

1 Corinthians



**5 more Studies in 1 Corinthians
(Part 3)**

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

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 - Concerning Spiritual Gifts - 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

(Sermon on 24-May-2020)

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

1. Why might the Corinthians be ignorant about Spiritual things according to verses 1 to 3?

The Corinthians past and their culture was wrapped up in the worship of mute (dumb) idols which led them astray. This wasn't a good preparation for understanding spiritual matters. If they thought mute idols were spiritual - then they had a completely wrong understanding and preparation for understanding true spiritual matters.

Note: two different words used in this passage:

***Pneumatikos** - could be spiritual things or spiritual people - used in v1*

***Charisma** - basically these are grace gifts given by God - used in verses 4, 9, 28, 30 and 31*

Context - some people in Corinth - thought they had exclusive use of charisma or they thought if they could speak in tongues or prophecy - they were somehow better than others who didn't have that gift; a bit like charismatic movement of recent times. Some people in Corinth resented those who thought this. So, Paul's point is all Christians have spiritual gifts (grace gifts) from one and the same Holy Spirit.

2. What does Paul tell them about spiritual things in verses 1 to 3?

Paul says 2 things:

a. Someone under the influence of the Spirit of God will say "Jesus be cursed"

b. And someone who is not under the influence of the Spirit of God will say "Jesus is Lord"

The Spirit of God living inside Christians - gives spiritual understanding

The Spirit of God produces spiritual gifts - and implies - they glorify God/Jesus.

3. **Think it through:** What is the test of spirituality?

That we don't curse Jesus - and we call Jesus Lord!

"When the Advocate [Holy Spirit] comes, whom I will send to you from the Father--the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father--he will testify about me [Jesus]" John 15:26

"He [Holy Spirit] will glorify me [Jesus] because it is from me that he will receive what He [Holy Spirit] will make known to you". John 16:14

4. How can we tell if we have the Holy Spirit?

We have Jesus as Lord of our lives and we want to glorify Him - because the Spirit is testifying to us about Jesus and make Jesus known to us!

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

5. How many sources are there of spiritual gifts?

Only one source - The Trinity.

The Spirit distributes the gifts

The Lord Jesus is served by the gifts

God, the Father, is at work in and through these gifts

6. How many gifts are there?

Many and different

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

7. Why are spiritual gifts given (verse 7)?

Spiritual gifts are given for the common good of everyone.

Note - spiritual gifts are not just for the good of the individual but for the body of believers!

See also Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

8. Who gives them?

God through the Spirit - v7, v8, and v9

9. On what basis are spiritual gifts given?

V11 - Just as God determines; i.e. as God wills.

10. List the gifts:

- *A message of wisdom*
- *A message of knowledge*
- *Faith*
- *Healing*
- *Miraculous powers*
- *Prophecy* [a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproof and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; esp. by foretelling future events]
- *Distinguishing (discerning) between spirits*
- *Speaking in different kinds of tongues* [Speaking in language/tongue you don't know]

Acts 2 - When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?"

- *Interpretation of tongues*

11. Did you think this is an exhaustive list?

No, these are categories.

In verse 28 - it talks about helps and guidance (administration - in NKJV)

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

12. How many bodies are there? How many parts of the body?

One body with many parts.

Paul is trying to teach the Corinthians that just as a healthy physical body functions properly when all the parts of the body are in harmony and working together; the same is true of the spiritual body of Jesus [The Church] - the

church functions harmoniously, when all the parts [members of the church] work together harmoniously.

13. What is it that makes us all part of one body?

When we were baptized by the Holy Spirit (not water) - when we become followers of Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit (John 1:3; 3:3, 5)

14. **Think it through:** What does it mean to be baptized in the Spirit?

It means we are marked as followers of Jesus.

When we are baptized of water - it is an outward sign - of what is happening inside, when we believe in Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit. This makes us part of the body of Christ and part of the body of believers.

15. Is it something some Christians have but others don't?

No! All Christians, according to v13, are baptized into the body of Christ, in One Spirit.

