

FIRST CORINTHIANS



Student's worksheet

Avoiding and Overcoming Church Problems

By Rev. Tim Gibson



(i) The Historical Context:

General Historical Context...The City in history.

(1) AGE: After lying waste for 100 years, it was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 44BC. When Paul came to the city it was less than 100 years old. It was therefore a young city, but when Paul came in it was the third most important city in the world. This spectacular growth was due to one thing:

(2) LOCATION: It was strategically located at the ' _____ ' - a narrow strip of land - (modern day Greece), which gave it economic importance. The _____ (Fortress) gave it military importance.

(3) COMPOSITION: The city was a _____ one with Jews, Greeks, Romans, Merchants and Seamen etc. So it had an international flavour.

(4) MORALLY: Old Corinth was well known for being _____.

The temple of _____ (Goddess of Love) had 1000 temple prostitutes. New Corinth was also immoral - there is evidence of widespread sexual disease. Sexual immorality was linked to their strong emphasis on Idolatry - See 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:9,12-20; 10:8.

(5) INTELLECTUALLY: _____ abounded. Indeed Corinth was filled with art and philosophy (many 'seminars' etc.) But they were not really interested in learning the truth, they only wanted to listen to great speakers and have their ears tickled!!! (See 1 Cor 1:17,20,25).

(6) RELIGION: The Corinthians were _____ and _____ - the two went together. They sought after religious ecstasy and personal religious experience.

All the above points shaped the spiritual climate of Corinth showing the main spiritual powers and principalities over the city:

(1) The spirit of _____ and _____. Due to their great wealth and rapid growth of the City the people became greedy and proud.

(2) The spirit of _____ - thinking they knew it all (knowledge-based economy). A shallow interest in wisdom and truth (idolizing of speakers etc.)

(3) The Goddess _____, goddess of love (false concept of love - lust).

Specific Historical context...The Church in Corinth at Paul's time.

The church was, like the city, _____ (see 1 Corinthians 12:13). The majority of the members were not wealthy: they were rebels, slaves and corrupt people before. The minority were wealthy and influential people. As we shall see, the church was effected by the city life in respect to its attitude to **WISDOM** and **IMMORALITY** and the spirit of **INDIVIDUALITY** and **INDEPENDENCE** is seen in:

- (1) Division over favorite teachers.
- (2) Arrogance in spite of immorality in the midst of the church.
- (3) Taking one another to public court.
- (4) The desire for celibacy.
- (5) Attending temple meals even if it destroyed the weaker's faith.
- (6) Refusal by some women to wear the customary veil.
- (7) Favoritism of rich against the poor, demonstrated in the love feasts.
- (8) Incorrect emphasis on tongues to the tearing down of the church.
- (9) Wrong views concerning bodily resurrection.

Paul's relationship to the Corinthian Church...

Acts 18 records Paul's first visit to Corinth on his second missionary journey. He was there for 18 months as a tent maker, planting the church with the help of Aquila and Priscilla. Apollos followed Paul as a teacher to Corinth.

(ii) The Literary Context:

The **REASON** for the letter is two-fold. See 1 Corinthians 1:10-12 and 1 Corinthians 7:1 and note what the two events that caused Paul to write are. These will form the basic outline we will look at later.

- 1.
- 2.

This letter is Paul's second to the Corinthians (see 1 Corinthians 5:9) and was written from Ephesus two and a half years after Paul left Corinth. In the light of the above take a look at the following basic outline of the Epistle. This will be constantly referred to as it places each passage in context....

Section...	News From Corinth (Verbal Report)	Answers to Letter from Corinth
Chapters	Chapters 1-6	Chapters 7-15
Divisions of this section	Problem of... a. b. c. d.	Behaviour concerning... a. b. c. d. e. f. g.
Main Theme	Concern and condemnation of.	Counsel concerning these.

NB. Chapter 16 is concerned with practical and personal matters Paul adds in conclusion.

It was written by the Apostle _____ around about the year _____ AD in _____.



(1) An Overview Of Chapters 1-4.

From the first nine verses of the Letter (1 Cor 1:1-9), after affirming his own calling of God (as an apostle, hence having authority to write in these matters to them), Paul...

- (i) Affirms the fact that the Corinthian church are among the called ones (v2)
- (ii) Thanks God because the grace given to them (v3-4)
- (iii) Thanks God for their rich knowledge and utterance (prophetic word) (v5)
- (iv) States that there had been a good Christian testimony among them (v6)
- (v) Encourages them to continue to abound in the gifts, with an eager anticipation of Christ's return. He affirms once again God's call on their Church - a call to 'the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ'.

There are three main points to note in these four chapters, which are all related:

(a) There is division among the believers:

Read 1 Cor 1:10-11 and 1 Cor 3:3

What is the nature of this division and what Paul does mean by the solution of being 'perfectly joined together'?

The quarrels are taking place in the name of their leaders and the believers are 'boasting' (3:21) or 'taking pride over' one another (4:6).

(b) There is a FALSE WISDOM causing the division:

The Christians in Corinth are arguing as to which leader is the '_____'. But their idea of wisdom is a very **WORLDLY** one; in fact it is the same as the non-Christians in Corinth.

(c) There is an OPPOSING OF PAUL by some:

Because some see that Paul is not wise in the world's standards they are actually opposing him.

(2) Paul's Answer (1:12-4:21).

In Paul's answer we see that the division in the church is caused by a wrong idea about 2 things.

(a) Wrong Concept of the _____ (1:12-3:4)

Paul here shows **real wisdom**. God's wisdom seems _____ to what we naturally consider to be wisdom. Paul introduces the stupidity of these divisions by asking obvious questions (1 Cor 1:12-17).

True wisdom is seen in three ways as we look at how Paul continues...

