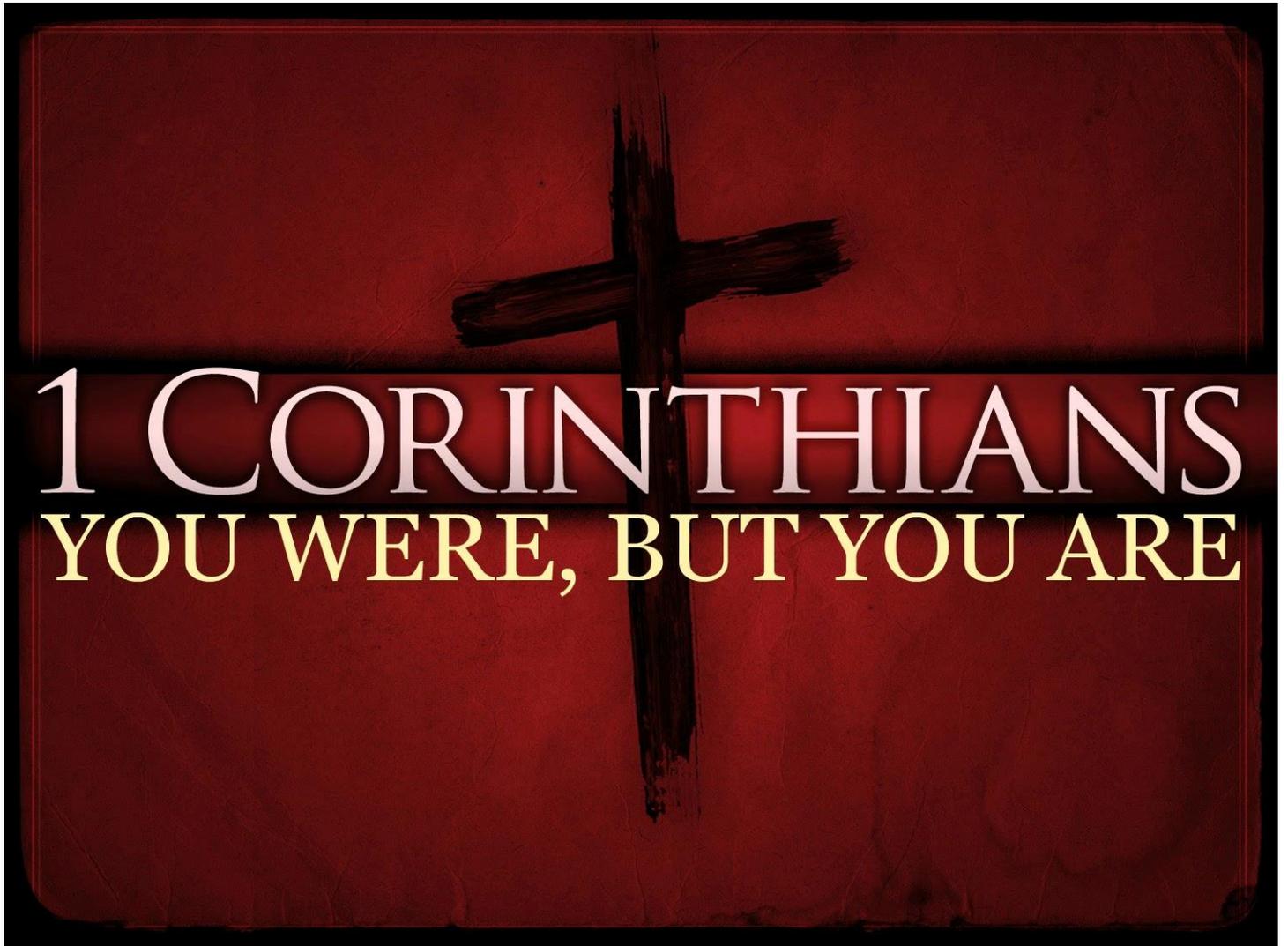


# 1 Corinthians



**5 more Studies in 1 Corinthians  
(Part 2)**

## Summary Outline of 1 Corinthians

- 1:1-3 Authors and recipients
- 1:4-9 Thanksgiving
- 1:10—4:21 Christian approach to ministry in the church
- 5:1-6:20 Moral Issues
- 7:1-40 Marriage Problems
- 8:1-11:1 Gospel obligations in a pluralistic world
- 11:2-14:40 Orderly church life
- 15:1-59 The resurrection of the Christian's body
- 16:1-24 Other business

## Appendices

Appendix 1 contains dates for Paul's missionary journeys and imprisonments to give an overall timeline of Paul's ministry

Appendix 2 contains approximate dates for all of Paul's letters to put his letter to the Corinthians into context

## Confidentiality Reminder

Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information ***MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP.***

## Study 1 - Marriage & Singleness - 1 Corinthians 7:1-40

(Sermon on 19-Apr-2020)

### Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

1. What question, in verse 1, had the Corinthians previously asked Paul?

*Due to Paul's previous instructions about fleeing sexual immorality (1 Cor 6:18). The Corinthians had written to Paul with the comment/question: "It is good for a man to not have sexual relations with a woman". Presumably, their thinking was if sexual immorality is such a problem in Corinth, perhaps it's better to not have sexual relations at all?*

2. **Discuss:** It seems the Corinthians are mixed-up; they are going between two extremes with sex; some are saying anything goes (that's what Paul addresses in chapter 6) and others are saying sex is actually unspiritual.

*The Corinthian culture was that anything goes sexually; and because Paul has corrected that thinking in chapter 6; they've now gone to the other extreme and said - it would be super spiritual if we abstained from sex altogether. That's perhaps where we get the idea of celibacy from, in the RC church; and we've seen what sort of problems that has caused and still does. Paul was not teaching that sexual relations between a husband and wife were wrong.*

3. What is Paul's basic instructions about sex to husbands and wives?

*It's good to marry to avoid sexual immorality.*

*Sexual relations should be in the exclusive relationship between a husband and wife. The wife should yield to the husband and vice-versa. They should not deprive each other in case Satan tempts them to seek a sexual union elsewhere (outside of the marriage). There maybe times when they fast and pray and abstain from sexual relations for a while; but then they should come back together.*

*Of course, as people get older or sick or disabled - there may be many reasons why they cannot have sexual relations - however, they should still be affectionate towards one another; that's the implication here.*

*Paul also states that he wishes they were like him - that is single and able to commit his whole life to serve the Lord. But he recognizes that each person is gifted by God differently. Marriage is a gift - AND - being single is a gift.*

### Read 1 Corinthians 7:8-40

4. Paul address a huge range of people in this chapter. Make a list of the types of people Paul addresses and what instructions he gives them

*NOTE: The Context is Paul is writing to a new church in a very sexual immoral city like Corinth; where some of the Corinthians have become Christians - but already have established relationships.*

*Some may be wondering what they should do about sexual relationships now that they are a Christian?*