16. What would you say to someone who asked you if you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Yes, I have been born again (John 3:3) and baptized in the Spirit (1 Cor 12:13).

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26

17. Who arranged and combined the parts in the body? On what basis?

God arranged the members of the body - as He chose (v18)

18. How should the parts of the body see themselves in verses 25 to 26?

As one body with many parts.

If one suffers, all suffer!

If one honoured, all rejoice!

19. How should the parts of the body treat each other?

Therefore, no divisions - but same care for each other = equality

Like a family

20. **Discuss in your group:** Who might the stronger/weaker more honourable/less honourable members be?

The upfront people, those leading and participating in services may appear stronger.

The more extrovert personalities may appear stronger

The background people and quiet achievers may appear weaker

The quiet introvert people may appear weaker

But that is only a perception.

Paul says - we're all one - with mutual love, respect and care for one another

And just like each part of our physical body is important - ears, eyes, nose, arms and legs - so the same with the spiritual body of Christ - each part of the spiritual body is necessary - for the whole body to function properly

21. Why are there many different kinds of people in the church?

So, they can all work together for the common good of all (v7)

22. What should our attitude be to the roles of others in the church?

Honour, respect, appreciation, complimentary.

23. How does our "all being different" help us to be united in our troubles and in our joys?

Take a physical example - we need all our senses to drive - eyes, ears, arms and legs. Can't drive without them.

In the spiritual body - we need all the spiritual gifts working together - for the body to function. Someone might be gifted at preaching or teaching - but not so gifted at administration or hospitality or pastoral care or counselling. We all have different gifts - to support one another. At times, someone might need an ear to listen, eyes to see because their eyes aren't so good; or arms and legs to help others out.

We can then share our troubles and receive help.

And we can share our joys - and rejoice together.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

24. Who is the body of Christ?

We are individual members of the body of Christ (v27)

25. Who has appointed people and gifts to the church?

God appoints people in the church and bestows different gifts on them.

26. What is the answer to Paul's questions in verses 29-30?

Question - Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

Of course, not - see v4 and v28 - God gives different members of the body - different gifts.

27. What is the significance of your answer to the previous question?

We ALL have a role to play in our church family.

Every member is valuable.

28. **Think it through:** How would you respond to someone who says all Christians must speak in tongues or seek to speak in tongues?

Only some receive the gift of speaking in tongues (v10, v28, v30)

29. Why and how should we seek spiritual gifts?

Prayerfully seek spiritual gifts (not for ourselves) but for the common good of our church family (body of Christ).

V31a - we should earnestly (sincerely & genuinely) seek/desire these gifts

30. Does having a spiritual gift carry with it the right to use this gift?

Yes - V7 seems to suggest that once we are given a gift - it should be used for the common good of all.

31. How and why should we use our spiritual gifts?

How? for the benefit of others

Why? Being thankful to God for the grace gifts He has given us - and to bring glory to Him.

32. What do you think this **most excellent way** is, in verse 31b?

This most excellent way leads to chapter 13 and Paul speaking about love.

So, the most excellent way, is to use our spiritual gifts in a loving way - in fact Paul is going to argue in verse 13 - that there's not much point in having these gifts, if we don't show love with them...

The spiritual gifts are merely ways we can express and receive love from God and love to one another. We are vessels for God - expressing love.

33. How do you know what your spiritual gifts are?
- Pray and ask God to show us.*
 - Asking our Christian brothers and sisters what our gifts are.*
34. **Optional:** If you haven't already done this, please see **appendix 1** and complete the ***Spiritual Gifts/Skills Survey***, and return it to Paul or Lina.

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Corinthians 12:1-31?

We are all members of the Body of Christ - and we all have different gifts - which work together to bring glory to God - and for the common good of all in the body



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

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

- Thank God for our spiritual grace gifts*
- Use our spiritual gifts (not for ourselves) but for the benefit of others - and to glorify God*
- Encourage others in the use of their spiritual gifts*

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

*V4 - There are different kinds of gifts, but the Spirit distributes them.
V7 - Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

V12 - Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

V13 - For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Finish in prayer: Thanking God that we are all parts of the body of Christ; and thanking God that He has blessed us with different spiritual gifts. Ask God to help us use our spiritual gifts for the common good of all (1 Cor 12:7).