(i) The message of the Cross is _____ to man: (1:18-25)

1 Cor 1:18-25

(ii) God chooses _____ : (1:26-31)

1 Cor 1:26-31

(iii) Paul's preaching lacked _____ : (2:1-5)

1 Cor 2:1-5-

The Source Of True Wisdom

1 Cor 2:6-3:4 - The source of true wisdom is the _____!

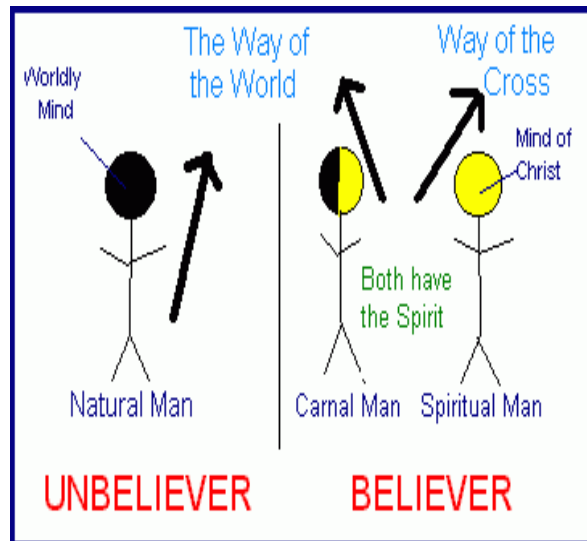
We are to speak forth these truths by the Spirit who ultimately is our teacher (v2:13)

Verses 2:14-16 show the difference between

SPIRITUAL and _____ man.

In 3:1-5 there is now a contrast

between the _____ and the **SPIRITUAL** Christian.



In Conclusion:

(b) Wrong Concept of _____ (3:5-4:21)

(i) Who the Teachers / Leaders Are: (3:1-18)

(a) The leaders of a church are not Lords but

_____ (verse 5)

1 Cor 3:5-9

Person	Farm Activity	Church Activity	Application
Paul	Plants	Reaches new area by sowing word	Church Planter - Apostle, Missionary
Apollos	Waters	Nurtures the congregation	Church Worker - Teacher etc...
Church	The Field	Hearts open for growth.	Congregation
God	Owner	Increases	Spirit's work

(b) The Leaders are God's _____ -

1 Cor 3: 8-9

(c) The Leaders are to be wise
_____ (3:10-15):

1 Cor 3:10-15

Person	Building Activity	Church Activity	Application
Paul	Lays the Foundation	Foundational imparting of basic doctrine etc..	Church Planter - Apostle, Missionary
Apollos	Builds	Enables 'living stones' to get in place...	Church Worker - Teacher etc...
Church	Building	Place for God to dwell in - place of safety	Congregation
God	Owner	Gives plans & materials	Spirit's work

(d) The Leaders are _____ in God's Temple : (3:16-17)

1 Cor 3:16-17

In conclusion, Church leaders are... *Servants not Lords, Property not owners, Wise not foolish builders, Priests not God*

(ii) How Leaders are to be treated: (3:18-

(a) The Leaders are not to be _____ about: (3:18-23)

1 Cor 3:18-23

(b) The Leaders are not to be _____ by the congregation: (4:1-5)

1 Cor 4:1-5

(c) We are not to be _____ on behalf of one leader against another: (3:6-13)

1 Cor 4:6-13

(d) **Church Leaders are not to be seen as merely Instructors but _____** : (4:14-21)

1 Cor 4:14-21



The 'Gnostic' View of the Body

The Corinthians had what is called a **GNOSTIC** view of their own body. What is this view?

This view led to three problems....

(1) The case of **INCEST** (immorality within a family) - 1 Cor 5:1-13

(a) The Problem:

There are two parts to the problem in the Church in Corinth. Look at the verses first to do your own detective work and then click on the pop-up link.

PART ONE: Read verse 1. The first part of the problem is _____

PART TWO: Read Verse 2. The second part of the problem is _____

(b) The Solution:

Read verse 5 and find out what Paul's inspired solution to the problem is and what exactly does this consist of?

(c) The Response:

According to verses 9-11 the response of the Corinthians is to what?

(d) The Application:

Think about the following questions and come up with your own answer, based on what we have learnt.

(i) In what cases in the church should we 'hand someone over to Satan'? (e.g. if someone steals some money and they are a member of the Church, should they be 'handed over the Satan' ?) - What practically would it mean to 'hand them over to Satan'?

(ii) What is the purpose in handing the person over to Satan?

(iii) Who is involved in Church discipline?

(iv) What should our attitude be towards sexually immoral people, such as prostitutes, who are not Christians?

(2) The case of **LAWSUITS** -1 Cor 6:1-11

(a) The Problem:

Remember that Paul has heard news of various problems in the Corinthian Church. In this particular case what seems to be the problem?

Should this have happened? Why or why not?

Assume that man A has wronged man B , what does Paul say to each man and to the Church ?

To the Church (see verses 1-6)

To Man B (See verses 7-8)

To Man A (See verses 9-11)

(b) The Application:

We now must apply the principles learnt above to modern day examples of such events:

Should the members of the Church ever take people to court?

(3) The case of **FORNICATION** - 1 Cor 6:12-20

(a) The Problem:

What appears to be the problem Paul is addressing here?

What could have caused the Christians to be doing such thing?

What is the main reason Paul gives as to how wrong this problem is?

The Corinthians believed something like the following....

