

# the first letter to the CORINTHIANS

The Gospel shaped community

## What is the series about?

We'll be working our way through the 1st Letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. This series will cover what a Gospel shaped community looks like in many areas of life including relationships, sex, food, the gathered church, and the resurrection.

## Listen to the audio

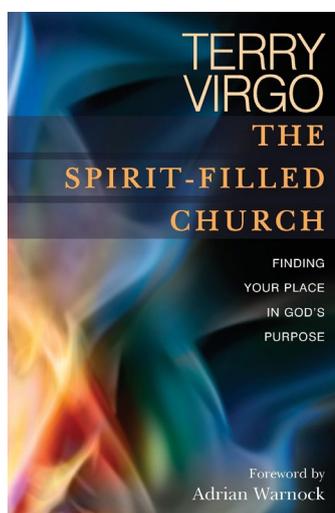
On the King's Norwich app or at: [kingsnorwich.com/1corinthians](https://kingsnorwich.com/1corinthians)

## Check out the blog

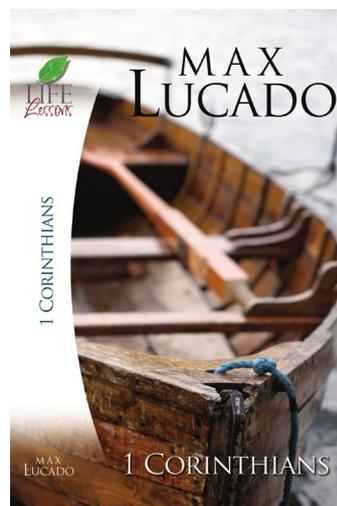
[kingsnorwich.com/blog](https://kingsnorwich.com/blog)

## Recommended Reading

The Spirit Filled Church  
Terry Virgo



Life Lessons: 1 Corinthians  
Max Lucado



# CORINTHIANS

the first letter to the

## **Title: Living well, no matter what...**

Speaker: Toby Skipper

Bible Ref: 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

### **Overview**

Do you ever think "if my circumstances in life were better, I'd be happier, more fulfilled, more generous, more at peace?" Do we ever think "I'd be more effective or fruitful as a Christian if my situation in life changed?" The Corinthians had previously written to Paul asking him questions (7v1); Is it good for a man to touch a woman? What about widows & widowers? What about divorce, marriage & re-marriage? What about single people? These questions relate to the circumstances of life different people find themselves in & Paul recognises the breadth of situations in relation to following Jesus & applies a general principle *"Don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right here. God, not your marital status, defines your life."* (7v17 - *The Message*)

### **Questions to help your group understand the truth preached**

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. What were the relational, social & economic situations the Corinthians were facing?
2. What does Paul mean by 'keeping Gods commands' is what counts? (v19)
3. How does Paul want the gospel to shape the way they see themselves? (v22)

### **Questions to help your group apply the truth preached**

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. What are the different relational, social & economic situations people find themselves in today and what opportunities/challenges do they present in following Jesus? (How can we live, obey, love and believe in the various situations we find ourselves?)
2. How can our identity be shaped by who we are 'in Christ' rather than our situation in the world; how does the gospel help us?
3. How does the gospel enable unity in the body of Christ across diverse social, economic, cultural and racial differences?

### **Questions to help your group dig deeper**

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

1. What was the 'present crisis' (v26) and how did it shape Paul's advice on marriage and singleness to the Corinthians?
2. How does remembering the 'time is short' & 'the world is passing' give us perspective and wisdom in handling our relationships and possessions in the world? (7:29-31)