

THE BOOK OF
1 CORINTHIANS
WE ARE THE CHURCH

Introduction to 1 Corinthians:

The First Epistle to the Corinthians, written by the Apostle Paul around A.D. 55, addresses the challenges faced by the early Christian community in Corinth, a city known for its cultural diversity and moral laxity. This letter is a rich tapestry of theological instruction, aimed at correcting divisive behaviors, clarifying moral and doctrinal issues, and encouraging believers to embody the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Play Introduction Video: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>

Week 1: Introduction- Called to Be Saints

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: How do you define 'church'? What personal experiences have shaped this definition?

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Sins to avoid?

Promises to claim?

Examples to follow?

Commands to obey?



1 What do we learn about
GOD?

3 What do we need to
OBEY?

S.P.E.C

What do we learn about

2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. What challenges were facing the Corinthian church at the time Paul wrote this letter?
2. How does Paul establish his authority and relationship with the Corinthians in his greeting?
3. Discuss the importance of unity within the church as Paul describes it. Why is it crucial for the church's witness and effectiveness?
4. Reflect on the divisions within the Corinthian church. How do Paul's words speak to the modern church's divisions?
5. Considering Paul's appeal for unity, "that there be no divisions among you," how can we work towards this goal in our local church context?

Week 2: The Wisdom of God

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: Can you think of an example where God's wisdom seemed foolish to the world but proved powerful in your life or community?

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

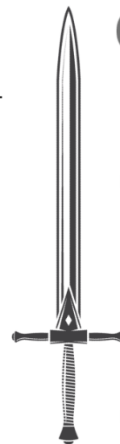
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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does the message of the cross challenge worldly wisdom?
2. In what ways has the church been called to embrace God's wisdom over human wisdom?
3. Discuss how God's choice of what is foolish and weak in the world's eyes impacts our values as a church.
4. How can boasting in the Lord rather than in human achievements strengthen our community?
5. Reflect on how the theme of God's wisdom influences our mission and outreach efforts.

Week 3: Understanding Spiritual Maturity

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: What does 'spiritual maturity' mean to you, and how do you see it expressed in a community?

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 2

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What do we learn about

2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul describe the role of the Holy Spirit in understanding God's wisdom?
2. Discuss the difference between spiritual and worldly wisdom in the context of decision-making in the church.
3. What are the characteristics of a spiritually mature Christian according to this chapter?
4. How can we cultivate a deeper reliance on the Spirit's guidance in our community?
5. Reflect on the statement, "We have the mind of Christ" (2:16). What implications does this have for our church?

Week 4: Foundation for Christian Living

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: Share an experience where you noticed growth in your spiritual life or in the life of your church community.

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 3

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2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. What does Paul mean by being “infants in Christ” and how does this relate to spiritual maturity?
2. Discuss the significance of Paul’s analogy of the church as God’s building.
3. How does understanding ourselves as “God’s temple” (3:16) affect our community life?
4. Reflect on the foundation that is Jesus Christ. How can we build upon this foundation in our church?
5. What are the dangers of division and following human leaders, according to Paul?

Week 5: The Role of God's Servants

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: Who has been a significant spiritual mentor in your life, and what made their guidance impactful?

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 4

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul define true apostleship and its characteristics?
2. Discuss the importance of humility and servant leadership in the church.
3. What does Paul's willingness to be judged by God alone teach us about accountability?
4. Reflect on the concept of spiritual fatherhood (4:15). How can this shape mentorship within the church?
5. How can we apply Paul's exhortation to imitate him in our walk as Christians?

Week 6: Dealing with Moral Issues

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "How should the church address sin among its members while maintaining a spirit of love and restoration?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 5

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Supplemental Questions:

1. Discuss the specific issue Paul addresses and its implications for the church's witness.
2. How does Paul's instruction on church discipline reflect God's holiness and love?
3. What principles can we draw from this chapter for handling sin in the church today?
4. Reflect on the balance between judgment within the church and reaching out to the world.
5. How can we foster a community that is both pure and welcoming?

Week 7: Litigation Among Believers

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: Have you ever been in a situation where you had to resolve a conflict with someone who shares your faith? How did you approach it?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

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What do we learn about

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Supplemental Questions:

1. Why does Paul discourage Christians from bringing legal disputes before secular courts?
2. Discuss the impact of such disputes on the witness of the church to the outside world.
3. How can the church today provide a framework for resolving conflicts among its members?
4. Reflect on the principle of yielding our rights for the sake of peace and unity. How is this applicable in your life?
5. Consider Paul's statement about the saints judging the world and even angels. What does this imply about the Christian's discernment and moral responsibility?