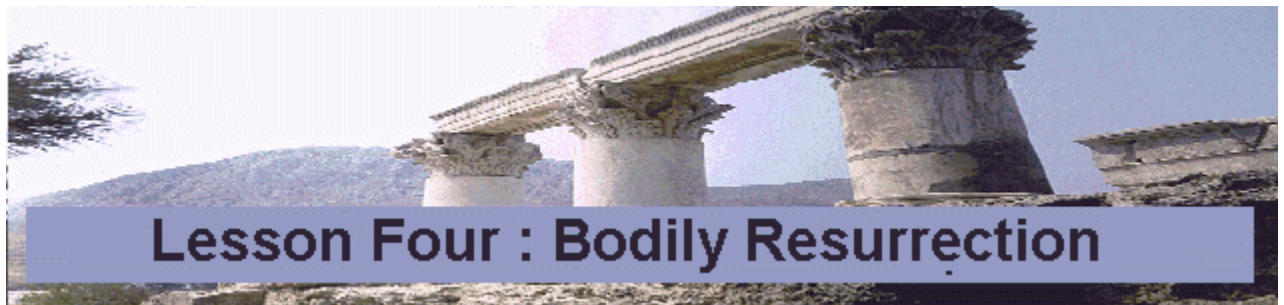
"Christ has set us free. Paul himself has said that in Christ we have been freed from the Law. Therefore, all things are permitted to us as Christians. Furthermore, since we know that both the stomach and food belong to this age and will pass away, what we eat is a matter of indifference to God. Now since that is true of the stomach and food, it must also be true of the body and sexual relations."

What is their wrong idea of freedom?

(b) The Application:

Here the main point is that sexual immorality of any sort is not right for the Christian to be involved in as it forms an 'unholy alliance' with the one joined with. We are not to see our bodies as evil (as the Gnostics did) and so abuse it! Our body is the dwelling place (Temple) of God. He will raise us up in our bodies so we need to keep them pure for Him.

We now jump to Chapter 15 of Corinthians because it touches on an issue that is intimately linked to what we have just been looking at and is hinted at in Chapter 6 Verse 14



Notice that Chapter 15 is very different to all the other ones because it is totally _____ and not **BEHAVIOURAL**, although their wrong theology produced behaviour that was not right.

Read the chapter first before we look more fully at the problem.... 1 Cor 15:1-58

(a) The Problem:

We can be certain as to what the problem was that Paul was responding to because it is clearly inferred in verse 12 – What is it?

But what does the 'resurrection' refer to?

Which of the following two statements is true? - *circle on the letter of the statement you believe to be true.*

- (A) The problem about the resurrection of the dead in Corinth has to do with some believers denying the bodily resurrection of Christ.
- (B) The problem is that some Corinthians are denying the future resurrection of believers.
- (C) They Corinthian believers are denying the present miraculous raising of the dead saying that it was only possible for Christ to do whilst on earth.

Paul shows the stupidity of the Corinthians saying that they will not be bodily resurrected by giving three statements that start off with something like... *"If the dead are not raised then..."* (try to work out the answer yourself by reading the verse first before clicking on the question marks to reveal a possible answer).

Verse 16: If the dead are not raised then _____

Verse 29: If the dead are not raised then _____

Verse 32: If the dead are not raised then _____

(b) Reasons for the Problem:

Two reasons...

1. _____

2. _____

(c) Paul's answer to the Problem:

Paul's major concern in this chapter is to argue that there is indeed a bodily resurrection of Christians.

There are three major divisions to this chapter that we will look at individually...

(i) The Resurrection of _____ (15:1-11)

Paul is emphasizing that Christ Himself was BODILY RESURRECTED - if this is so then we also will be BODILY RESURRECTED. Christ is the *pattern son* - we are to be like Him in all things but His deity.

(ii) The Resurrection of the _____ (15:12-34)

This section falls into three clear paragraphs, each of which has an important point in showing that there is a **FUTURE RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS**. Look at each of the sections to find out what is the MAIN POINT of each and answer the various questions....

SECTION ONE: Verses 12-19...

Having read this section, what do you see as being the MAIN POINT?

From verse 14 we see that two things are in vain if there is no resurrection of believers. What are those two things?

SECTION TWO: Verses 20-28...

Having read this section, what do you see as being the MAIN POINT?

SECTION THREE: Verses 29-34...

Having read this section, what do you see as being the MAIN POINT?

Can you think of similar beliefs today that can infect the Church and what is the solution?

(iii) The Resurrection _____ (15:35-58)

Read the passage of Scripture again...

- a. In verses 35-58 Paul takes up the question about the nature of the RESURRECTION BODY.
- b. In verses 36-41 he argues from the picture of a **SEED** to make the point that death does not mean the **END** but it does mean **CHANGE**.
- c. Then he argues that God has made all things with different kinds of **BODIES**.
- d. He applies these pictures to Christian experience by saying that we all share the **NATURAL** body with Adam, so too shall we share the **SPIRITUAL** body with Christ.

The Application for us Today.

Remember, the application here is that of having correct THEOLOGY....

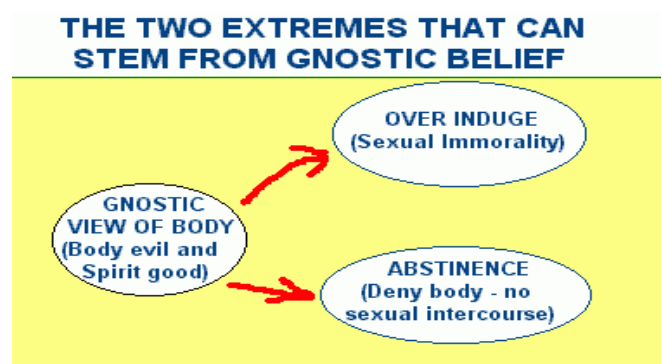
(a) From this chapter we see that the **WHOLE MAN IS REDEEMED**.

(b) The present body is MORTAL and is wasting away. With what kind of bodies will the believer be resurrected? The answer is: The same body, but no longer the same! It is the present mortal body that is raised but it will be adapted to the new conditions of eternity. The perishable shall be raised imperishable.

(c) In the light of the above, how should we treat our bodies and what should we believe about or bodies? Think on this!



This section looks at Chapter seven of First Corinthians, which has been a controversial subject throughout the ages and needs much clarifying. As we shall see, Paul is answering a problem in the Corinthian Church which is very much to do with their Gnostic view of the body which may lead to two attitudes to the body as shown to the right... When looking at this portion of Scripture it is very important to realize that there are two distinct sections to it, which Paul aims at different parties...., can you identify the types of people that Paul speaks to in each section?



