

STUDY GUIDE - FIRST CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 1:10-2:5 CORINTHIAN CONTENTION -- Problem of Church Splits

Key verse: 1 Cor. 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Key thought: Christians should not put their faith in human leaders or in human wisdom but in the Lord.

1. What was Paul's desire for the Corinthian church (1:10)? Would you say this verse supports the ecumenical movement?
 2. Do you think we ever have problems among Christian's today like that found in the Corinthian church (1:11-12)?
 3. In answering the pointed questions asked by Paul (1:13) and in noting the comments that follow (1:14-17), what do you believe was Paul's attitude toward the problem? Is there a solution?
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4. What does the apostle have to say about man's wisdom (1:18-21)?

5. In light of 1:18-21, would you say we could develop logic-tight argumentative presentations of man's need for Christ that would never fail to convince people of that need?
 6. Would you say Americans today are more like the Jews or the Greeks of Paul's day (1:22-23)? Why?
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7. Who do you think is included in the "called" of 1:24? What does Christ mean to this group? The _____ of God and the _____ of God.
8. Are we following Scriptural principles when we gravitate to the "sharp" kids or the campus leaders in our evangelistic endeavors? (1:25-29)
9. Do you feel one gifted in oratory can accomplish more for God than one of more limited speaking abilities? (cf. 2:1-5)
10. Use 1 Corinthians 1:31, "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord," as your theme of praise today.

Remember: God's not looking for clever people...
He is looking for clean people!

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1 Corinthians 3:1-6:8 CARNALITY AND COURTS Problem of Growth and Lawsuits

Key Verse: 1 Cor. 3:14 "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."

Key thought: Growth is essential to acceptable service which God will reward.

1. Did Paul consider these carnal people to be saved? (3:1)
 2. What kind of diet do carnal Christians have to have? (3:2)
 3. Describe the judgment seat of Christ (3:11-15).
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4. Will unrewarded Christians lose their salvation (3:15)?
 5. How would you define a steward (4:2)?
 6. Why would an immature Christian not be a good steward?
 7. How does Paul describe his own experience in the Christian life (4:9-13)?
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8. What was the sin which the church was condoning (5:1)?
9. Why should Christians not go to court against other believers? (6:2-5).
10. What should a Christian do instead of going to court? (6:7)

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1 Cor. 6:15 - 7:40 CEREMONY AND CONFLICT Problem of Marriage and Separation

Key Verse: 6:19-20 "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Key thought: Whether married or single, the Christian is the Lord's and should do all things to God's glory.

1. What is the horrible conclusion Paul draws of the Christian who commits fornication (6:15-16)? What is Paul's advice concerning temptation that might lead to fornication (6:18)? (c.f. Gen. 39:12). _____
2. What did Paul feel was best, to be married or to be single? (7:1-2, 6-9). However, what does he say concerning getting married?

3. What three conditions must be met before a husband and wife may refuse to give of themselves to each other (7:3-5)?
 - a) except it be _____
 - b) for a _____
 - c) that ye may _____.
4. What two alternatives are there for the married person who is separated from his mate (7:10-11)?
remain _____ or be _____
5. What is Paul's advice to one married to an unbeliever (7:12-16)?
6. In light of the principles of 7:17-24, would you say that a divorced person who had remarried and then was saved must leave his new wife and try to return to his former wife?
7. What are Paul's reasons for suggesting that people remain single (7:25-35)?
v.26 this is good for _____ v. 29 the time _____
v.32 he that is unmarried _____
8. In spite of the circumstances of Paul's day what does he say about putting off marriage (7:36)?
9. In light of 7:39 can a married Christian who has been separated remarry?
10. Reread 6:19-20 and seek to apply this truth to your life today.

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1 Cor. 8:1-13 & 10:23-33 CHRISTIAN CONCERN -- Problem of Christian Liberty

Key Verse: 8:9 "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

Key Thought: Let not your Christian liberty cause another's shipwreck.

1. What two principles are found in 8:1?

2. What are the results of the principles found in 8:1?

3. How may your Christian liberty become a stumbling stone to those who are weak in the Lord (8:9)?

4. In 8:10 how would the idol's temple compare with today's amusements (T.V., movies, card playing, etc.), literature, and social life?

5. Through your knowledge of spiritual things, how might the weak Christian perish?

6. According to 8:13 what should your attitude be concerning questionable matters in the Christian life?

7. "All things are _____, All things are not _____,
But all things _____."

8. Does 10:24 teach sacrificial living? _____

9. What guiding principle can you find in 10:31 that will apply to your entire life?

10. What plan and attitude did the apostle Paul follow in 10:33 that men might be saved?

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1 Cor. 13 CHRISTIAN COMPASSION -- Problem of Love

Key Verse: 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, and love, these three but the greatest of these is love."

Key thought: The most needed and necessary trait of the Christian life is love.

- Chapter 12 concludes with the words, "But covet (earnestly desire and cultivate) the best gifts (spiritual abilities) and yet shew I you a more excellent way." How does this sentence lead into the discussion of love?
- List the spiritual gifts that might be exercised without love (13:1-3).

- List the six positive characteristic traits of true love (13:4-8).
Love is... patient, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____.
- List the six negative traits of true love (13:4-6).
Love is not... envious, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____.
- How might these traits be helpful in determining whether or not you are really in love with a fellow or girl?
- If true love is enduring (13:8), do you feel it would be advisable to date long enough to see if the relationship is enduring?
- Do you think there is a difference in the love one experiences when he "falls in love" and the Christian love defined in this passage or the love of God for the world?
- How does your love for others measure up to the principles of love described in this chapter?
- What do you feel is the supreme example of love (Rom . 5:5-8)?

- Ask God to grant to you the ability to express real love toward others today. (Read John 13:34-35).