Study 2 - The Way of Love - 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

(Sermon on 07-Jun-2020)

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-30 to remind yourself of last study

1. How would you summarize chapter 12?

- *Spiritual gifts are for the common good (1 Cor 12:7)*
- *God (Holy Spirit) distributes spiritual gifts as He determines (1 Cor 12:11)*
- *All the spiritual gifts of the people in the church family are like a body - in fact the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12) - one body with many parts*
- *Each of us is part of the body of Christ - and we all have a different purpose - and the gifts work together (1 Cor 12:27)*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31

2. What does Paul mean by "now eagerly desire the greater gifts" and "and yet I will show you the most excellent way."

Even though the Holy Spirit gives the gifts, it is good and proper for us to desire these spiritual gifts, and ask God for them; for the common good of all and in submission to God's perfect plan for each one of us.

The "most excellent way" is the way of love. Paul is leading us into chapter 13 - where the focus is on love, not the spiritual gifts themselves. The spiritual gifts are merely ways we can express and receive love from God and love from one another. They are "vessels" or "containers" - and what is more important is what's in the container; that is love.

3. How would you define "love"?

Dictionary definition: an intense feeling of deep affection

We use love in our English language - in various ways

I love Jesus

I love my wife

I love my children

I love playing cricket

I love cooking

I love gardening

I love chocolate

Greek words for love in the Bible:

Eros = where we get erotic from = sexual pleasure

Philia = deep friendship, brotherly love (Philadelphia means brotherly love)

Storge = family love - like Mary and Martha

Agape = unconditional, sacrificial love - not necessarily expecting return'

Agape is the word used in 1 Corinthians 13 - it's God's love

Agape is used in many places in NT

Bible definition of love:

John 3:16 - For God so loved [verb: agapeo] the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:7 - Dear friends, let us love [verb: agapeo] one another, for love [noun: agape] comes from God. Everyone who loves [verb: agapeo] has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:9 - This is how God showed his love [noun: agape] among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

4. What might "the tongues of men or of angels" refer to?

Could be a language we don't know except through the gift of the Spirit giving us the ability to speak that language

It could be whatever "heavenly" language an angel speaks.

5. What does Paul mean by "a resounding gong" or "clanging cymbal"?

As my mother used to say - "empty vessels make the most noise"

Paul's point is using spiritual gifts without love - makes a person like an empty noisy vessel. i.e. makes us ineffective - in fact useless (like a chocolate teapot)

6. What other gifts are mentioned here? What are they?

V1 - speaking in tongues of men or angels

V2 - prophecy

V2 - fathom all mysteries and all knowledge

V2 - faith that can move mountains

V3 - gift of charity - giving to the poor

V3 - give over our body to hardship = martyr

7. What is the result if any of these gifts are used without love?

V3b - the person gains nothing. Basically, without love - a human being is nothing.

8. **Think it through:** What is Paul saying about love here?

Love is indispensable, invaluable, essential.

9. **Think it through:** How does this fit Paul's argument from chapter 12?

The purpose of the gifts in chapter 12 - was for the common good of all.

If gifts are used without love - they would not be for the common good.