SECTION ONE: To The _____ (7:1-24)

(a) Reconstruction of the Problem.

Read verse one. What does "It is good for a man not to TOUCH A WOMAN" mean?

Who's view was this?

- (A) It was Paul's view and his teaching to them.
- (B) It was the Corinthian's View which they had written to Paul.
- (C) It was the view of the Greeks.

Piecing together what we read in verses 1 to 5 we see that spouses have been depriving their partner sexually (verse 5), leading the other to fall into sexual immorality (Verse 2). Some women actually wanted to divorce their husbands because of this wrong philosophy (and possible some men too wanted divorce due to their wife's denying him sexual pleasure).

(b) Paul's answer to the Corinthians.

Try to complete the main point sentences below for each section of verses (only click on the hidden word once you think you know)....

SECTION 1: Verses 1-7: *Marriage partners should not forbid _____ unless by _____.* This is because God sees man and woman as **MUTUAL** in marriage (as brothers and sisters).

Notice in verse 6 Paul is quick to say that he's not commanding them to do what he says. It is a 'gray-area' of Scripture (Paul commands where there is strong Biblical support), but Paul realizes that there is God's wisdom in what he says.

SECTION 2: Verses 8-9: _____ is best for the widow or widower, unless the _____ is too strong, then _____ is best.

It is important to note that this section is in the context of Paul talking to those who have been married before - when he says that the unmarried and widows better remain single he's not saying it to all who are single, rather those who have been married but are now alone. Many people misuse this Scripture out of context today to justify their 'anti-marriage' stance.

SECTION 3: Verses 10-11: *Women should adhere to the teaching of Jesus and not _____.*

In verse 6 Paul did not command but here he does. He commands that Christian husbands and wives do not take the initiative to divorce their spouse. He can firmly command this here as there is clear teaching from Jesus on this matter (Matthew 5:32, Mark 10:11-12). Scripturally, the only reason a Christian can divorce is on the grounds of adultery or an unbelieving partner pushing for divorce (see next section).

SECTION 4: Verses 12-16: *A Christian should not _____ an unbelieving partner unless the unbelieving partner _____..*

Notice here that Paul is not commanding directly from the Lord (verse 12) but is recommending this course of action (there will be exceptions). The main aim of a believing spouse who has an unbelieving spouse is to see them saved and believing in Jesus. Running out on such a relationship would be denying our evangelistic responsibilities. The main aim of the Christian in such a marriage is 'peace' (only found in Jesus, the Prince of Peace).

What does verse 14 mean?

SECTION 5: Verses 17-24: The main point of this section can only be seen in the light of the preceding section. There were obviously Christians in the church at Corinth who were desiring to or actually getting divorces from their unbelieving spouses. Paul here argues that they should remain in their 'calling' (verse 20 and 24) in which they were called as Christians. That is, if they were married when they became Christians they are not to divorce if their partner is still an unbeliever.

- (1) Why did Jesus say "No Divorce"?
- (2) When is divorce and option according to this section?
- (3) Generally, should a Christian ever initiate a divorce? **Yes or No?**
- (4) Does Paul see man as GREATER than the woman? **Yes or No?**

(ii) To The _____ (7:25-40)

(a) Reconstructing the Problem.

In this section Paul is speaking to a specific group of people called 'the Virgins' which are

representatives of **ALL** _____ **PEOPLE** (Many different translations of this word 'virgin' have been given but the most accurate one seems to be a **young woman who is engaged to be married.**)

They were basically saying that they thought all single people should _____.

(a) Paul's answer.

As we have seen the Corinthians are saying that the virgins in the church should not marry. Paul agrees in part but he does not agree with their reasoning! He also does not teach as a command from God but states that he is suggesting something in his own judgment. What are the two reasons that anyone should remain single according to this passage?

REASON ONE IS (verse 26)....

REASON TWO IS (verse 32-35)...

Would Paul give the same advice to Christians in your city, town or village?

It must be stressed here that Paul is not against marriage at all (that would go against his writings in Ephesians Chapter 5). This section is not a direct command from the Lord (see verse 25) as

was the previous section, but is Paul's own desire based on the world's situation that surrounded the Corinthians.

(1) Suppose a Christian couple come to you saying they wanted a divorce. On the basis of 1 Cor 7 you should...

- (a) Explain more fully what it means to walk in the way of the Cross and love in their marriage.
- (b) Tell them that the Scripture forbids it and that they will be harshly judged if they do.
- (c) Recognize that we live in a different cultural setting from Paul and help them through the divorce as best as you can.

(2) The basic problem in 7:1-16 was that some...

- (a) Corinthians taught that Christians shouldn't marry.
- (b) Corinthians thought that Christians married to pagans should be divorced.
- (c) Corinthians were opposed to sexual relations even within marriage.
- (d) Corinthians thought that Church Leaders should not marry.

(3) Which of the following describes the problem Paul is responding to in 7:25-40?

- (a) In light of the soon return of Christ, they are asking Paul if they should actively pursue marriage.
- (b) In light of their attitude to sexual relations some Corinthians have argued that it is better for engaged couples not to consummate their marriage.



In this section we will be looking at 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1 which reveals the thoughts of the Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, concerning a certain activity of the Corinthians – that is

The real root of the problem is that the Corinthian believers were actually going to the pagan temples to partake in the meals and activities because of their **WRONG VIEW OF CHRISTIAN**

If we carefully study this whole section we can piece together what the Corinthian believers attitude may have been. They may have written to Paul the following....

"Since we all know that there is only one God, and an idol is no reality, and since food is a matter of indifference to God, it does not matter what we eat or where we eat it. Besides, we are saved and protected by the sacraments. Why can't we continue to join our friends at the big dinners at the temples? Besides, Paul you seem to be unable to use your authority as an Apostle, so why should you restrict our 'authority' to act in Christian freedom?"

