the Garden of Eden + Jesus' Crucifixion
 - Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15 God turned all "apparent" victories into DEFEAT when Jesus Christ rose from the dead.
 - Death must no longer be a source of fear. Christ overcame it and one day, we will also.
 - Death has been defeated and we have HOPE beyond the grave.
 - Sometimes, we hesitate to do good because
 - ① we don't see any results &
 - ② we will die anyway
 But if we maintain a heavenly perspective, we will understand that everything we do matters for eternity.
 - Do not allow discouragements (lack of results) keep us from doing good.
 - As long we have the opportunity to do good, do good. All of these will have eternal results.
 - Doing good is already a RESULT of our salvation. Once we felt and experienced God's Grace through Faith, then you can reciprocate by doing good.
- Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
- 1 Corinthians 15:38
- Keep in mind, our ultimate prize in this race is Jesus, Himself.

15

1 CORINTHIANS

16

■ Romans 15:25-31; 2 Corinthians 8:4,9:1

Christians in Jerusalem were suffering from poverty. Apostle Paul was collecting money for them.

■ Just like in Galatians, he reminded the believers to not forget to help the less fortunate after receiving God's salvation.

■ Philippians 2:22; 1 Timothy 1:2 Apostle Paul is sending Timothy ahead to Corinth; they both worked closely together.

→ Although Timothy was young, Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthian Church to welcome him as he was doing God's work. *→ endorsement shows*

→ God's work requires no age! *Timothy's credibility.*

■ 1 Corinthians 16:7-9 Apostle Paul is looking at the possible opportunities he could get wherever he is and his submission to the Holy Spirit is evident on his epistle. If things were just running on his own way, he can go wherever he wants and for how long he wants but, he is yielding to the Holy Spirit.

■ As the Corinthian Church wait for Apostle Paul's next visit, they were instructed to:

① be alert on spiritual dangers

② stand firm in faith

③ behave courageously

④ be strong

⑤ do everything with love

→ are we doing the same as we wait for Christ's return?

■ "In my own handwriting" Apostle Paul signifies that the epistle is genuine and not forged.

→ this counters the dangers of propagating false teachings back in their time.

■ There really is an assurance of Jesus' return and it symbolizes HOPE.

→ It must be something we could look forward to.

■ Titus 2:13 Those who love Christ are looking forward to that wonderful time of His return.

■ Apostle Paul knew that the Corinthian church was in trouble yet he managed to deal with the problems head on and did not sweep them under the rug. He finishes the epistle with a sincere tone that is ultimately rooting from his love to this church.

■ Main take away:

Unity & Love in a church is far more important than Leaders & Labels.

be on
guard
stand
firm
in the faith
be
courageous
be
strong
& do
everything with
love

1 CORINTHIANS