

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

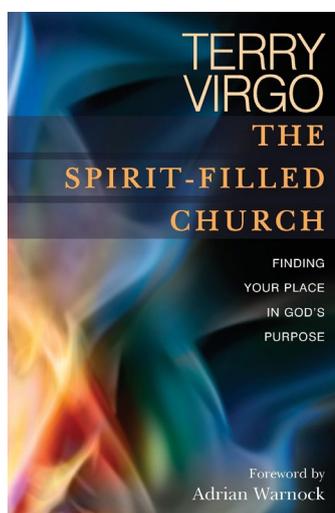
On the King's Norwich app or at: kingsnorwich.com/1corinthians

Check out the blog

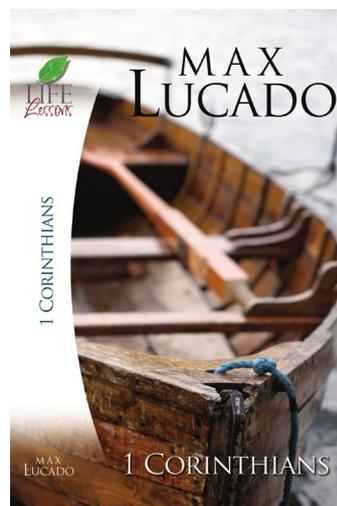
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Recommended Reading

The Spirit Filled Church
Terry Virgo



Life Lessons: 1 Corinthians
Max Lucado



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Title: True and False Wisdom

Speaker: Toby Skipper (City Centre & Mile Cross)

Bible Ref: 1Cor 1:18 - 2:5

Overview

Paul started the church in Corinth (Acts 18); laid foundations (1Cor 3:10-12) over 18 months of teaching and preaching. They started to build on these foundations but not with gospel shaped bricks. Rather they were status-shaped; me-shaped; pride-shaped; puffed up on human wisdom - (loved the intelligent & eloquent speakers); ultimately they were Corinthian culture shaped; ethical-values & external-philosophies were shaping the way they built on the foundation Paul had laid. This had produced unhelpful-factions, relational-friction and moral-failure in the life of the church. It is into this that Paul drops the 'bomb' of the message of the cross to explode the bricks they are building with (wisdom of world etc). Where they had been dismissive of the cross, even ashamed of the message, Paul wants them to fully embrace it & allow it to reshape their life together, producing Christ-likeness in the church.

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 does Paul mean by the 'message of the cross'?
2. What are the key characteristics of a church that had been shaped by the 'message of the cross'?
3. What do v21 & v30 tell us about how God saves us?

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 external cultural-influences do we need to be aware of that could unhelpfully shape the culture of the church?
2. How does the 'message of the cross' (v18) keep us from pride and growing in humility?
3. How does it feel, knowing the message we share will appear as foolishness to some? And does it affect our sharing of the message, in both positive & negative ways? (2:1-5)

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. In what ways does the message of the cross, which is the power of God, "destroy the wisdom of the wise"? (1:19 quoted from Isaiah 29:14)?
2. What does Paul mean when he says (2:4) "my message and preaching were not with wise and persuasive words" (Take into consideration Acts 18:4 where Paul uses words to persuade)?
3. What does Paul mean when he says "let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord" (1:31) and what does this look like in our lives together?