Paul's Answer To The Problem.

There are five basic sections to Paul's answer which are responses to the above faulty thinking of the Corinthian believers.....

(i) SECTION ONE: Chapter 8:1-13.

The main principle to extract from this section therefore is what is generally called '**The Stumbling Block Principle**'. What is it? (see also 1 Corinthians 6:12).

(ii) SECTION TWO: Chapter 9:1-27.

Paul has just expounded the 'stumbling block principle' and now he shows how he has demonstrated it in his own life. In this section Paul says that as an Apostle he has many rights

(eg. receiving money from the church) but he has willingly _____ for the sake of the gospel (especially see verse 12).

How does Paul see true freedom? Which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) True freedom is not being bound by others expectations and/or needs.
- (b) True freedom is not to have to think how to act in front of others but simply act in the free way Christ has redeemed us into.
- (c) True freedom is being free to be a servant of the Lord and of others.

(iii) SECTION THREE: Chapter 10:1-13.

Paul here responds to the Corinthian's feeling of being _____ in the sacraments such as baptism and communion. How does Paul's use of the example of Israel show that the sacraments cannot mystically protect you if you willingly break God's commandments?

(iv) SECTION FOUR: Chapter 10:14-22.

Paul finally comes to the specific problem. What is it? (Circle correct letter)

- (a) The Corinthians should not be taking the Lord's Supper at all as they would be partaking it with demons.
- (b) The Corinthians can freely participate in idol feasts as long as they take communion first.
- (c) The Corinthians cannot go to the pagan temple because they would effectively be having fellowship with demons

We can apply this for us today by saying that Christians...(choose the answer you think is correct)

- (a) Should never eat food offered to idols.

- (b) Should have nothing to do with the demonic or worshipping any idol.
- (c) Should never set foot in a religious building of another faith.

(v) SECTION FIVE: Chapter 10:23-11:1.

Paul concludes with a few words about 'idol food' sold in the market place, reiterating the 'Stumbling Block Principle' in the context of a practical example. Paul shows that there is nothing wrong with eating such food...why?

According to the 'Stumbling Block Principle', when would it be wrong for a Christian to eat food sacrificed to idols when it is bought at the market place?

You may not be faced with such 'idol food' problems but there will be situations with 'comparable particulars'. Give a modern day example...

Chapter 11, verse one is Paul's conclusion - '_____ me as I _____ Christ'

PRINCIPLES FOR TRUE CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

When considering any course of action go through the following three stages.....

1. *Examine whether the Bible specifically prohibits the behaviour (eg. see 1 Cor 6:9-10). Such things obviously are wrong as they draw you away from God.*
2. *Recognise that because matters of indifference are precisely that - matters of indifference - they change from culture to culture.*
3. *Remember the principle of **LOVE**... the Stumbling Block Principle. "Nobody should seek his own good but the good of others" (10:24).*



Assembling of Christians in Church. We need to understand the problems that the Corinthian Church was having and apply Paul's answer to the church gatherings of today. The previous problems have dealt with church life on a broad level plus individual Christian attitudes and actions, now we zoom in to the Church gathering itself.

The three areas that Paul answers questions concerning are:

(i) The Veiling Of Women In Church (11:2-6)

(a) What The Problem Is...doing the detective work.

There are various certainties we can draw out of this passage..

(1) Women participated in _____ and _____ in the Church service (v4-5 and 13) - this was a dramatic leap forward for women of that time

(2) Some women in the Church were praying and prophesying **WITHOUT A** _____

(3) This meant that the women were going against the prevailing _____ which was to **WEAR A VEIL**.

Why were the women opposing the wearing of veils in the Church?

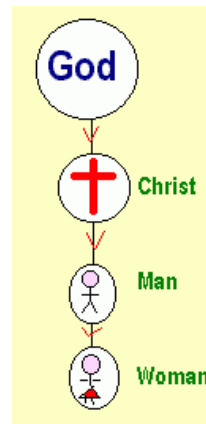
(b) Paul's Answer To The Problem:

He answers the problem by using both _____ (eternal and unchangeable) and _____ (temporary and changeable).

(A) The Theological Argument.

To the right we see 1 Corinthians 11:3 in picture form.

Paul is showing that the women in Corinth were stopping blessing from flowing as they were perverting the God-given chain of authority by disobeying their husbands concerning wearing veils.



The Chain Of Authority
For blessing to flow in any relationship there must be a proper chain of authority. Spiritual authority does not mean the one higher up is any greater than the one further down. Jesus is equal to God the Father but willingly submits to Him, so must a wife to her husband for blessing to flow.

In summary, Theologically Paul says that the women are wrong in not wearing veils to Church as they are perverting God's chain of authority and shaming their husbands or fathers in the process. Women are not to use their freedom in Christ to opt out of their husband's authority of even that of other male leaders.

(B) The Cultural Argument.

Paul uses three cultural arguments as to why the women ought to continue being veiled ... what are they ?

(i) Verses 4-6 -

(ii) **Verses 13-15** -

(iii) **Verse 16** -

Does this mean that all women in church today have to wear veils on their heads?

It is very important that Paul is putting forward timeless **PRINCIPLES** and not **PRACTICES** for us here. Obviously today we see not many churches having women wearing veils. When **would it be right** today for women to wear veils in church?

When **would it not be right** for women today to wear veils or head coverings in church today?

The main principle that we learn is that we should allow nothing to exist in the assembly that calls attention to man in the presence of God. The creature's 'glory', whether it be fine clothes or with any kind of dress that 'stands out' has no place in the worship of God (this also applies to activities in the church).

Think for a while what this means in the church you are attending before moving on to the next section.

(ii) **The Lord's Table (11:17-34)**

This is about a particular problem in the Corinthian Church to do with the communal taking of the Lord's Supper, which they were abusing. Even though the situation was not very similar to that of today, there are some very important principles that we can glean from this.