Also, gives come from God - and we would not be honouring or glorifying God by using gifts in an unloving way.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

10. List the characteristics of love

- *Patient - literally suffers long - even when people annoy us or hurt us - i.e. we keep forgiving.*
- *Kind - people see us as friendly, generous and considerate*
- *Not envious - discontent with what we have and having a zeal for what someone else has - in competition with them*
- *Not boastful - not parading how good we are - and looking for praise*
- *Not proud - never a big head - never arrogant*
- *Not dishonouring others - shows respect and good manners*
- *Not self-seeking - not selfish, not all about me! Other-centred, selflessness*
- *Not easily angered - don't lose your temper (remember what Moses did in Numbers 20:2-11)*
- *No record of past wrongs - don't bring all the past hurts and fights to the table - apply grace and forgiveness*
- *Not delighting in evil - evil is the opposite to God and the opposite to love*
- *Always protects - better translation is puts up or bears all things - literally means covers over someone*
- *Always trusts - trusting that God is in control - trusting the other person*
- *Always hopes - Always looks for the best ahead*
- *Always perseveres - doesn't look back - keeps going to the end.*
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11. What is it that all these characteristics of love have in common? (cf. 1 Cor 10:24)

They are seeking the good of the other person; not our own good.

Selflessness

12. Which parts of this love description do you find easy to live?

At times we may find some of these parts easier than others

Personally: kindness, truth and hope - come easier than the others

13. Which parts of this love description do you find difficult to live?

Due to our sinful nature, there will be times where we find each one of these parts difficult.

Personally: selfishness, keeping record of wrongs and persevering are more difficult.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

14. What is the contrast between love and these spiritual gifts?

Love keeps going - it doesn't fail, whereas prophecies will cease, tongues will be stilled, knowledge will pass away

15. Why will these gifts disappear?

Because we won't need them anymore

16. When will these gifts disappear?

When we are with the Lord forever; either through the return of Jesus or when we die - whichever comes first.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

17. What analogies does Paul use in verses 11 and 12? What point is he making?

Analogy - When we were children - we acted childishly; but when we grew up - we stopped acting like a child and acted like an adult (in theory!)

Paul's point - childish things are appropriate for a child, and spiritual gifts are appropriate for our present life. But the gifts of the spirit will not be appropriate forever, because there's a time coming when we'll be present with the Lord forever.

18. What three things remain?

Faith, hope and love.

19. Which is the greatest? Why? (cf. Matt 22:37-40; John 3:16; John 15:13; 1 Cor 16:14; Galatians 5:6; 1 John 4:7-12, 16; 1 Peter 4:8)

Greatest is Love!

Why?

Matt 23:37-40 - Because Jesus summarized the commandments down to loving God and loving each other - therefore love is most important thing.

John 3:16 - God showed His love by sending Jesus so we wouldn't perish but have eternal life. Without that love, we would have no hope.

John 15:13 - There's no greater love than do lay down your life for your friends. Jesus went ahead and proved it - by the cross

1 Cor 16:14 - Paul teaches we should do all things in love (not just some things)

Gal 5:6 - Paul says the only thing that matters is expressing our faith through love.

1 John 4:7-12 - God is love. God showed His love by sending His Son.

1 Peter 4:8 - Peter says love covers a multitude of sins. See the cross!

Think it through

20. When do we need spiritual gifts? Why do we need spiritual gifts?

When we are on this Earth.

Why? For the common good of all. So that more and more people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

21. How should the way of love impact our thinking about spiritual gifts?

Love should be at the forefront of how we use our spiritual gifts.

This should help us to focus on loving people into the kingdom.

WWJD.

22. How can we better walk the way of love in our lives and in our church? [Be practical and specific]

Pastoral Care

Evangelism - so people don't miss out on Jesus

Disciple making

*Mentoring - pass the baton on
SRE*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13?

The most excellent way of love



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

Love never fails. We just fail to love properly.



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

Examine whether we are using our gifts in a loving way.

Which of the list that describes love - do we need to work on?

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

V8a - love never fails.

V13b - the greatest is love.

Finish in prayer: Thanking God for the gift of love, shown in & through Jesus.
Ask God to help us to use the spiritual gifts we have been given with love.

Study 3 - 'Gifts' that build - 1 Corinthians 14:1-40

(Sermon on 14-Jun-2020)

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1a

1. What does it mean to "follow the way of love"? (clue: 1 Corinthians 13)

As we learnt last week, it means: in the way we use our spiritual gifts and in fact, in the way, we live our lives; we need to show love [agape love] to everyone. That is the unconditional and sacrificial love of Jesus, as displayed in His life and His death.