*There could also be marriages where the husband has become a Christian and the wife has not (or vice-versa) - and the Christian might be wondering what they should do in this circumstance?*

<b>Types of People</b>	<b>Instruction</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<i>V8-9 - Unmarried</i>	<i>Good to remain unmarried</i>	<i>If they can control themselves then more able to serve the Lord</i>
<i>V8-9 - Unmarried</i>	<i>Get married</i>	<i>Rather than burn with passion</i>
<i>V8-9 - Widowed</i>	<i>Good to remain unmarried</i>	<i>If they can control themselves then more able to serve the Lord</i>
<i>V8-9 - Widowed</i>	<i>Get married</i>	<i>Rather than burn with passion</i>
<i>V10-11 - Married</i>	<i>Don't separate or divorce. If you do separate be reconciled. If you do divorce, remain unmarried</i>	<i>Because God ordained marriage to be exclusive life-long commitment between man &amp; woman</i>

<p><i>V12-16 - A Christian married to an unbeliever</i></p>	<p><i>Don't divorce your unbelieving partner.</i></p>	<p><i>The unbelieving partner is sanctified (made holy) by the believing partner. Also, any children in the marriage are made holy by the believing partner. The unbeliever may become a believer because of the witness of the believer</i></p>
<p><i>V17-20 - Circumcised (Jews) and Uncircumcised (Gentiles)</i></p>	<p><i>Whatever situation they were in before they became a Christian, they should remain the same.</i></p>	<p><i>Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing! They are equal under God</i></p>
<p><i>V21-23 - Slaves and free person</i></p>	<p><i>Don't be trouble about being a slave - you are still a child of God. A slave has freedom under Christ. If a slave can gain freedom, great, but it's not the end of the world</i></p>	<p><i>All Christians were bought at a price and bought out of the slavery of sin; but now slaves of Christ. As Gal 3:28 says - There is neither Jew nor Gentile, <b>neither slave nor free</b>, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.</i></p>
<p><i>V25-38 Virgins</i></p>	<p><i>Remain as you are (vv25-26)</i></p> <p><i>If pledged to be married, then marry If not pledged, then don't marry</i></p>	<p><i>Because of the present crisis of persecution, having a spouse would be another burden to cope with.</i></p> <p><i>Remember those who marry will face many troubles in this life,</i></p>

<p>V39-40 - Widows</p>	<p>V29-31 - In all things in life: marriage, grieving, happiness, shopping, material stuff-remember this world is our temporary home.</p> <p>Remaining unmarried allows a person to serve the Lord without distraction.</p> <p>If it is necessary, the single person may marry</p> <p>A widow is free to remarry but her new husband must be a believer</p>	<p>which you could avoid by remaining single</p> <p>The world is passing away. Our home is in Heaven</p> <p>Undivided devotion to the Lord (v35)</p> <p>It's not a matter of right or wrong, but between good and better.</p> <p>Better to remain unmarried says Paul - because of the instruction earlier about undivided devotion to the Lord</p>
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5. Can you identify a common principle behind Paul's instructions?

- a. Faithfulness in relationships and faithfulness to the Lord.
- b. Better to remain single so as to serve the Lord in undivided devotion.

6. What exceptions does Paul make to these principles?

*Where some one is going to burn in passion, they should marry*

7. How does Paul's common principle match the basic philosophy of our society?

*The general philosophy of relationships is often more like Hollywood - stay together until someone better comes along - or until it becomes too much like*

*hard work. There is little loyalty and faithfulness. Particularly shown in some people having pre-nuptial agreements!*

8. According to verses 6 & 7, how should we view marriage and singleness?  
*As a gift from God. Single people should not see themselves as somehow inferior to those who are married.*
9. If we are single, what should we do/not do, and why? (cf. v7 and vv32-35)  
*Use their singleness to serve the Lord in undivided devotion rather than indulge in worldliness. Why? Because this is pleasing to God.*
10. What are good reasons for some to get married (refer back to 1 Cor 6:12-20)  
*They can use their marriage to serve the Lord, rather than indulge in worldliness. Our bodies of members of the Body of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit and so a marriage needs to honour God too.*
11. If we are married, what should we do/not do? (cf. Malachi 2:10-16)  
*Being faithful to God. Being faithful to each other.  
The purpose of marriage is also to produce Godly offspring (Mal 2:15)  
They should not divorce - the one who divorces does violence to the one they should protect (Mal 2:16)  
Why? Because we belong to God in body and spirit (Mal 2:15)*
12. How do single people honour the Lord?  
*By serving the Lord in undivided devotion (v35)*
13. How do married people honour the Lord?  
*In their faithfulness to each other.  
In serving the Lord together in their marriage  
By having Godly offspring (if able)*
14. What are the spiritual advantages for an unbelieving spouse married to a Christian spouse? What are the spiritual advantages for their children?

*The Christian spouse sanctifies the unbelieving spouse. They may also, lead them to believe in the Lord.*

*Children are made holy.*

15. What potential for marital disharmony is suggested by verse 15? Why is this so? (cf. 1 Cor 6:15-20; 2 Cor 6:14)

*V15 - By being married to an unbeliever - the unbeliever might make it difficult for the believing spouse to serve the Lord - so it's okay for the unbelieving spouse to leave.*

*As Paul, says in 2 Cor 6:14 - do not be unevenly yoked. What does righteousness have to do with darkness. Can light have fellowship with darkness. Sometimes an unbeliever can be a bad influence on the believer - and the latter feels obliged to please their partner ahead of God.*

16. In marriages between believers and unbelievers, what is Paul's overriding concern?

*God has called us to live in peace (v15)*

17. What is Paul's point in verses 17 to 24?

*Whatever status you were in when you became a believer you remain in that status. God can still use you as a slave, as a free man, as a Jew or a Gentile. God called you in that status.*

18. What's the advice for those who are unmarried in verses 25 to 31?

*Remain unmarried if you can. It's easier to serve the Lord in undivided devotion. But it is not a sin to marry. And Paul is certainly not advocating celibacy for all. The main thing is to serve the Lord in your status and not be too wrapped up in worldliness*

19. According to verses 32-35; what is a good reason NOT to get married?

*Not getting married allows us to focus on the Lord's affairs - rather than seeking how to please our spouse.*

20. What point is Paul making in verses 36 to 38, about marriage and singleness?

*If you are able to apply self-control and not burn in passion; should remain single. If this is not possible, it is not a sin to marry.*

21. In reading this chapter, do you share Paul's perspective? Why or why not?

Discuss in your group

*There's no doubt that being single, in theory, allows us to have more time and energy to serve the Lord.*

*However, a Christian marriage, can be a tremendous asset in serving the Lord and has the added advantage, where possible, to raise Godly offspring, to progress God's Kingdom.*

*The main thing is we see singleness and marriage as God's gift to us - and use this status to love and serve the Lord.*

22. What do you make of Paul's suggestions in verses 39 & 40?

*I think it's important that a widow remarry a believer - as again they can serve the Lord together - rather than having a big part of their marriage - which is separate to each other; where one is serving the Lord and the other isn't.*

*Again, remaining widowed - allows undivided devotion.*

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Corinthians 7:1-40?

