

# 1 CORINTHIANS

## NT Overview

Teaching Outline

**Main Idea:** A church that honors Jesus must be united by the gospel, committed to godly living, and focused on loving one another.

**New Testament Epistles:** Epistles are letters written from real people to real people through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for a particular purpose

**Author:** Paul      **Audience:** The church in Corinth

## United by the Gospel

### 1:10-13

- We must agree to follow Christ together for His glory because of the gospel.
- Don't let worldly disagreements divide you from Christians who love Jesus and believe the gospel.

### 1:17-18

- The gospel of Jesus is more powerful than any worldly wisdom.
- Don't be intimidated by a world whose wisdom can't compare to the gospel.

### 15:1-8

- The gospel is the most important truth to agree on.
- The gospel is the truth that saves us, empowers us, and unites us.

## Committed to Godly Living

### 6:9-11

- Sin has deadly consequences.
- When you are washed by the blood of Jesus, set apart as His child, justified before God, you cease to be defined by all of the sinful things you once were.

### 6:18-20

- Flee from sexual immorality.

### 10:14

- Flee from idolatry

## Focused on loving one another

### 13:1-13

- Everything a Christian does should be full of love for God and love for other people.
- Love is how we turn good things into God-honoring things.
- Love is how we show Jesus to the world.

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## Discussion Guide

**Main Idea:** A church that honors Jesus must be united by the gospel, committed to godly living, and focused on loving one another.

**Intro Question:** When was the last time you wrote a letter? Why did you write it?

## Teaching Part 1

**NT Epistles:** Letters written from a real person to real people through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for a particular purpose

**How does knowing that the Epistles are letters written from a real person to real people affect the way you read them?**

- Bible books like 1 Corinthians are not just theology books that are written for an imaginary audience. They are personal, specific letters between people who have a relationship. They address real-life issues that were relevant in the lives of the people involved. This means that the things we read in the epistles apply to normal people like us, but also have to be interpreted for our modern lives.

## United by the Gospel

**What are some things that it is essential for us as Christians to agree about?**

- We can start this answer with 1 Corinthians 15, since Paul describes this gospel message as being “of first importance”. We have to be united on the central teachings of the gospel, or we cannot be united as Christians. We can disagree about things like the end times or what kind of music we sing in church or how we handle politics. But we have to be united when it comes to the core beliefs of Christianity, the gospel.

**What are some topics that might divide Christians that we should be able to disagree about while keeping unity?**

- There have been all sorts of unnecessary divisions in the church over things like music, politics, clothing, personalities, preferences, buildings, strategies, events, and all sorts of other things. While there are some disagreements that we cannot live with, over major teachings or essential practices, there are many that we should learn to overlook for the sake of unity around the gospel.

## Teaching Part 2

### Committed to Godly Living

**What are some reasons Paul takes the Corinthians’ sin so seriously?**

- Sin ignites the wrath of God. Sin creates division in the church. Sin keeps people out of the kingdom of heaven. Sin contaminates the temple of the Holy Spirit. Sin robs us of our purpose to glorify God.

### Focused on Loving One Another

**What are some examples of how Jesus fulfills the description of love in 1 Corinthians 13?**

- Consider stories or teachings that show Jesus as patient, kind, etc.

**Answer to Remember:** The letters of the New Testament are God’s inspired instructions to His people about the gospel, the Christian life, and the Church.

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Student Handout

## New Testament \_\_\_\_\_

Epistles are \_\_\_\_\_ written from real people to real people through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for a particular \_\_\_\_\_.

## 1 Corinthians

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Audience:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Point:** A \_\_\_\_\_ that honors Jesus must be united by the gospel, committed to godly living, and focused on loving one another.

## \_\_\_\_\_ by the Gospel

### 1:10-13

- We must agree to follow Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for His glory because of the gospel.
- Don't let worldly disagreements \_\_\_\_\_ you from Christians who love Jesus and believe the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1:17-18

- The gospel of Jesus is more powerful than any worldly \_\_\_\_\_.
- Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ by a world whose wisdom can't compare to the gospel.

### 15:1-8

- The gospel is the most \_\_\_\_\_ truth to agree on.
- The gospel is the truth that saves us, empowers us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us.

## Committed to \_\_\_\_\_ Living

### 6:9-11

- Sin has \_\_\_\_\_ consequences.
- When you are \_\_\_\_\_ by the blood of Jesus, set apart as His child, justified before God, you cease to be defined by all of the sinful things you once were.

### 6:18-20, 10:14

- \_\_\_\_\_ from sexual immorality.
- Flee from \_\_\_\_\_

## Focused on \_\_\_\_\_ One Another

### 1 Corinthians 13

- Everything a Christian does should be full of \_\_\_\_\_ for God and love for other people.
- Love is how we turn \_\_\_\_\_ things into God-honoring things.
- Love is how we show Jesus to the \_\_\_\_\_.

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## NT Overview

Teaching Resources

[Bible Project video: 1 Corinthians Overview](#)

[Capitol Hill Baptist Church Core Seminar: NT Overview](#)

[ESV Study Bible: Introduction to 1 Corinthians](#)

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