And remember, Paul said at the end of chapter 13 - love is the greatest!

2. What does it mean to "eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit"?

The Corinthians certainly had a passion (perhaps an obsession) in pursuing spiritual gifts; but they were doing it sometimes without love.

The Greek word for desire here is where we get "zeal" from.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1b-5

3. What two gifts is Paul comparing here? Explain what these gifts are.

- a. *Speaking in tongues [glossa] - especially a language not acquired naturally*
- b. *Prophecy [propheteuo] - foretelling future events especially related to God's kingdom; declaring knowledge which can only be known by divine revelation; or the impulse from God to teach, refute, reprove, admonish and comfort others*

4. Which does Paul prefer, and why?

Paul prefers prophecy rather than speaking in tongues.

Prophecy speaks to people to strengthen, encourage and comfort them.

Tongues does not speak to people but to God. Therefore, personal and not corporate. Unless someone interprets it.

Paul prefers prophecy because it edifies the church.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-9

5. What illustrations does Paul use in these verses, and what's his point?

Illustration - Paul mentions a pipe or harp - if they are played without any distinction in the notes then it's not much use to anyone.

Illustration - Paul mentions a trumpet call for battle - the soldiers need to hear clearly the call for battle, or it's no use to them.

Paul's point is - it's there's no point in speaking in a different tongue if the person listening is not getting any revelation or knowledge or instruction from God (v6) - and if no one can understand the language they are speaking - they might as well speak into the air (v9)

Read 1 Corinthians 14:10-12

6. What analogy does Paul use, and what's his point?

Paul uses the example of a foreigner not understanding what the speaker is saying. His point is the speaker and the listener will be like foreigners/strangers if they can't understand each other.

7. What gifts should we seek in verse 12?

Paul's point is that the Corinthians are obsessed with spiritual gifts but they've made it all about themselves and how good they are. Paul says they should eagerly desire and excel in spiritual gifts that build up the church; not themselves!

Read 1 Corinthians 14:13-19

8. According to the Bible, what should a tongue speaker do when he/she speaks in tongues and why?

V13- When speaking in tongues, pray that they may interpret it.

V14 - That speaking in tongues will bear fruit

V15 - That speaking in tongues will also produce understanding

V16 - When speaking in tongues the listener is able to say "Amen" because they understand it

V17 - When speaking in tongues and giving thanks; others are edified.

Paul's point is tongues without anyone understanding it, benefits only the person that is speaking in tongues.

Therefore, even though Paul speaks in tongues more than anyone (v18) - he would rather speak 5 words of instruction to the church than 1000 words in a tongue that no one understands.

Bottom line - understanding and mutual benefit is paramount.

Think it through

9. How should the way of love dictate our use of gifts in church? [i.e. what should the purpose be for using gifts?]

Purpose should be to:

- a. Show love of Jesus
- b. Encourage
- c. Comfort
- d. Edify
- e. Help

10. What practical implications does this have for what we do and don't do as a church?

Each ministry in our church should be examined through v12 - does it build up the church family; if not, why are we doing it? Is it for our own ego and self-indulgence?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

11. Paul quotes Isaiah 28:11-12 (see Isaiah 28:9-12). What's the context in Isaiah? The context in v9-10, the ungodly priests and prophets are being sarcastic towards Isaiah and mocking his straight forward teaching - saying that he's teaching them like children - v10 - do this, do that. But he's teaching them like that because they are like disobedient children. And because they're not getting it, Isaiah says very well God will speak to them through foreign lips - this points to the Assyrians and Babylonians coming to Israel to teach them a lesson; but still they did not listen.

Paul's point is - it's okay to be childlike when it comes to evil - and simply say No, to evil. But when it comes to teaching and understanding God's Word, Paul wants them to stop thinking childishly that speaking some foreign language that no one is able to understand, is not going to help anyone. They need to be more mature than that.