*Goes back to 1 Cor 6:20 - Chapter 7 is the outworking of the phrase "Therefore honour God with your bodies"*



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?

*Our marriage or our singleness is God's gift to us!*



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

*How can I use my marriage or how can I use my singleness to serve and honour God and progress His kingdom?*

*How am I being a model to my family and friends in my marriage and singleness?*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*V7b - But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*

*V15b - God has called us to live in peace.*

*V19b - Keeping God's commands is what counts.*

*V23 - You were bought as a price - do not become slaves of human beings*

**Finish in prayer:** Pray that whether single or married, that we might keep Jesus at the centre of all of our relationships. Pray that we would glorify God in the way we use our bodies. Pray, whether single or married, for strong relationships and friendships in our church family and our community. Pray for the leaders of our church, and their marriages. Ask God to strengthen the relationships in the families of our church. Pray for our children, grandchildren, and our mums and dads.

Also, pray that God would use you and your singleness or marriage, to attract unbelievers, not primarily to you, **but to Jesus!**

**Amen**

## Study 2 - Looking out for others - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

(Sermon on 26-Apr-2020)

### Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

1. What issue is Paul now dealing with, in verse 1? (cf. Acts 15:20)

*The issue is food offered to idols.*

*At the first ever church council in Jerusalem in Acts 15:20 - the main issue discussed was forcing Gentile Christians to be "Jews". The church council decided against forcing Gentiles to be "Judiased"; but they did write a letter which included a statement - "not to eat food offered to idols"*

*In Corinth, idolatry (worship of false gods and idols) was so prevalent that most of the meat bought in the marketplace had been first had a portion offered to idols or pagan gods. The priests would get a portion and rest returned to the person making offering; and usually ended up at the marketplace.*

*So as a Corinthian Christian, in was most likely, the meat you were eating had been offered to idols.*

2. Is that really a problem? Yes/No/Maybe?

*In general terms, it's not a problem, if you realize that these idols and pagan gods are nothing; and so, if you bought meat off someone who'd offered it to an idol; it means nothing to you.*

*But, for some Corinthian Christians, the idea of eating food offered to idols, troubled their conscience.*

*That is Paul's concern here. Those Corinthians who knew that sacrificing food to false gods was meaningless; were putting down those Corinthians who had a conscience about it - and saying they had superior knowledge!*

3. What comparison does Paul make between knowledge and love in verse 1?

*Paul, perhaps, with a sarcastic tone, says "We all possess knowledge" (or at least we think we do).*

*But Paul makes the comparison that having knowledge can make us "puffed up" or arrogant and come across all superior. Whereas the key thing with a fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, is love!*

*It's not very loving to put someone down because of their apparent lack of knowledge.*

4. What trap can we fall into with the knowledge we have, in verse 2?

*The trap we can fall into is to when we have a bit of knowledge, we can think we know it all. I can act like a "know it all"*

*The person who thinks they know the most, often knows the least; because the more we know, the more we realize we don't know.*

*For example, the more we read the Bible - the more we realize how much we don't know.*

5. What's the key ingredient with knowledge, in verse 3? (cf. 1 John 4:8)

*The key ingredient is loving God - and being known by Him.*

*As 1 John 4:8 says "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love"*

*So, if we use our knowledge as someone who loves God, then we will share that knowledge in a humble loving way - and not an arrogant and proud way.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-6**

6. What does Paul say:

a. About idolatry?

*Idolatry is nothing. An idol is nothing at all in the world. It's just an object of no value. And that object is not God.*

b. About God?

*There is no God, except the God, YHWH, the creator of Heaven and Earth*

c. About Jesus?

*There is only one Jesus Christ (The Messiah - God's chosen Anointed One). And Jesus was there at Creation! In fact, all things were created through Him and we now live (as redeemed and saved people) because of Jesus; and not because of the worship of some idol!*

7. What is Paul implying about food sacrificed to idols?

*Nothing is achieved by offering food as a sacrifice to idols because the idols have no power or authority like God the Father and His Son Jesus do.*

*It's actually a futile exercise offering food to a "dumb" idol.*

*For example, food offered to Zeus (the Greek god of sky and thunder) means nothing because Zeus doesn't exist.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 8:7-13**

8. What doesn't everyone know in verse 7?

*Not everyone in Corinth had the knowledge that these idols were nothing and they had become accustomed to food being offered to idols; and it made them feel uncomfortable now that they were a Christian. Their conscience was pricked - because they saw food offered to an idol as blasphemy and felt guilty of blasphemy themselves. Whereas the people with "knowledge" realized it meant nothing and it didn't affect their conscience.*

*But knowledge is everything. If it becomes everything, then the "know it alls" start treating those with a weaker knowledge and conscience as "know nothings". And real knowledge is not that insensitive.*

9. What does food do in our relationship with God, in verse 8?

*Nothing. Food does not bring us nearer to God.*

*We are no worse if we do not eat this food offered to idols and no better if we do!*

10. What principle does Paul set down in verse 9? Can you think of an example of this?

*The principle is that we shouldn't use our freedom as Christians in a careless way that leads a fellow believer, who is still vulnerable to their old associations, to be thrown off track and stumble.*

*In the context of Corinth - some have spent their entire lives eating "idol meat" and are sure there's something bad in the meat which then becomes something bad inside them. An imagination and conscience shaped under those conditions is not going to change overnight.*

*A modern example: You invite a new Christian, who in the past has struggled with alcohol, to your place for dinner, and in your freedom crack open a bottle of wine, and force them to have a drink, which they find really confronting as it may lead them back to drinking, which they're trying to leave behind. There's nothing wrong with you have a drink, but if it is going to cause the new Christian, to struggle, it's neither loving or helpful to them.*

*Another example might be: Halal meat. Some might struggle with this and others might not.*

11. What situation is being described in verses 10-11?

*A person flaunts their freedom by going to a banquet thrown in honour of idols, where the main course is meat sacrificed to idols. There's a great danger that if someone is struggling over this issue, and they look up to the person who has gone to the banquet, there's a danger that they will become confused about this and mixed up about what their conscience is saying about this issue.*

12. What can happen to the weak believer?

*The person might stumble in their faith, perhaps even give up.*

13. What's wrong with causing weak people to stumble, in verse 12?

*We sin against that person and we sin against Christ.*

14. How then does Paul act, in verse 13, and how does that relate to verses 1 to 3?

*He makes the pledge that he won't eat meat again, if it is going to cause one of his fellow brothers or sisters in Christ to stumble.*

*This relates to verses 1 to 3 because that was a question raised by the Corinthians, as to what they were to do about food sacrificed to idols.*

