



WEEK 5 – “Corinthianized”

REVIEW

- WK1** We must judge every EXPERIENCE by the infallible standard (**the word of God**) which is GREATER than any experience (**2 Peter 1:19-21**).
- WK2** “Tongues” are **not** an unintelligible language. No one in the entire Bible spoke in an unknown, unspoken, unintelligible language. “Tongues”, as defined by the Bible, is a known spoken understandable language... foreign to speaker, understood by hearer.
- WK3** The Bible teaches: **Tongues** are for a **SIGN** to **unbelieving Jews** (**1Cor 1:22; 14:22**)
- WK4** There are only **3** places in the Bible someone speaks in tongues (**Acts 2; 10; 19**). **Every time this sign occurs an unbelieving Jew is present**. All other references are to use or misuse.

NOTE: At this point, any so-called “Christian” group or cult that wants to teach “**Speaking in Tongues**” AS DOCTRINE has no other place to run in the entire Bible except 1 Corinthians...

UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH AT CORINTH – 1 CORINTHIANS OVERVIEW

1. The Book of 1 Corinthians

KEY God does NOT do anything by accident; every aspect of His Word is supernatural. Context is NOT just established for a word, verse, or passage...but also for Chapters and Books.

- a.** In this study, we will take a **verse-by-verse** look at **1 Corinthians 12-14**. However, we must first understand the book itself to place those passages in their proper context...as they appear in the New Testament “church” epistles!
- b.** **An Overview of 1 Corinthians**

Title Means: ORNATE; ORNAMENT; DECORATIVE; ADORNED; SHOWY

Chapters: 16 | Verses: 437 | Words: 9,489 (**Prov 30:5; Psalm 12:6, 7**)

Authorship: PAUL with Sosthenes Time of Writing: 59-60 AD

Theme: Dealing with **SIN** in light of the LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ

❖ See the following verses: **1:2, 7, 8, 9, 10; 5:4; 9:1; 15:31, 57; 16:23**

Key Word: **LORD** (69 times; more than any other church epistle)

Note: Whenever correcting or reproving another believer (or yourself), always remind yourself and them... "Who your Lord is" – "Who their Lord is"... **Jesus is Lord!**

About the City:

Corinth was perhaps the most important city in Greece. It was the capital of the Roman Province of Achaia and was ideally located on the empire's most important TRADE and TRAVEL route from the east to west. CORINTH was a financial center that was especially noted for commerce, culture, and absolute perverted corruption. Everyone knew what a "Corinthian GIRL" was, and a "Corinthian Feast" was the depth of blatant immorality. Corinth was also the headquarters for the worship of the goddess VENUS, as well as for other DEPRAVED mystery cults from Egypt and Asia (*Corinth was a sexually perverted cesspool*). It was the fourth largest city in the Roman Empire.

About the Church:

The Church at Corinth was a large congregation (**Acts 18:4, 8, 10**) consisting primarily of Gentile believers (**12:2**) with some JEWISH believers (**Acts 18:8**). Unfortunately, the church at Corinth took on the **IDENTITY** of its culture. It was a church that had lost its purpose and was operating in the FLESH instead of in the WISDOM of God (*Chapters 1-4*). The saints at Corinth were nothing more than spiritual **BABIES**. (**3:1; 13:11; 14:20**)

c. **Three Basic Applications**

Historical: Paul writes to deal with the reported DIVISIONS within the church and the FALSE sense of spirituality that they had developed.

Doctrinal: Every New Testament Church must regularly evaluate this letter in order to AVOID the curse of the Laodicean Church. This church is a perfect picture of 20th and 21st century churches. This is the epistle of CONFRONTATION.

NOTE Paul makes many powerful statements under the inspiration of Holy Spirit. Significant parts of our BBC covenant deal with issues from 1 Corinthians.

Devotional: There is seemingly NO END to the depths that the **FLESH** can take believers when they are focused on **SELF**. This letter shows us the PROBLEMS and ISSUES we are *all* faced with in our own lives and churches when SELF is in the center stage...

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Churches today, like the church of Corinth, have lost their purpose – they have no reason to exist – so they come up with their own thing! When this happens, they will always do what makes their flesh feel good! They operate in *the wisdom of man* and **not** *the power of God* (**1 Cor 2:5**). Typically, it goes hand in hand with nobody following God-given authority of leadership (they are questioning Paul's authority in chapter 9). A carnal church will always have to "build" God into what "they" are doing – likewise with individual carnal Christians! You must always guard yourself.

d. Outline Structures

Basic outlines

1-11	To the Church collectively – the focus is on EVERYONE.
12-16	To the Church individually – the focus is on EACH believer personally.

