

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

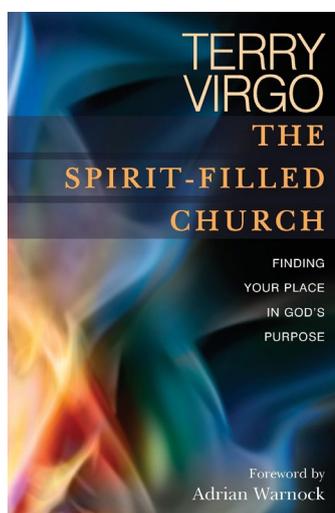
On the King's Norwich app or at: kingsnorwich.com/1corinthians

Check out the blog

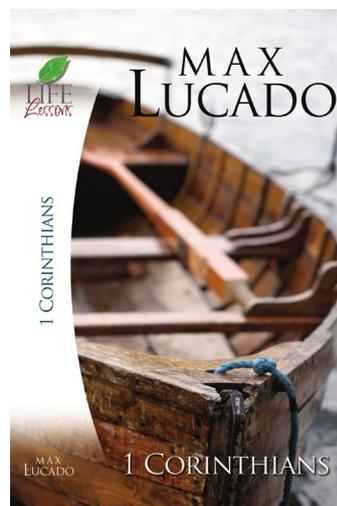
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Recommended Reading

The Spirit Filled Church
Terry Virgo



Life Lessons: 1 Corinthians
Max Lucado



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Title: Singing From The Same Hymn Sheet

Speaker: Marcuss Tutt Bible Ref: 1 Corinthians 1 v 10-17

Overview

The Corinthian church is beginning to be characterised by various disagreements.

Paul exhorts them to “agree,” (literally “say the same thing”).

He then asks them three rhetorical questions to foster and focus their unity:

- 1) “Is Christ Divided?” > Jesus is the basis of our unity
- 2) “Was Paul crucified for you?” > A focus on Jesus’ sacrificial death for our sin
- 3) “Were you baptized” into the name of Paul? > Our identity is in Jesus (cf Col 3:12-13)

If we focus on Jesus’ sacrifice for our sin, and live to love others and share Jesus with them, we will find ourselves saying the same thing a lot of the time. This can also cultivate healthy context to lovingly and carefully, seek agreement where we see things differently.

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. Why do you think Paul asked “Is Christ divided?”
2. Why do you think Paul asked “Was Paul crucified for you?”
3. Why do you think Paul asked “Were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

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. How can we give a strong focus to the cross of Christ in our discussions, prayer, worship, witness, and serving?
2. How might having a deep love and care for one another help us agree more? (1 Cor 12:25)
3. What else helps us have healthy “hallway” discussions about things we disagree about?

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 is the role of the Holy Spirit in bringing unity to the church? (1 Cor 12:13)
2. How can you “clothe yourselves with compassion...”? (Col 3:12-13)
3. How can we ensure that we are being shaped together locally and apostolically, and not just by the various helpful/unhelpful resources and ministries on the internet?