*Even though Paul knows food sacrificed to idols means nothing - as the idols are worthless - his love for his fellow believers is more important than his knowledge and so out of love for them, he would rather not eat meat.*

15. Think it through: What rights might we have to give up, to stop others falling away?

- *What we eat*
- *What we drink*
- *What we do on the Sabbath*
- *What we watch on TV or Movies*

16. Consider how the following passages might relate to what Paul's saying:

a. Proverbs 27:17

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

*As Christians we should be "sharpening" one another; encouraging and building each other up, not tearing causing each other to stumble or struggle.*

b. Matthew 5:29-30

*<sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*

*<sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

*As Christians, we need to remove things or behaviours which will cause us to sin.*

c. Matthew 18:6

*<sup>6</sup>If anyone causes one of these little ones-those who believe in me-to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.*

*We need to be very careful what we model to a young people and to new Christians, so that we don't cause them to stumble and give up following Jesus. This is a very serious matter.*

d. Matthew 25:31-46 (especially verses 40 & 45)

*<sup>40</sup>"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

*<sup>40</sup>"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

*Whatever we do for our brothers and sisters, we do for Jesus.*

*And whatever we don't do for our brothers and sisters, we don't do for Jesus.*

*We are accountable.*

e. Romans 14:1, 14, 17, 20

*<sup>1</sup>Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.*

*<sup>14</sup>I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the LORD Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.*

*<sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,*

*<sup>20</sup>Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.*

f. 1 Corinthians 10:28

*But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience.*

g. 2 Corinthians 6:3

*<sup>3</sup> We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.*

h. Galatians 5:13

*<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Corinthians 8:1-13?

- *Looking out for others*
- *Knowledge not as important as love*



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life?**

*Careful what we model to our fellow believers, especially new or immature believers.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*<sup>9</sup> Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.*

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.*

**Finish in prayer:** Pray we would be diligent in our behaviour in case we cause others to stumble.

### Study 3 – Paul's Rights as an Apostle – 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

(Sermon on 03-May-2020)

**Before we begin:** What rights do we have as an Australian citizen? What rights do we have as a Christian?

As Australian Citizen: Vote in elections; Don't need a return visa to leave and return to Australia; Entitled to Australian passport; consular support whilst overseas; entitled to government and defence force jobs; can become PM; visa free travel to 169 countries; financial assistance for education; protection from deportation.

As Christians - we are **God's children**. We have forgiveness and eternal life guaranteed. *Ephesians 1:13-14* says: When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance

As Christians - we are ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor 5:20)

As Christians - we have **freedom**. *Gal 5:1* says It is for **freedom** that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and **do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery**. *Before Jesus died on a cross, God's people lived under a detailed system of laws that served as a moral compass to guide their lives. The Law, while powerless to grant salvation or produce true freedom, pointed the way to Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:19-24). Through His sacrificial death, Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law, setting believers free from the law of sin and death. God's laws are now written in our hearts through the Spirit of God, and we are free to follow and serve Christ in ways that please and glorify Him (Romans 8:2-8).*

*Continuing to live under the Law after salvation is merely a legalistic form of religion. We cannot earn righteousness through the Law; rather, the Law's purpose was to define our sin and show our need of a Savior. Christian freedom involves living not under the burdensome obligations of the Law but under God's grace: "For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14).*

#### Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-6

1. On what basis does Paul claim his apostleship? (verses 1 & 2)

- a. *He has seen the Lord who called him to do this work*
  - b. *The Corinthians are the result of this work for the Lord*
  - c. *He has been an apostle to the Corinthians; even if others don't see him as a true apostle*
2. What rights does Paul have? (cf. 1 Cor 8; 1 Cor 9:14; Acts 18:3; 1 Cor 7:7, 8)
- a. *He has the right to be fed (verse 4)*
  - b. *He has the right to have a believing wife (verse 5) like other apostles like Peter (Cephas)*
  - c. *He has the right to be provided for in ministry without necessarily having to work for a living - like he and Barnabas do*
  - d. *1 Cor 8 - can eat meat sacrificed to idols - if it doesn't cause his brothers and sisters in Christ to stumble*
  - e. *1 Cor 9:14 - the right to receive his living from preaching the Gospel*
  - f. *Acts 18:3 - the right to work (as tentmaker) if he chooses to*
  - g. *1 Cor 7:7-8 - the right to be single or the right to be married - marriage and singleness is a gift from God. He chooses to remain unmarried*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 9:7-14**

3. Summarize the points Paul makes in verses 7 to 14? (cf. Deut 25:4; 1 Tim 5:18; 2 Tim 2:6; Lev 6:16, 26; Deut 18:1)
- a. *V7 - a soldier gets fed by the army; a vineyard worker gets free grapes; a farmer gets free milk*
  - b. *V8-9 - Not Paul saying this but God's Law and Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 25:4 - "do not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain" - the oxen is entitled to a feed as he walks*
  - c. *V10 - God's word back in Deut 25:4 was written for our benefit - because whoever plows and threshes the harvest should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest*
  - d. *V11 - Paul connects sowing physical seeds to sowing spiritual seeds - i.e. sowing the seed of the Gospel. His point is shouldn't if he sows shouldn't he reap something from this harvest?*
  - e. *V12 - If others get support from Corinthians - shouldn't apostles who sow the seed of the Gospel?*

- f. V13 - The priests who worked in the temple in OT got food for their work in the temple - they got a share of what was offered in the sacrifices (see Lev 6:16, 26 and Deut 18:1)
- g. V14 - Therefore in same way, Gospel workers should too (see 1 Tim 5:18 which also quotes Deut 24:5)
- h. See also, 2 Tim 2:6 - a hardworking farmer should be first to receive a share of the crops

**Re-read 1 Corinthians 9:12 and read 1 Corinthians 9:15-18**

4. What does Paul do with his rights, and why?

- a. V12 - Paul did not use his rights - in case it hindered the Gospel
- b. V15-18 - Paul forwent his rights to be paid - He was compelled to preach the Gospel and his reward is to preach the Gospel willingly and free of charge, even though entitled to be paid
- c. If Paul was willing to deny himself such an important right for the good of the gospel and the Corinthian Christians, then should not also the Corinthian Christians deny their "right" to eat meat sacrificed to idols for the same good?
- d. Why? So that the Gospel is not hindered and he doesn't get accused of doing it only for the money or material gain!
- e. Why? Because preaching the Gospel is a privilege and an honour

5. Why would Paul want to preach the Gospel free of charge?

- a. He gets a delight in serving and preaching the Gospel for free - that's his reward
- b. Possibly he doesn't want to be a burden on the Corinthians or dependent upon them
- c. Also - see v19 - he is a servant (slave)

**Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

6. What is Paul's principle in verses 19 to 23 and why?

*He became "all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some" (v22)*

- a. Made himself a slave to win people for Jesus
- b. Became like a Jew to win Jews
- c. To those under the law - he became like someone under the law

d. To those not having the law - he became like them - but realizing he's under Christ's law (grace)

e. Made himself weak to win the weak

*Why? I do this for the sake of the Gospel - and share in its blessings (v23)*

7. **Think it through:** how could the principle "all things to all people" be misused, if at all?

a. "all things to all people" does not mean changing the "message of the Gospel" - but changing "behaviour" and the way "we live" for the sake of winning people for Jesus

b. "all things to all people" should not condone sin or lead us to sin to win people.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

8. What does Paul want the Corinthians to do, and why?

a. *Self-discipline. Lay aside all that will hinder them*

b. *Keep your eye on the prize*

c. *Paul doesn't want to get caught napping; telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself*

9. **Discuss:** Can we lose our salvation? Yes/No/Maybe? Why/Why not?

