

# BETTER WAY

## 1 Corinthians - Chapters 1-4

### INTRODUCTION

### OVERVIEW

#### 1 Corinthians

- ▶ Next to Romans probably the most important letter.
  - ▶ Maybe it is the most important letter as it has Paul doing what he does most in the NT; writing in response to questions a church or a group within a church has asked him.
  - ▶ So we get to see him apply theology to real-life situations.
- #### The City of Corinth
- ▶ An ancient and important city
  - ▶ 700s BC Trojan War
  - ▶ 450s BC Peloponnesian War
  - ▶ Corinth destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC
  - ▶ Cicero visited the abandoned city in the 60's BC
  - ▶ Re-established by the Romans in 44 BC as Roman colony

▶ Who are you, and are you \_\_\_\_\_?

Remember who you are, and Whose you are. You are part of the church of God, the family of God.

▶ You have been \_\_\_\_\_, called into fellowship with Jesus.

▶ And you were \_\_\_\_\_.

But the door to your jail cell has been opened. So get up, walk into new life!

▶ Human wisdom: It's all about \_\_\_\_\_.

▶ I came to Corinth with \_\_\_\_\_ . Had a tough time in Athens.

▶ So deny the \_\_\_\_\_.

▶ Be like us, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. (v.10)

So... what can we say?

- 1 We are \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot fix \_\_\_\_\_. We need help from outside.
- 2 Watch out for the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Turn to the wisdom of God.

*Creekside Events* 



### Chapter Overview

Chapter 1: Some serious confusion

Chapter 2: Godly medicine

Chapter 3: Evidence you have been sick

Chapter 4: Apostles of Christ

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## LifeGroup Questions - Doing Life Together

Week of Sep 12 - Sep 18, 2021

1 Corinthians - Chapters 1-4

### PRAYER

Take a few moments to pray with one another and ask what God has been showing you the last few days. Has God shown you any specific individuals that you can reach out to?

### FAMILY LIFE SECTION

- A. Give an example of an argument between members of your family. Did you end up united or divided?
- B. Why is it important for your family to show each other love and to be united? The people around us who may not know Jesus are watching how we act and how we treat each other. How does our unity impact our testimony?

### MY STORY

What was the best piece of "constructive criticism" you have ever received? Did you take the advice with humility or did you become defensive about it?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- 1) As we begin a new sermon series with Dr. David Nystrom, you are encouraged to use the 1 Corinthians Scripture Journal to take notes and make action plans (you may obtain one *Sunday in the Atrium* or *Venue Lobby* or *midweek at the Creekside Office for a small donation*). Additionally, you are encouraged to read the book of 1 Corinthians several times over the next seven weeks. You might even challenge a fellow LifeGroup member for accountability and to cheer each other on!
- 2) **Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17.** What is the importance of unity in the life of a healthy church? Discuss the foundation of our unity and ways to honor the Lord, in spite of strong personal views.
- 3) **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18.** Do you feel comfortable knowing that most people we interact with believe the Bible is foolish? How can we balance boldly sharing the gospel with all people vs accepting that many people will never understand the beauty of the gospel message?

4) What "wisdom of the world" do you see that is prominent today that stands in direct opposition to the Good News of Jesus? Discuss ways we can equip ourselves to stand strong in the wisdom of God and not be swayed by the opinions of the world.

5) **Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-16.** List ways to help discern the Holy Spirit speaking to us in contrast to our own human thoughts.

### Holy Spirit

### Own thoughts

### DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

- 6) **Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4.** Paul repeats his position that mature Christians will fight for unity among the body rather than division. Often times, our temptation to create division stems from our own pride and wanting to feel smarter, more accomplished or more caring than others who think or live differently than us. If you and Paul were talking together, how might he challenge you personally to build an attitude focused on unity rather than division?
- 7) **Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5.** How different would your life look if you focused more on being a servant of God rather than wanting to gain approval from the world? What spiritual gifts do you have that can contribute to building relationships and serving the needs of those around you?
- 8) Part of godly wisdom is understanding that we need help from outside of us, both from God and from the body of believers around us. When others want to help you, what areas do you struggle with?

### TAKING IT HOME

9) **Read Ephesians 6:10-13.** In our spiritual warfare against flesh and blood, we must submit and be responsive to the wisdom from God rather than fall into the ways of the world and self. What is one activity you can do this week to dive deeper into understanding the wisdom of God and actively resisting the wisdom of the world? Share these ideas with your group and make a plan to follow up with one another throughout the week.

### PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for unity and the desire for godly wisdom. Pray that each person would seek to love their neighbors well and share the goodness of the Lord in all that they do.