(a) The Lord's Supper as a Christian Feast.

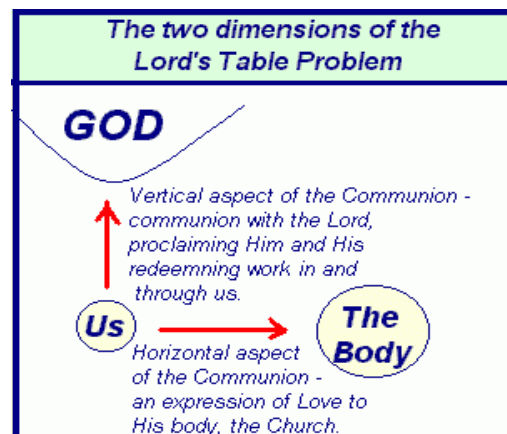
(b) The Problem - abuse of the Lord's Supper.

From reading the passage of Scripture what seems to be the problem?

The problem in Corinth was **TOO MUCH** ' _____ ' and **TOO LITTLE** ' _____ ' !

Not only were they not honouring the Lord by getting **DRUNK** but there was also **DIVISION** in the Church because of the meal. The **RICH** were going ahead with their own meal when the **POOR** could not be present.

Reading 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 again shows us the correct way of taking the Lord's Supper (vertically and horizontally). See the diagram on the right that pictorially shows this.



(c) Paul's Answer.

(i) THE APPEAL (11:17-22): Basically Paul's appeal is to 'stop _____ the Lord's Table'. Read verse 19 - what does it mean in this context?

(ii) THE INSTRUCTION (11:23-26): By their actions the Corinthians had apparently shown that they had lost the meaning of the Lord's Table and Paul is reminding them of the words of institution so that the words and acts of Jesus at the Last Supper would serve to control the supper that they ate. Paul's point is found in verse 26...what does this verse mean?

The two elements of a really good meal are **GOOD** _____ and **GOOD** _____. The Communion must combine these two elements....

(iii) THE APPLICATION (11:27-34): Because they have failed to honour the Lord in the Supper or demonstrate love to one another Paul says that there has to be judgement.

Read verse 27. How can you eat communion in an unworthy manner? What must we do? (verses 28-34)

(iii) The Use Of The Gifts Of The Spirit (12:1-14:40)

This section is based on 1 Corinthians Chapters 12 to 14 in Paul is addressing the question of

_____ in the assembling of the Church. There are certain things to do with the Gifts of the Spirit, which the Corinthians are doing with a lack of one vital ingredient – what is it (Ch13)?

(a) THE PROBLEM: In reading this passage of Scripture it will become obvious that the problem in the Corinthian assembly lies in the use of the Spiritual Gifts. There is one gift in particular that is mentioned 19 times (more than the others). What is this gift? (Tick the correct answer)

- (i) Prophecy
- (ii) Healing
- (iii) Tongues

There has been an abuse of this gift in the following three ways...

1. They were _____ enthused with the gift.
2. They were _____ enthused with the gift.
3. They were "all" using the gift in a most _____ way.

The reason for the above is because the Corinthians probably used the gift as a criteria for being

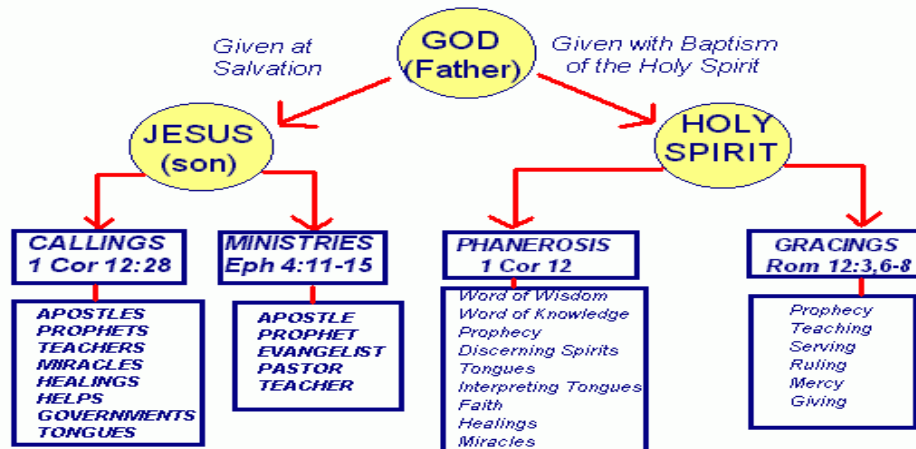
"_____".

What are some gifts today that tend to be over emphasized? Why? Is this happening in your church?

(b) PAUL'S ANSWER: There are four basic sections to Paul's answer, which take up various aspects of the problem. Let us look at each part

(i) SECTION ONE: Diversity In The Gifts (12:1-11)

Divisions of the Gifts of the Spirit.



This section emphasizes the _____ there is in the _____ gifts. Paul's main aim is not to describe what these gifts are and do but to show that there must be a variety of Phanerosis gifts displayed in Church gatherings and not an over emphasis on one (Tongues in this case). These gifts are not for show but for a purpose - that of building up His body to the point where it is able to move in His missions purposes.

(ii) SECTION TWO: The Picture of the Body (12:12-31)

Verses 12-14: Paul now uses a common analogy from the ancient world to stress the point of _____ **WITHIN** _____ that was made by showing all the different gifts come from the same Spirit.

Verses 15- 20: Because the Corinthians had only been using one main gift (that of Tongues) there is a need to show them that all gifts are _____.

Verses 21-27: Paul also shows that, as all parts of the body are _____ on each other

Verses 28-30 : God has appointed (tithemi) each person to have a different _____.

What the Corinthians were doing was emphasizing solely on _____ gift, the Gift of Tongues, and not allowing the members to express variety in the service. This is important today, that one gift is NOT given more importance over all the others all the time. A gift is only the **MOST IMPORTANT** when it is the one **NEEDED** to do God's will at a specific time.