*No.*

*See John 10:28-29*

<sup>28</sup> *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.*

<sup>29</sup> *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

*However, we all must face the judge* <sup>10</sup> *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may **receive what is due us** for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad (2 Cor 5:10)*

<sup>27</sup> *For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will **reward each person according to what they have done** (Matt 16:27).*

<sup>8</sup> *because you know that the **Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do**, whether they are slave or free (Eph 6:8)*

*More a question that Paul - in preaching to many - neglects his own spiritual life - and/or falling into sin - and missing the rewards for serving God (see 1 Cor 3:14-15 - <sup>14</sup>If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If it is burned*

up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. )

10. **Personal reflection:** How do you need to improve your spiritual self-discipline?

- a. *Be disciplined like an athlete training for the Olympics*
- b. *Purposeful quiet times*
- c. *Identifying areas of sin/temptation and seek devotions and scriptures related to these areas*
- d. *Committed to prayer*
- e. *Actively seeking to share the Gospel*

11. **Think it through:**

What would you need to do/change in order to win for Christ?

a. A Muslim?

*Connection points: OT and Moses and Abraham; Prophet Mohammed - Jesus more than a prophet; personal relationship with Allah; pillars of Islam (faith; prayer 5 times per day; giving alms to the poor; fasting [Ramadan] and pilgrimage [Mecca]; how we get forgiven; what happens when we die; assurance?)*

b. A nominal Roman Catholic or Presbyterian?

*Jesus is our mediator [not Pope and priests]; Mary and saints? How we get to Heaven? 5 solas - Grace Alone; Scripture Alone; Faith Alone; Christ Alone and to Glory of God Alone [not the church]*

c. A beer drinking, gambling Aussie?

*Friendship; no condemnation; lifestyle; what happens when we die; bad news first (we all sin and will all die and face judgment); then the Good News of Jesus*

12. In order to be "all things to all people" what could we change (if at all)

a. In our church service?

*Welcoming and acceptance of everyone  
Friendship offered*

*Christianity explained invitation*

*Invitation to one on one mentorship and discipling*

b. In our personality or cultural background?

*Promote inclusiveness*

*Non-judgmental*

*Friendly*

*Don't write anyone off*

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Corinthians 9:1-27?

*Being all things to all people for the sake of sharing the Gospel*

*Being prepared to give up our rights for the sake of sharing the Gospel*

*The importance of relationships when sharing the Gospel*

*Self-discipline in our Christian walk to win people for Jesus*



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

a. *Being self-disciplined in our Christian walk so as to be an example*

b. *Look for others to win for Jesus and befriend them*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*V22b - I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.*

*V23 - I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

**Finish in prayer:** Ask God to help us be more disciplined in our spiritual life, so that we can be "all things to all people" and win people for Jesus.

## Study 4 - Learning from History - 1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1

(Sermon on 10-May-2020)

**Before we begin:** Think of some hard lessons you've had to learn in life. Share them with your group, if you are comfortable to do this...

- *The hard lessons of a marriage breakup and the effect it has on the couple, on the children and on the grandparents and family/friends*
- *It's difficult to balance - family, work and desire to have the best for your family. Sometimes we can focus on career too much.*
- *Although some hard lessons, God blessed me through this - as I became a Christian, met Heather and went into ministry. God is sovereign in all things*
- *When I was unable to see my children for some time - I learnt that God is with them 24/7*

### Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

1. What events is Paul referring to in verses 1 to 5?

- a. *Event 1 - Exodus 13 - As God led the Israelites out of Egypt towards the Red Sea - He went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them by day, and a pillar of fire to give them light at night - so they could travel by day and night.*
- b. *Event 2 - Exodus 13-14 - When the Israelites were led across the Red Sea by Moses (which God parted for them) - Paul says this was a kind of baptism for God's people - like we are baptized into God's family - through the sacrament of Baptism - which symbolizes Jesus washing us clean of our sins.*
- c. *Event 3 - Exodus 16 - When God's people received Manna and Quail from Heaven - this physical food - pointed to the spiritual food we get from Jesus - the Bread of Life.*
- d. *Event 4 - Exodus 17 & Numbers 20:11 - When God provided water from a rock at Horeb, in the wilderness, this points to the spiritual water, we get from Jesus. Jesus gives us living water that wells up into eternal life (John 4:14 - see also John 7:37-39)*

2. **Ponder:** The Israelites experienced a kind of 'baptism' and 'Lord's Supper' in the Exodus event, yet all but two of that generation (Joshua and Caleb) failed to get the prize of the Promised Land and died in the desert because of their

unfaithfulness. So, using the Israelites as an example, Paul goes on to warn the Corinthians who seem to think it doesn't matter if they attend idol temples while they are baptized and take part in the Lord's Supper.

*The Israelites didn't appreciate a) God saving them from slavery in Egypt; b) saving them from being killed by the pursuing Pharaoh and His army, by parting the Red Sea; c) Nor did they appreciate the food and water God provided. Instead they grizzled and moaned about God and took all God had provided for granted. Very ungrateful indeed.*

*God has given us Israel's history in the OT for us to learn lessons from their failure, rather than having to learn all the harsh lessons ourselves. Paul is warning the Corinthians to learn from the Israelites history, rather than falling for the same mistakes. Paul will now go on to give some examples of the Israelites disobedience.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-13**

3. How are the Israelites an example in verses 6 & 11?

*V6 - Israelites are poor example - they set their heart on evil things. Paul doesn't want the Corinthians to do the same thing.*

*V11 - The things written in the OT about the Israelites are meant are written down as a warning to the Corinthians and to us!*

4. What do the Israelites show not to do? (vv7-10)

a. In verse 7 (cf. Exodus 32:4, 6, 19)

*In Exodus 32 - When Moses was so long with God on the mountain. Aaron allowed the Israelites to make an idol of a Golden Calf out of all the people's gold - and they worshipped the calf as a god (Ex 32:4) and they made sacrifices to the calf and partied (Ex 32:6) and when Moses came down from the mountain with the commandments on tablets of stone, he saw the golden calf and the people dancing, and he was really angry and broke the tablets (Ex 32:19)*

b. In verse 8 (Numbers 25:1-9)