Week 8: Moral Purity in the Christian Life

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "How does living in a society with differing moral values challenge your personal walk with Christ?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

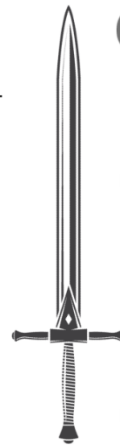
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Week 9: Marriage and Its Commitments

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "What do you think are the most significant challenges and blessings in Christian marriage today?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

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2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul view marriage and its responsibilities for believers?
2. Discuss the principle of mutual consent and its importance in marriage as outlined by Paul.
3. How does Paul address the issue of mixed-faith marriages, and what guidance does he offer?
4. Reflect on how the commitments within marriage reflect the Christian's relationship with God.
5. In what ways can the church support and strengthen marriages within the community?

Week 10: Singleness and Devotion to God

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "How can singleness be a unique opportunity for service and devotion to God in the church?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

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Supplemental Questions:

1. Discuss Paul's perspective on singleness and its value in the Christian life.
2. How does Paul's instruction to remain in the condition one was called influence our view of singleness and marriage?
3. What does it mean to be "content" in one's current state, whether single or married?
4. Reflect on how the concept of being bought with a price (v.23) influences our life decisions and priorities.
5. In what practical ways can the church affirm and utilize the gifts of single individuals?

Week 11: Principles for Marriage and Singleness

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "What guidance does Paul offer to those who are contemplating marriage, and how is this relevant today?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

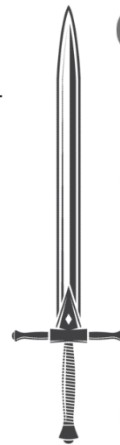
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Supplemental Questions:

1. Explore Paul's advice to those who are unmarried and the widowed about marriage.
2. How does Paul balance the benefits of singleness with the desire for marriage in the Christian life?
3. Discuss the principle of acting in accordance with one's own conviction and the importance of considering one's circumstances.
4. Reflect on the concept of undivided devotion to the Lord. How can both married and single people live this out?
5. How can the church create an environment where both marriage and singleness are valued and supported?

Week 12: Freedom and Responsibility

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "What guidance does Paul offer to those who are contemplating marriage, and how is this relevant today?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 8

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul address the issue of eating food offered to idols, and what broader principle does he teach?
2. Discuss the balance between Christian freedom and love for others.
3. How can we apply the principle of not causing others to stumble in our context?
4. Reflect on the role of knowledge and love in the Christian community.
5. What does this chapter teach us about the exercise of our rights and freedoms?

Week 13: Freedom and Discipline

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "Has there ever been a time when you chose not to exercise a right you had, for the sake of the Gospel?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 9

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What do we learn about
2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. What does Paul say about his rights as an apostle, and why does he choose not to use them?
2. Discuss the significance of Paul's statement, "I have become all things to all people" (9:22), for our mission work.
3. How does Paul's approach to ministry challenge our current practices in church leadership and service?
4. Reflect on the discipline and focus Paul describes in verses 24-27. How can we apply this to our spiritual lives?
5. What principles can we learn from Paul about sacrificing personal rights for the sake of others?

Week 14: The Lord's Supper

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "How do you personally prepare for and reflect on the Lord's Supper?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34

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What do we learn about

2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. Discuss the significance of the Lord's Supper within the context of community and unity.
2. How does Paul address the issue of idolatry in relation to the Lord's Supper?
3. What are the implications of partaking in the Lord's Supper unworthily?
4. Reflect on the idea of the Lord's Supper as a proclamation of the Lord's death. How does this affect our understanding of communion?
5. How can we ensure that our celebration of the Lord's Supper fosters unity and respects the body of Christ?

Week 15: Lessons from Israel and Living for God's Glory

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "Have you ever faced a situation where your freedom in Christ was tested? How did you navigate it?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 10:23-33

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What do we learn about

2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. What lessons does Paul draw from Israel's history for the Corinthian church, and how are these relevant to us today?
2. Discuss the significance of the statement, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man." How does this encourage you in your faith journey?
3. How does Paul address the use of Christian freedom in relation to the well-being of others?
4. Reflect on the principle of seeking the good of many so that they may be saved (10:33). How can we apply this in our context?
5. In what ways can we make decisions that not only honor God but also build up the community?

Week 16: Head Coverings and Honor in Worship

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "Have you encountered a practice in church that seemed culturally specific? How did you understand its significance?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

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2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. What does Paul mean by head coverings, and how does this relate to the cultural context of the Corinthian church?
2. Discuss the principles of honor and respect in the context of public worship as outlined by Paul.
3. How do the concepts of headship and authority play out in this passage, and what implications do they have for us today?
4. Reflect on the statement, "For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man" (v. 7). How can we understand this in light of the Gospel's overall message of equality in Christ?
5. In what ways can we apply the underlying principles from this passage to our contemporary worship practices while respecting cultural and individual differences?

