
Study Series: 1 Corinthians

Questions about 1 Corinthians 1.1—4.21

1. Considering what you just learned in the section, “What’s the story behind the scene?” Why was Corinth a good place for the good news about Christ to be preached and heard? What special challenges did it create for the person who wanted to preach the good news?
2. What controversy or argument is taking place among the Christians at Corinth (1.10-12; 3.1-6)? What does Paul say about this (1.13-17; 3.6-23)?
3. Why does the message about Christ dying on a cross seem like foolishness to some people (1.18-25)? Why did God choose this “foolish” way to save people and make them wise, acceptable, and holy (1.26-31)?
4. How can God’s people be a “temple” (3.16,7)?
5. How does Paul describe his life and the lives of other apostles (4.9-13)? Where do you think Paul got the strength to keep on preaching about Christ?
6. Who were “the ones doing all this bragging” (4.18-21, *CEV*)? What were they bragging about? Why did this cause problems for the rest of the church at Corinth?

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Questions about 1 Corinthians 5.1 – 11.1

1. Read what Paul had to say about “yeast” and “dough” (5.6-8, *CEV*). What does this saying have to do with the Christian community at Corinth?
2. Why did Paul suggest that the Corinthian Christians settle disputes among themselves rather than suing each other in court (6.1-8)? Should modern Christians consider following this advice? Why or why not?
3. Read 6.19, 20. What is Paul saying here? How would life change if everyone followed Paul’s advice?
4. Summarize Paul’s key teachings about marriage (7.1-40).
5. What does Paul say about food offered to idols (8.1-13)? In what other situations might Paul’s advice apply?
6. How is living the Christian faith like a race or an athletic contest (9.24-27)?
7. Why does Paul talk to the Corinthian Christians about worshipping idols (10.1-22)? What idols exist in modern society?
8. What does Paul mean by his words in 10.33?

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Questions about 1 Corinthians 11.2 – 16.24

1. On what did Paul base his rules for worship in 11.2-16? What is your reaction to these rules? What do verses 11 and 12 tell you about how men and women should treat each other?
2. What did Paul teach about the Lord's Supper? Why did he have to offer his advice (11.17-34)?
3. List the spiritual gifts described in chapter 12. What is the purpose of these gifts?
4. Why does Paul say that "love" is the greatest gift of the Spirit (13.1-13)?
5. What does Paul teach about the gifts of speaking in unknown languages and about prophesying (14.1-25)?
6. What does Paul mean by "orderly worship" (14.26-40)? How can worship be made more orderly? What reasons does Paul give for why worship should be orderly?
7. What is the message that Paul says has the power to "save" (15.1-7, *CEV*)? What would make this message "worthless" (15.12-15, *CEV*)? Is the modern world skeptical about Jesus' rising from death? Why or why not? How can the church deal with this kind of skepticism?
8. How does Paul answer the Corinthians' questions in 15.35? How do you imagine life in God's perfect kingdom (heaven)? How can the hope of being raised to new life with Christ and living with God forever make a difference for people living today?
9. What passage from 1 Corinthians is still confusing or troubling to you? Why? What verse or verses in this letter were most comforting or satisfying to you?