*When the Israelites were in the wilderness. The men indulged in sexual immorality with the women from Moab - and they sacrificed to Moab gods.*

*Those who participated in this sin were punished with a plague which cost 24,000 people their lives (Num 25:9)*

c. In verse 9 (Numbers 21:5-6)

*The Israelites spoke against God and against Moses "why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest miserable food"*

*So God sent a venomous snake which bit the Israelites. The people repented. Moses made a bronze snake which he held up on a pole. Then anyone bitten by the snake (pointing to Satan) and looked at the bronze serpent on the pole (pointing to Jesus) were healed and lived. That's what coming to Jesus can do for people - heal them from the bite of sin - and give them eternal life.*

d. In verse 10 (Numbers 16:41, 49; 17:5, 10; Exodus 12:23; 1 Chron 21:15)

*In Numbers 16, again the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron. Again God sent a plague and 14, 700 people died, before Aaron made an atonement sacrifice for their sin and rebellion.*

5. Why might the Corinthians think they were standing firm, and what would it mean to fall, in verse 12? (cf. Romans 11:20)

*They might have thought they were standing firm in their own strength and had become arrogant and complacent. Paul warns them not to get too cocky - so that they rely on God at all times - and not on themselves, in case they fall.*

6. How is verse 13 a comfort to those who think they are falling?

a. *Temptation is common to all of us. We all get tempted to sin in many different ways. So we are not on our own.*

b. *We can be comforted in knowing God is faithful always. He doesn't want us to fall or disobey Him.*

c. *He lets us be tempted but not beyond what we can bear.*

d. **AND - He provides a way out of that temptation. However, we do have to take that way out!**

## Read 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

7. What is Paul's advice in verse 14 and how might that relate to verse 13?

*He advises the Corinthians to flee from idolatry (i.e. worshipping idols, gods, people, things - ahead of worshipping God). This relates to v13 - as it relates to us being tempted to put other people or other things ahead of God. God says through Paul, run away from these temptations.*

8. Why does the Lord's Supper demand fleeing from idolatry (cf. verse 14 and verses 18 to 22)?

*The people of Corinth have forgotten that the Lord's Supper - is about the bread we share representing Jesus' body broken for us on the cross - and the wine we share is representing Jesus' blood poured out for us on the cross. Instead the people of Corinth were being gutsy and selfish and not sharing the bread and wine - as ONE body of believers. This amounted to worshipping the bread and wine and indulging themselves - instead of worshipping God.*

*The Lord's Supper was meant to bring the believers together as ONE body. We don't reduce Jesus down to our level - He raises us up to what He is.*

*Paul says that's what the people making sacrifices at the temple did in the OT, they participated in what God was doing for them through these sacrifices.*

*Paul then makes a comparison with food sacrificed to idols in the temples of Corinth. He's not saying this food is anything special nor is he saying the idol is anything special.*

*But these sacrifices are being made to false gods (Paul calls them demons!) - and he's basically saying you can't one day join in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and then the next day slum it with demons. You can't have it both ways - banqueting with the Master one day and slumming with demons the next. God won't stand for it. He's a jealous God - and we're not stronger than Him.*

9. What are the implications of arousing God's jealousy in verse 22? (cf. Deut 32:16, 21; 1 Kings 14:22; Psalm 78:58; Jeremiah 44:8)

*Implications of arousing God's jealousy*

- a. *Deut 32:16,21 - God gets **jealous and angry** about worshipping idols*
- b. *1 Kings 14:22 - Tribe of Judah made **God angry by the sins** they committed*

- c. *Psalm 78:58 -The people of Israel angered God with their high places and made God jealous with their worship of idols!*
- d. *Jeremiah 44:8 - The people of Israel burned incense to other gods in Egypt. Jeremiah warns they will destroy themselves and make themselves a curse and an object of reproach among all the nations.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-27**

10. When it comes to a believer's rights and freedom, what is Paul's principle in verses 23 and 24?

*V23 - Just because we have the freedom to do anything, doesn't mean we should - because not everything is beneficial to us.*

*V24 - The benchmark is: Seek others good before our own. i.e. selflessness!*

11. What are the Corinthians free to do and why, in verses 25 to 27?

*V25 - You don't have to run an idolatry test on what you buy in the butchers (MSG)*

*V26 - Everything on Earth belongs to God (not these idols) - See Psalm 24:1.*

*V27 - If a non-Christian invites you to dinner - go and eat and enjoy yourself.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 10:28-11:1**

12. What does the example in verses 28 to 30 illustrate?

*This example considers the other persons conscience, not ours. It goes back to chapter 8:13 and fits in with the benchmark of v24 - seeking others good before our own.*

13. What are the Corinthians not free to do in verse 32?

*We are not free - to cause anyone to stumble (see Matt 5:29; Acts 24:16; 2 Cor 6:3)*

14. What is the goal:

a. Of Christian freedom? (v31)

*Whatever we do - do it to bring glory to God!*

b. Of Paul's principle? (v33)

*Seeking to please others and seeking the good of many (not his own good)*

15. Whose example show we ultimately follow? (1 Cor 11:1)  
*1 Cor 11:1 - Imitate Paul - as he imitates Jesus.*

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1?

*Learning from History (from Israelites history and our own)*

*Seek the good of others before our own good.*

*Whatever we do - do it to bring glory to God.*



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?

*God's given us Israel's examples - so we don't have to learn everything the hard way!*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life?**

*Learn obedience from history.*

*Ask God to help us with temptation in our lives - he will provide a way out.*

*Seek good of others.*

*Bring glory to God in all we do.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

10:33 - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

11:1 - Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

**Finish in prayer:** Pray that we would learn from the examples and experiences in the Bible and in our own lives, and that we would not be tempted beyond what we could bear.

## Study 5 – Worship Practices – 1 Corinthians 11:2-34

(Sermon on 17-May-2020)

### Read 1 Corinthians 11:2

1. How does Paul approach the Corinthians? Why?

*He kind of flatters them, butters them up.*

*Some commentators suggest, Paul is being sarcastic, because they haven't been holding to the traditions, he left them with. This has some merit.*

2. How might this relate to the rest of the section (cf. verses 16 and 17)

*In v16 it seems the practices Paul has installed, are taking place in all the churches.*

*In v17 it seems the Corinthians haven't been doing the right thing at all, especially when it comes to the Lord's Supper.*

### Read 1 Corinthians 11:3-6

3. What might 'head' mean (cf. Matt 10:25; Eph 1:10; 4:15; 5:22-24; Col 1:18; 2:10, 19)?

*Greek word is kephale - meaning head. Used here as a metaphor for chief or master or lord - in terms of authority - NOT in terms of being better than someone in quality.*

*Matt 10:25-used in context of head of the house*

*Eph 1:10-used in context of being "under" Christ's authority*

*Eph 4:15-used in context that Christ is head or lord of all*

*Eph 5:22-24-used in context that the husband has authority (headship) of his wife; in the same way that Christ has authority (headship) over His church. The wife is supposed to submit to the authority of her husband, in the same way that the church submits to the authority of Christ. Submit is a controversial subject these days - but must be seen in context of the husband loving his wife like Christ loved His church - He was prepared to die for His church - husbands need to have that "to die for" love for their wives; in which case a wife would have not trouble submitting to that sort of loving authority!*

*Col 1:18-used in context of Christ having authority over the church*

*Col 2:10-used in context of Christ being in authority over every other power and authority.*

*Col 2:19-used in the context of Christians being part of the body of Christ - Christians are different parts of the body, attached to Jesus - the Head.*

4. In verse 3, what does it mean for:

a. Christ to be the head of man?