(iii) SECTION THREE: The Most Excellent Way (13:1-13)

The 'most excellent way' is above and beyond what Paul was asking for in chapter 12 (i.e. a use of the variety of gifts in a healthy way just as a healthy body functions). The way that is over and above this target Paul has set is that all be done in 'agape' LOVE.

Not only were the Corinthians abusing their God-given gifts by concentrating on one above the rest and making it a sign of spiritual maturity, they were missing the whole point of God giving the gifts - ***He gives the gifts in love and expects them to be used in love!***

Chapter 13 is a beautiful description of true love and may be seen in three parts...

(1) The Priority of Love (verses 1-3):

(2) The Character of Love (verses 4-7):

(3) The Quality Of Love (verses 8-13):

(iv) SECTION FOUR: In Church, Only What Edifies (14:1-40)

Paul here emphasizes the need for _____ in the Church meeting by using the gifts in a loving and orderly manner. The Corinthians were all speaking in Tongues ecstatically and were really causing more confusion and harm than good. There are two very important principles that Paul reveals to us in this section. They are....

(1) The Importance of _____ (Verses 1-25):

In this section Paul compares the 'phanerosis' gift of TONGUES with that of PROPHECY. Is Paul saying here that Prophecy is the best gift and Tongues is the least? What is he saying?

(2) The Importance of _____ In The Church (Verses 26-40):

In this section Paul shows that it is essential there is not any _____ in the service as there was in the Corinthian Church. In the Corinthian Church, not only was it a very noisy service with most people shouting in Tongues, but also the women were very vociferous and unorderly in Church due to their wrong idea of freedom, as we have seen before. Because of this Paul gives guidelines for order in the Church (note that the advice Paul gives is in the context of the prevailing culture at that time).

Three definite sections can be seen here which we will look at individually...

(a) _____ and _____ Are Essential (Verses 26-28):

Circle the answer you feel is what this passage really means for today....

(A) Tongues in a Church service must be spoken in turn, no more than three altogether, with the expectation that an interpretation will be given.

(B) Tongues can be given whenever the person feels it coming (even in the middle of the preaching) in a Church service.

(C) Tongues should not be spoken at all in Church services as they will not be understood and will be distracting.

(b) Guideline For Prophecy (verses 29-32):

We see here that the guidelines for prophecy in a church service (as given by Paul are):

(i) Prophecies must be spoken in turn and no more than three are to be given in all.

(ii) The other prophetic leaders are to judge whether the prophecy is accurate, from God and in the right spirit. Each church needs a policy of how to deal with prophecies that are a bit 'off' and how to discern this.

(iii) Prophecies are to lead to encouragement of the people.

Remember, these are specific guidelines Paul gives for a specific Church but they are guidelines that make sense for modern day congregations too. It is wise then to assume that we can literally follow these guidelines in our Churches today!

(c) The Silence Of Women (verses 34-35):

Paul here clearly says that the women (specifically 'wives') in the Church are to remain silent during the service as it is not permitted for them to speak, they are to be submissive. If they want to ask any questions or say anything they must do so privately with their husbands.

The question is, does this apply in the Church today?

We have seen that the guidelines for usage of the gifts can be applied to today's church, as there are comparable particulars. However, for Paul's statements here about women in the church to apply to any church today there must be the following comparable particulars...

1. The prevailing culture is that women are submissive in public meetings by being quiet.

2. The church has been disturbed by many questions from women who have 'broken free' from the cultural restraints and are voicing their freedom. This has led to confusion among the members.

Obviously, in many churches today we do not face these problems. Paul was giving a solution to the Corinthian's particular problem. The principle that can be carried forward to any church in any generation is that women must not use their freedom in Christ to abuse cultural practices when in Christian meetings, thus disturbing the flow and order of the service. If women speaking in church does not cause confusion in a congregation and contributes to the flow of edification then it is not a problem!

(d) The Conclusion (verses 36-40):

- (1) There must be a _____ **OF GIFTS.**
- (2) The gifts must be **USED IN** _____.
- (3) The aim is always that of _____.
- (4) There must be _____ in the service.

Again, the main emphasis of Paul's teaching is that the Church be in the place of being a 'light to the gentiles'. A Church service that has confusion will turn off the unbeliever, but a service that follows the guidelines outlined here will cause non-believers who attend to fall on their knees and acknowledge the Lord! Always Paul has missions, outreach, and evangelism on his heart, so should we. Let our Church meetings be places of the gifts being orderly and wisely used so as to mobilize the church to be a lighthouse to the nations.

Paul's Concluding Words (Chapter 16)

- (a) A Giving and Large-hearted Community (verses 1-4):**
- (b) A Going and Labouring Community (Verses 5-12):**
- (c) A Guided and Learning Community (Verse 13):**
- (d) A Gracious and Loving Community (Verses 14-18):**
- (e) A Greeting and Linked Community (Verses 19-21):**
- (f) A Guiltless and Lasting Community (Verse 22):**
- The Benediction (Verses 23-24)**

First Corinthians End of Course Test

Student's Name: _____ Score: _____

Section One: Multiple Choice...

Circle the **BEST** answer...

