



TEACH ME  
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

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EPISODE

2

Chapter 1

1 CORINTHIANS

*Divisions in the Church*



## Episode 2

# 1 Corinthians: Chapter 1

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If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:  
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

*The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)*

*Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)*

*Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)*

*Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)*

### REVIEW

Paul has been informed by Chloe’s people that there are divisions in the church at Corinth. Believers in the Corinthian church have created factions, each of which are following different leaders, Paul, Apollos, Peter, or Christ. Additionally, the Corinthians have become boastful, lacking sound judgment, and elevating their own words of “wisdom” which are speaking in tongues and human reasoning.

In the opening verses of Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians (1:1-9), Paul states his whole message of the book in seed form. These opening verses will need sixteen chapters of explanation. In short, all the knowledge and giftings necessary for life until the return of Christ has been supplied to the body of Christ.



## Episode 2

# 1 Corinthians: Chapter 1

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### DAY 1

#### Read 1 Corinthians 1

- Remember to **track the pronouns** and keep the *we* group and the *you all* group distinct now and throughout the whole letter.
- Recognize that **every verse beginning in Chapter 1 verse 1 is important** to Paul's message and read accordingly.
- Continue to **refer back** to Chapter 1 as you read the rest of Paul's **letter to connect Paul's unified message**.
- Ignore chapter and verse marks as you listen and read to keep the flow of Paul's message.

**Listen to this week's Podcast (30 min) and read along as David reads this passage and unpacks what Paul is saying to the Corinthian church.**

- How will the Gentile believers gain access to the mystery of Christ (timestamp 00:15:44)?
- Do the Corinthians lack any gift? Why, or why not? See 1 Corinthians 1:7 (00:17:07).
- What makes a gift valuable according to Paul (00:17:36)? How does what the Corinthians value show they misunderstand this truth (00:17:24, 00:21:37)?
- Why is Paul's question in 1 Corinthians 1:13 foundational (00:25:12)?
- Why does Paul state at the end of Chapter 1 that he is boasting in Christ alone (00:35:14)?

### DAY 2

#### What is Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 1:10-31 concerning baptism?

Paul explains that the gospel that he has proclaimed to them was based neither in "human wisdom" nor "human strength." Instead, Christ is the personification of both the wisdom and the power of God (00:31:30). In fact, the good news of Christ is exactly what Paul has proclaimed to the Corinthians. This means that any power of wisdom the Corinthians can claim or boast about is only possible through Christ.

- **Track baptism** (used 10 times in 8 verses) through Paul's letter to the Corinthians. See 1:13,14,15,16,17;10:2;12:13; and 15:29.

How do these verses contribute to Paul's explanation that the Corinthians are members of the body of Christ?

Paul begins to explain that none of the leaders of the church (Peter, Paul, Apollos) were crucified for the Corinthian believers. Nor were the Corinthian believers baptized into any of the leaders. Instead, they were all baptized into the body of Christ (see Chapter 12). For this reason, Paul states that he was not sent to baptize. Rather, Paul was sent to preach the gospel of their salvation.



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# 1 Corinthians: Chapter 1

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### DAY 3

#### Wisdom vs. Foolishness

- **Track** *wise/wisdom* (used 15x in 13 verses) through Paul's letter to the Corinthians.  
See 1:17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30; 2:1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13; 3:10, 18, 19, 20; 6:5; 12:8.

How do these verses contribute to Paul's admonishment of the Corinthians and their boasting in human *wisdom*?

### DAY 4

#### Weakness vs. Strength

- **Track** *weak* (used 15x in 13 verses) through Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

See 1:25,27; 2:3; 4:10; 8:7,9,10,11,12; 9:22; 11:30; 12:22; 15:43. Note that these verses are in contrast with strong.

How do these verses contribute to Paul's admonishment of the Corinthians and their boasting in human *strength*?

Take what you have learned from Days 2-4 to succinctly explain Paul's reasoning in chapter 1.

### DAY 5

#### Application and a Look Forward

- As Paul begins his letter to the Corinthians, what are some things that caught your attention?
- What was causing divisions in the Corinthian church?
- Are there divisions in our church today?
- While the divisions today differ from those in the Corinthian church what do they have in common?
- **Read Chapter 2.** Pay SPECIAL attention to Paul's use of his pronouns. This usage will be consistent throughout his letter. When Paul says you (almost always plural), he is addressing the Corinthians. Who is Paul referring to when he says we? (hint: it is never the Corinthians).