*Jesus has complete authority over humans. Humans are to submit to His authority as God, the Son*

b. Man, to be the head of woman?

*Man (in marriage and in the home and in Church) has authority over the woman.*

*See Genesis 3:16 - To the woman he [God] said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*

*In doesn't mean women are inferior to men. See next point.*

c. God to be the head of Christ?

*This means God, the Father has authority over Jesus, the Son.*

*When Jesus fulfilled His mission on Earth, He always submitted to the authority of His Father and He always did His Father's will.*

*That does not mean Jesus, the Son, is inferior to God. The Son is fully God as the Father is fully God.*

*An example in church - if the minister or elder is in the choir, even though they are spiritual leaders (heads) of the church; in their role as a member of the choir, they would submit to the authority of the choir leader, Chris Smillie. In their role as minister or elder, the choir leader and the choir would submit to them as spiritual leaders.*

5. What command does Paul have for men (verse 4) and why?

*Man should not cover his head when praying or prophesying.*

*In Wearing a veil or head covering is a symbol of being under authority of someone. So, if a man wears a head covering, he's declaring he's not in authority and under someone else's authority.*

6. What command does Paul have for the women (verses 5-6) and why?

*A woman should cover her head. This shows that she is under the authority of the man. If she doesn't cover her head, she dishonours her head (the man).*

*Paul's point is, if the woman doesn't cover her head, she might as well shave her head. Shaving a woman's head in some culture (like Jewish) was a mark of an adulteress. In other words, Paul's saying, to the women, if you're not going to shave your head, you might as well go the whole way, and shave your head and be identified as a woman of the world!*

7. **Think it through:** Why does the relationship of heads mean that men shouldn't and women should cover their heads?

*God has ordained a rank. Christ is head of man; man is head of woman.*

8. What does this passage say about activities women were involved in?

*Praying and prophesying.*

*Prophesying here means: to declare something that can only be known by Divine revelation.*

9. How should women conduct themselves during such activities?

*By covering her head, so that she shows she is under the headship or authority of the spiritual male leaders of the church.*

10. How should men conduct themselves during the same activities?

*By not covering their head, showing respect for their position as head and showing respect to those under their leadership.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 11:7-10**

11. What command does Paul have for men and why?

*Men do not need to cover their head. This has to do with the order of creation. God created man first - Adam was created first, then Eve. And God gave Adam the responsibility over Eve (Gen 3:16)*

*One reason for male headship is the order and manner in which God created man and woman - something which was present before the fall - this passage makes it clear that before and after the fall, God has ordained there be a difference in the roles between genders, even in the church. The fall did not cause the*

*difference in gender roles (in the church and in the home), and the difference in roles is not erased by our new life in Jesus.*

12. Why is woman the glory of man? To what is Paul referring?

*The first woman (Eve) was created from the rib of the first man (Adam). So, Paul is referring to this order. God said it was not good for man to be alone (Gen 2:18), and he gave Adam a suitable helper.*

*A woman being the glory of man means a) he can glory in having such a loving helpful wife; b) she can bring glory to her husband in being such a suitable helper*

13. What command does Paul give to the woman (verse 10) and why?

*In recognition of her husband's headship (authority) over her, she should wear a head covering = a symbol of this headship.*

14. What might be the significance of the angels? (cf. Gal 3:19)

*God's law was given through angels (Deut33:2 and Acts 7:53).*

*And it is implied here, that angels (who remember are God's messengers and do God's bidding) are present at worship to ensure the Law is kept. So, Paul's saying, you'd better do as I say, as angels are watching!*

15. What might it mean for man to be the image and glory of God?

*Man was made in the image or likeness of God and man's chief purpose is to glorify God. So, if man is like God, he needs to act like God.*

16. What might it mean for woman to be the glory of man?

*Similarly, because woman came initially from man, a woman should be a credit to the man, and bring glory to the man, which in turn brings glory to God, as she conforms to God's order in creation.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 11:11-12**

17. What is Paul saying in these verses? Why would he need to say this?

*There is an equality with men and women.*

*Even though, the first woman came from a man, all future men, came through a woman and childbirth. Just because a man has a headship role or office, does not make the man superior or the woman inferior. There is an equality in genders.*

*Why does Paul have to say this. Because the Corinthians, like so many people in the past and present, have got this teaching wrong. They see male headship in the church or in the home, as some sort of tyrannical institution where the male suppresses or oppresses the female. That's not the teaching.*

*In the Presbyterian Church, we see women's ministries "complementing" male ministries, which has its source, in the woman being a suitable helper to the man. The relationship is all about love and help - not dominance and oppression. Remember also - in the relationship between God, the Father and God, the Son - there is nothing superior or inferior in this relationship - but mutual love and respect.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 11:13-16**

18. What do these verses teach us about the role of men and women?

*We can learn from the natural nature of hairstyles.*

*Women generally have longer hair than men.*

*A woman's hair is a natural covering and it's her glory - her beautiful hair. So rather than draw attention to her hair, it is covered out of respect.*

*A man's hair is naturally shorter and out of respect for his office as head, he doesn't need to cover it.*

*MSG translation says: <sup>13-16</sup> Don't you agree there is something naturally powerful in the symbolism—a woman, her beautiful hair reminiscent of angels, praying in adoration; a man, his head bared in reverence, praying in submission? I hope you're not going to be argumentative about this. All God's churches see it this way; I don't want you standing out as an exception.*

19. What is Paul's final argument (verse 16) and what does this say about Paul's apostolic authority?

*Paul says - this is the way all the churches do it in the culture of the day.*

*Paul refuses to debate it - he uses his apostolic authority.*

20. How do our **natural** hairstyles relate to Paul's teaching that women should cover their heads when praying or prophesying?