Week 17: Spiritual Gifts

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "Have you ever discovered a spiritual gift in yourself or observed one in someone else?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul describe the variety of spiritual gifts, and what is their source?
2. Discuss the significance of the Holy Spirit distributing gifts "to each one individually as he wills" (v. 11).
3. How can understanding our spiritual gifts impact our role within the church?
4. Reflect on the importance of every gift, no matter how prominent or hidden it may seem. How does this encourage you?
5. In what ways can we foster an environment that recognizes and nurtures the diverse gifts within our community?

Week 18: One Body with Many Members

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "Can you think of an instance where different individuals or groups within the church worked together seamlessly? What was the outcome?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

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2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. What does Paul mean by comparing the church to a body with many parts?
2. Discuss how the interdependence of body parts reflects the functioning of the church.
3. How does this metaphor address issues of inferiority or superiority within the church?
4. Reflect on the statement, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (v. 26). How does this shape our community life?
5. What practical steps can we take to ensure that every member of our church feels valued and finds their place in the body of Christ?

Week 19: The Most Excellent Way- Love

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "Can you share an example from your life where love made a tangible difference in a difficult situation?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 13

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What do we learn about

2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. Why does Paul place such a high value on love above other spiritual gifts?
2. Discuss the characteristics of love listed in this chapter. Which one do you find most challenging, and why?
3. How does this chapter's description of love compare to the world's definition?
4. Reflect on how love operates as the foundation for exercising spiritual gifts in the church.
5. How can we practically show this kind of love in our church and community?

Week 20: Prophecy and Tongues

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "Have you ever been part of a worship service where speaking in tongues or prophecy took place? What was your experience?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

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Supplemental Questions:

1. Why does Paul prioritize prophecy over speaking in tongues in the church setting?
2. Discuss the role of understanding, edification, and building up the church in the context of spiritual gifts.
3. How can we ensure that the exercise of spiritual gifts contributes to the order and edification of worship services?
4. Reflect on the purpose of speaking in tongues and prophecy as signs for unbelievers and believers, respectively.
5. What guidelines can we derive from this passage for the use of spiritual gifts in our current worship practices?

Week 21: Orderly Worship

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "How does the concept of orderly worship resonate with your experience of church services? What elements contribute to a sense of order and peace?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

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Supplemental Questions:

1. What principles does Paul outline for maintaining order during worship services?
2. Discuss the importance of each person's contribution to the worship service and how it should be aimed at edification.
3. How does Paul address the issue of speaking in tongues in the absence of interpretation?
4. Reflect on the instruction for women in the context of the Corinthian church and how it applies to us today.
5. Considering Paul's closing remarks on the nature of prophecy and the spirit of the prophets, how can we foster a respectful and orderly environment in our church gatherings?

Week 22: The Resurrection of Christ

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "How does the resurrection of Christ influence your daily life and hope for the future?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 15:1-34

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Supplemental Questions:

1. Why is the resurrection central to the Christian faith, according to Paul?
2. Discuss the historical evidence and importance of Christ's resurrection presented by Paul.
3. How does the resurrection impact our understanding of death and the afterlife?
4. Reflect on the implications of the statement, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (15:17).
5. How can we live out the reality of the resurrection in our community and personal lives?

Week 23: The Resurrection Body

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "What aspect of the resurrection body and the life to come do you find most comforting or inspiring?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

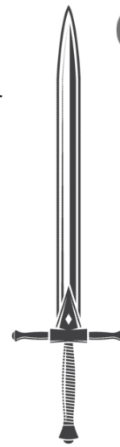
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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul describe the nature of the resurrection body?
2. Discuss the transformation that occurs at resurrection as described in this passage.
3. What does the victory over death mean for Christians both now and in the future?
4. Reflect on the call to "stand firm, let nothing move you" (15:58) in light of the resurrection hope.
5. How does the certainty of the resurrection influence our labor and ministry in the church?

Week 24: Final Instructions and Farewell

Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question: "What is one practical way you have contributed to or can contribute to the needs of your church community?"

Verse Text (ESV): 1 Corinthians 16

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OBEY?

S.P.E.C

What do we learn about

2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul instruct the Corinthians regarding the collection for the saints? What does this teach us about Christian stewardship and generosity?
2. Discuss the importance of supporting and welcoming those who are in the service of the saints, as mentioned by Paul.
3. Reflect on Paul's encouragement to "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love" (16:13-14). How can we apply these instructions in our personal lives and church community?
4. Paul mentions several individuals by name in his final greetings. What does this tell us about the nature of his relationships and the importance of personal connections within the church?
5. Considering Paul's closing words, "My love be with you all in Christ Jesus," how does this letter inspire us to cultivate a community characterized by love, unity, and mutual support?