1. Which of the following is historically correct concerning Corinth?
 - a. It had no economic importance.
 - b. It was a very moral city.
 - c. Philosophers abounded in Corinth.
 - d. The Corinthians were not religious people.
 - e. All the above.
2. Which was a characteristic found in the people of Corinth?
 - a. Individuality
 - b. Independence
 - c. False wisdom
 - d. Lust
 - e. All of the above.
3. Which was **NOT** a problem in the Corinthian church?
 - a. Division over order of service.
 - b. Division over favourite teachers.
 - c. Arrogance in spite of immorality.
 - d. Refusal by some women to wear veils.
 - e. Wrong views concerning bodily resurrection.
4. The Christians in Corinth are arguing over which leader is the ...
 - a. Tallest.
 - b. Wisest.
 - c. Best looking.
 - d. Most effective.
 - e. Holiest.
5. The division in the Church is caused by a wrong concept of...
 - a. The teachings.
 - b. The teachers.
 - c. Themselves.
 - d. Both a. and b.
 - e. None of the above.
6. In 3:5-4:21 Paul shows that Church leaders should be...
 - a. Servants not Lords.
 - b. Property not owners
 - c. Wise not foolish builders.
 - d. Priests not God.
 - e. All the above.
7. Which statement is **NOT** correct about how Church leaders are to be treated?
 - a. They are to be boasted about.
 - b. They are not to be judged by the congregation.
 - c. They are not to be proud on behalf of one leader against another
 - d. Church Leaders are not to be seen as merely Instructors but Fathers
 - e. All of the above.
8. The **GNOSTIC** view of the body is that it is...
 - a. Good.
 - b. Evil.
 - c. Nothing.
 - d. Spiritual.
 - e. Perfect.
9. What is the problem Paul discusses in 5:1-13?
 - a. A man in church is having continued sexual relations with his stepmother and the church is proud and boastful about it.
 - b. A man in church is committing adultery and the people are divided over it.
 - c. A man in church has been involved in Satan worship (handed over to Satan)
 - d. One member of the church wants to take another to law court.
 - e. There is fornication among the youth.
10. Who is involved in Church discipline?
15. Who is Paul speaking to in 7:1-24?

- a. Always the whole church.
 - b. Only the Church leaders.
 - c. Those who are affected.
 - d. Secular law courts.
 - e. The elders.
11. What is the problem in 6:12-20?
- a. Some of the Corinthian Christians had been going into Prostitutes as a part of their partaking in the pagan feasts that abounded there.
 - b. Some of the Corinthians had been involved in premarital sex with those they were engaged to.
 - c. One of the men is having sexual relations with his mother.
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.
12. What is the **main** reason Paul gives that sexual immorality in the Church is wrong?
- a. Because he says so!
 - b. Because the body is the dwelling place of God.
 - c. Because it is against the commandments of God.
 - d. Because it's socially unacceptable.
 - e. Because they may get diseases.
13. In Chapter 15 the problem is...
- a. The problem about the resurrection of the dead in Corinth has to do with some believers denying the bodily resurrection of Christ.
 - b. The problem is that some Corinthians are denying the future resurrection of believers.
 - c. The Corinthian believers are denying the present miraculous raising of the dead saying that it was only possible for Christ to do whilst on earth.
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.
14. What caused the Corinthians to have this view (the answer to question 13)?
- a. Their Gnostic view of the body.
 - b. Their belief that they were already perfect.
 - c. They thought their present body was alright.
 - d. Only a. and b.
 - e. Only a. and c.
- a. The divorced.
 - b. The married.
 - c. The singles.
 - d. The teens.
 - e. All of the above.
16. What does 'It is good for a man not to touch a woman' mean? (Remember that this was not Paul's view but what the Corinthians were teaching)...
- a. Men should not even physically touch a woman.
 - b. It is good for the husband not to have sexual relations with his wife.
 - c. Adultery and fornication are wrong.
 - d. Women should be treated as under the Taleban.
 - e. None of the above.
17. Paul's basic teaching on divorce is that in general...
- a. Divorce is always a sin.
 - b. Christians cannot get divorced.
 - c. Divorce is all right.
 - d. Christians should not take the initiative in divorce.
 - e. Only a. and b.
18. The term '**Virgin**' in 7:25-40 is used to represent...
- a. All young women engaged to be married.
 - b. All single people.
 - c. Only those who have never had sexual relations.
 - d. Only pure young women.
 - e. None of the above.
19. The Corinthian Christians were going to the pagan temples to partake in the meals and sinful activities **MAINLY** because of...
- a. Their Gnostic view of the body.
 - b. Their wrong view on idolatry.
 - c. Their greed.
 - d. Their overwhelming lust.
 - e. Their wrong view of Christian freedom.
20. What is the 'Stumbling block principle'?
- a. We may be free to do many things but it is not loving to do these things if they make others stumble and fall in their faith.
 - b. Don't fellowship with those who make us stumble.
 - c. Don't stumble non-believers by witnessing.
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.
21. How does Paul see true freedom? Which of the

following statements is correct?

- a. True freedom is not being bound by others expectations and/or needs.
- b. True freedom is not to have to think how to act in front of others but simply act in the free way Christ has redeemed us into.
- c. True freedom is being free to be a servant of the Lord and of others.
- d. All of the above.
- e. None of the above.

22. Which of the following is correct? Christians...

- a. Should never eat food offered to idols.
- b. Should have nothing to do with the demonic or worshipping any idol.
- c. Should never set foot in a religious building of another faith.
- d. Should always eat food offered to idols if they are offered it.
- e. Should not have pagan friends.

23. In 11:2-16, Paul is getting across the main principle that...

- a. All women should wear veils in churches today.
- b. No women should wear veils in Church today.
- c. Women can wear what they want in Church.
- d. We should allow nothing to exist in the assembly that calls attention to man in the presence of God.
- e. Women are inferior to and weaker than men.

24. The **MAIN** problem the Corinthians Christians had concerning the Lord's supper was..

- a. Too much immorality and too little religiosity.
- b. Too much wine and too little sensibility.
- c. Too much food and too little wine.
- d. Too much selfishness and too little care.
- e. Too much feasting and too little loving.

25. What is **true** concerning the gifts of the Spirit?

- a. We must emphasize tongues above all the other gifts as it's the most spiritual.
- b. Spiritual gifts can be used to tear others down.
- c. Some Christians have no spiritual gifts.
- d. Spiritual gifts are only to be used if they edify the body of Christ.
- e. Prophecy is always the best gift.

CONGRATULATIONS!
You have now finished
this test. Go back over
your answers to check
them.