*Men's natural hair style shows strength and authority*

*Women's natural hairstyle shows beauty, respect and honour to authority*

21. Should we obey Paul's command in church today? How?

*Firstly, the whole idea of head covering is a cultural context and tradition. Growing up, I do recall women in church, covering their heads with a small veil. Over the years, this trend has disappeared. I think it was a nice thing and it's a shame it's mostly disappeared.*

*Paul has given 3 reasons for the headship of man over woman*

- a. God established an order of make headship in the church (1 Cor 11, 1 Timothy 2) and in the home (Eph 5:23)*
- b. God created an order at the time of Creation (before the Fall). God has ordained that there is a difference in roles between genders. The Fall did not cause the difference in gender roles (in the church or home) and the difference in roles is not is not erased by our new life in Jesus (see Eph 5)*
- c. The presence of angels in corporate worship. God has eternal things to teach the universe through us (see Eph 3:10-11; 1 Cor 4:9 and 1 Peter 1:12)*

*Therefore, we should obey God's commands in terms of headship at home - but ensuring headship is in the context of sacrificial love of the husband to the wife and mutual respect; and in terms of headship at church - ensuring spiritual male leaders lead and love like Christ loved His church.*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22**

22. What is the problem in verses 17-18?

*Paul has no praise for them in the church at Corinth,  
As part of coming together as a Church family, there are DIVISIONS*

23. What does Paul mean in verse 19?

*These differences will highlight who is really following God's teaching in the Word. Sometimes differences in churches lead to a "cleansing".*

24. What do their actions, in verses 20 to 22, reveal about their relationship to the church and to the "have nots"

*Divisions have been brought to the worship service.*

*Those who have plenty - bring a lot of food from outside and make pigs of themselves. Some are left out and go hungry - because there are cliques.*

*Others get drunk!*

*Paul's point is indulgence should be done at home, rather than humiliating those who have very little.*

**Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

25. How did Paul find out the information he gives them about the Lord's Supper, in verse 23?

*V23-He received this information from the Lord Jesus (see also Galatians 1:12)*

26. What was the context of the meal Paul recounts, in verse 23?

*The context was Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples, on the night Jesus was betrayed. Paul is reminding them of that this a "remembrance" meal of a night when Jesus had his final meal with His disciples before willingly going to the cross to die for sin. Although we can celebrate the fact that Jesus, in His grace and mercy, did this for us; this is not a party!*

27. What did Jesus do and why, in verses 23 and 24?

*He took bread (representing His broken body), gave thanks and broke it - and told His disciples to repeat this meal in remembrance of His ultimate sacrifice.*

28. What did He command His disciples to do (verse 25)?

*He took a cup of wine (representing His blood poured out for us) and told His disciples to repeat this drink in remembrance of the New Covenant = that sins are now covered by Jesus, the Lamb of God, and not by repeated animal sacrifices in the temple.*

29. What was the significance of the meal? (verse 26)

*To proclaim how important Jesus' death is for the forgiveness of sins.  
To introduce a sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be celebrated until Jesus returns.*

30. What does the meal proclaim? (verse 26)

*Jesus sacrifice on the cross for the sin of the world.*

31. Why do we do it "until He comes"?

*To show it is a perpetual ordinance and remembrance of His sacrifice. We continue to celebrate the Lord's Supper until we are with Jesus forever. Just like the ANZACS, lest we forget His sacrifice.*

32. Why does Paul take the Corinthians back to the institution of the Lord's Supper?

*They had lost sight of the meal's meaning. It is not just a fellowship meal; it is remembering Jesus' last meal with his friends, and recalling His great sacrifice. The meal is about Christ - not about them!*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-34**

33. What does it mean to eat or drink in an unworthy manner, verse 27?

*An unworthy manner = acting carelessly, frivolously, selfishly, greedily, disrespectfully. We should be coming to this meal in awe of Jesus, with respect and remembrance.*

34. What does it mean to be "guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord" (verse 27)?

*They would be disrespecting Jesus' sacrifice if they do not approach this meal as a solemn occasion.*

35. What does it mean for us to "examine ourselves" (verse 28)?

*Do we have unrepented sin - we need to repent of it first.*

*Do we have unresolved anger or bitterness against someone - we need to resolve it first.*

*Have we prepared for the Lord's Supper and focused on Jesus' sacrifice?*

*Are we treating the Lord's Supper - as a "by rote" act*

36. What does it mean by "not discerning the body of Christ" in verse 29?

*You haven't thought about what the Lord's Supper meal represents - that it represents Jesus body broken for us and His blood poured out for us?*

37. What happens in verse 30? And why?

*They have heaped judgment on themselves (v29b) by not being reverent and respectful of this sacrament. This judgment has led to some being weak and sick; and others actually dying (fallen asleep)*

38. What do they need to change in their meeting together, in verses 33 & 34?

*V33 - All eat together as one body of believers*

*V34 - If you're hungry, eat something before you arrive*

39. What significance does the Lord's Supper have for our fellowship?

*Shows us we all saved by the blood of Jesus - that we are the BODY of CHRIST.*

40. **Personal reflection:** How do you prepare for worship and the Lord's Supper and why?

*Examine my heart - is there unrepented sin?*

*Examine my heart - is there unresolved anger or dispute with someone?*

*Prayer of confession*

*Focus on Jesus' death and sacrifice*

*Read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion*

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Corinthians 11:2-34?

*Proper Worship practices*

*Honouring God*

*We are all one in the body of Christ*

*Note: Having addressed the Corinthians differences and failures in chapters 1 to 11 - we are heading to chapter 12 and spiritual gifts - which leads to the greatest gift of all - LOVE - in chapter 13*



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life**?

*Ensuring our corporate and personal worship shows reverence to God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus.*

*Mutual love and respect of each other (men and women)*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Pray that we would be reverent to God and respectful to others, in our worship.



## Appendix 1

### Paul's Journeys and Imprisonments (approximate dates)

<b>Journey/Imprisonment</b>	<b>Date</b>
Paul at Damascus	37-40 AD
First Journey (Acts 13:4-14:28)	45-48 AD
Second Journey (Acts 15:26-18:22)	49-52 AD
Third Journey (Acts 18:23-21:16)	53-57 AD
Imprisonment in Caesarea	58-60 AD
Voyage to Rome	60-61 AD
Imprisonment in Rome	61-63 AD
Post-Imprisonment Journeys	63-67 AD

## Appendix 2

### Approximate Dates of Paul's Letters

Letter	Date
1 Thessalonians	52 AD
2 Thessalonians	52 AD
Galatians	55-57 AD
1 Corinthians	57 AD
2 Corinthians	57 AD
Romans	57-58AD
Ephesians	62 AD
Philippians	62 AD
Colossians	62 AD
Philemon	63 AD
Titus	64-65 AD
1 Timothy	64-65 AD
2 Timothy	66-67 AD

**Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke**  
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**Resources:**

- The MacArthur Study Bible
- New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)
- 1 Corinthians (Geoffrey B. Wilson)
- Conflict & Community in Corinth - A socio-rhetorical commentary on 1 Corinthians 1 & 2 (Ben Witherington III)
- 1 Corinthians - Understanding the Bible Commentary Series (Marion L. Soards)
- The First Epistle to the Corinthians - The New International Commentary on the New Testament (F.W. Grosheide)

**Notes/Prayer Points**