1-4	The wisdom of man	<u>vs.</u>	The revelation of God
5-9	The worldliness of man	<u>vs.</u>	The holiness of God
10-16	The religion of man	<u>vs.</u>	The Holy Spirit of God

Chapter descriptions

- Chapter 1 - There are **DIVISIONS** among them. They each identify themselves with someone that makes them seem more spiritual. They are glorying in their own spirituality and in the wisdom of man, not the wisdom of God.
- Chapter 2 - The **WISDOM** of man does not stand in light of the wisdom of God. We have the very “MIND of Christ.”
- Chapter 3 - They are CARNAL **BABIES**. They are dealing with envying, strife, and divisions, and arguing over who won who to Christ. The cure for this behavior is the “*Judgment Seat of Christ*.”
- Chapter 4 - They are NOT good stewards of the “*Mysteries of Christ*.” They are dealing with the hypocrisy of **puffed-up** haughtiness.
- Chapter 5 - There is gross immorality amongst them; they will not change – **PRIDE!**
- Chapter 6 - They are involved in wrong lawsuits between believers rooted in **LUST**.
- Chapter 7 - There are PROBLEMS with marriage, divorce, remarriage, singleness.
- Chapter 8 - More PROBLEMS with believers that think they are super spiritual. They are damaging the FAITH of the newer, weaker believers by taking undue **LIBERTY** (*preferences*) and eating meat sacrificed to idols.
- Chapter 9 - Problems with the **FINANCIAL** support of, and focus of, the pastor and other leaders in the church.
- Chapter 10 - There are problems with **OFFENDING** everyone around them, not just believers. They are dealing with temptation, fornication, adultery, and undue liberty in the church.
- Chapter 11 - They are blatantly disregarding proper **GENDER** roles. They are blasphemously misusing the Lord’s Supper in the church.
- Chapter 12 - There are PROBLEMS with the **preeminence** acquired through the use of SPIRITUAL GIFTS in the body.
- Chapter 13 - There is no unconditional love (**CHARITY**) manifesting itself in this church. Paul explains by contrast in listing characteristics of true charity.

Chapter 14 - Gaining understanding is key. Problems with the misuse of “**tongues**” by practicing “*unknown tongues*.” The church was, once again, involved in **FALSE** spirituality by elevating the true gift to something that gave the **appearance** of personal spiritual preeminence.

Chapter 15 - There were denials concerning the RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ. They were all messed up on this issue and also facts concerning the rapture and their own resurrection.

Chapter 16 - Problems with the COLLECTION of **MONEY** for the saints. Instructions are given concerning other like issues in the church.

Practical outline

1-4 - Personal Disorder

The Problem: *Following men*

The Cure: **EXALT** THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1:30)

5-6 - Moral Disorder

The Problem: *Yielding to the flesh*

The Cure: **LIVE** FOR JESUS CHRIST (6:15)

7 - Home Disorder

The Problem: *Wrong ideas*

The Cure: BENEVOLENCE AND **OBEDIENCE** (7:3)

8-10 Social Disorder

The Problem: *Misused Liberty*

The Cure: DO **ALL** TO THE GLORY OF GOD (10:31)

11-14 Church Disorder

The Problem: *Misconduct in worship*

The Cure: **ORDER** AND TEMPERANCE (14:32-40)

15 - Doctrinal Disorder

The Problem: *Denial of resurrection of Christ and the believer*

The Cure: THE **RISEN** CHRIST AND THE RISING BELIEVER (15:20)

16 - Financial Disorder

The Problem: *Wrong Motives*

The Cure: **TITHES** AND OFFERINGS (16:2)

2. Conclusion

- ❖ It is evident (clearly demonstrated by the letter) they were not doing anything right; they had problems with EVERY issue. This letter was written to reprove them concerning their sinful, prideful, self-centered, **ATTITUDES and** practices!
- ❖ The letter is a **REBUKE** teaching the church, “*what not to do*” ... *not what to do!!*
- ❖ 1 Corinthians is certainly **NOT** the FOUNDATIONAL book for the activities of a proper, organized, local, New Testament Church!