12. Who are the men of strange tongues, a) in Isaiah, & b) in Corinth?

- a. In Isaiah, it's Assyrian and Babylonians - a sign of judgment
- b. In Corinth; it's people speaking in tongues

Paul's point is that in Isaiah's day the foreign tongues were not a blessing but a curse (a sign of judgment). Paul's saying to the Corinthians, be careful that this gift of speaking, if you forget the Giver of the gift, might turn the blessing of the gift into a curse.

13. What's the purpose of tongues and prophecy in verse 22?

Tongues are a sign to unbelievers.

Guzik says this: Perhaps Paul is saying something like this: "If you insist on speaking in tongues in your church meetings, instead of in your own personal devotional life, the only good that comes from that use of tongues is that it is a sign of judgment to unbelievers. Because they think you are crazy when they hear you speaking in tongues, it simply shows they don't understand the things of God and are headed towards judgment. But how much better if you were to emphasize prophecy instead of tongues, then everyone could be blessed, believer and unbeliever together!"

14. What will happen to an inquirer or unbeliever if we're all speaking in tongues?

They will think we are out of our minds.

15. What will happen to an inquirer or unbeliever if we're prophesying?

They will be convicted in their hearts of their sin and brought under judgment; and then fall down before God in repentance. Much more beneficial than listening to tongues they can't understand.

Think it through

16. How does the way of love dictate the exercising of our gifts in the presence of unbelievers?

An unbeliever should not feel like they've come into an exclusive club where they don't feel they can fit in. They should feel welcomed and see love in action. That way they will respond positively; not withdraw.

17. How do we best test our gifts in our church?

- a. *Do they line up with God's Word?*
- b. *Do they show love?*
- c. *Do they show compassion?*
- d. *Do they edify people?*

Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-33a

18. What does it seem that is happening in the church at Corinth (verse 26)?
*V26 - As they gathered together (and remember probably in the context of a "house" church) - each person came with a hymn, a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or interpretation. Everyone ministering to each other. This would not work so well in a church setting of 100 people; but would work well in a home group setting. Of course, the pitfall would be where some people don't have sound doctrine and then lead others astray!
 In our context - v26 would probably happen in home groups - and before and after church as people talk together.*

19. What rule does Paul give in verse 26b?

The purpose is for the church to be built up!

20. What rules does Paul lay down for the use of tongues in church?

- a. *Only 2 or 3 speaking in tongues.*
- b. *Speak one at a time.*
- c. *Must be an interpreter.*
- d. *Otherwise keep quiet and speak with God only.*

21. What rules does Paul lay down for the use of prophecy in church?

- a. *2 or 3 prophets should speak*
- b. *Others evaluate carefully what was said (must agree with God's Word)*
- c. *If someone receives a revelation, the current speaker should stop*
- d. *Everyone prophesying takes their turn.*

22. What reasons does Paul give?

- a. *So, everyone is instructed and encouraged.*
- b. *So that there is order within worship. God is not a God of disorder but of peace.*

Read 1 Corinthians 14:33b-35

23. What rules does Paul lay down for women to participate in church and why?
 (cf. Genesis 3:16; 1 Cor 11:5, 13; Eph 5:22; 1 Tim 2:11-12)

Women are not to speak but must be in submission. Ask questions to their husbands at home.

Why?

Genesis 3:16 - because God made the man to rule over the women; i.e. man is spiritual head of the household.

1 Cor 11:5 - women praying should have their heads covered. This is a symbol of being under the spiritual headship of men.

1 Cor 11:13 - similarly, women to have their heads covered when praying as a symbol of being under the spiritual headship of men.

Eph 5:22 - Wives to submit to husbands (as spiritual head of the house)

1 Tim 2:11-12 - Women to learn in quietness and submission. Women not to teach or to assume authority over a man.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:36-48

24. What is the relationship between being spiritual and the Lord's command?
(cf. 1 Cor 12:1-3)

Being spiritual and the Lord's command go hand in hand.

God's Spirit gives us spiritual gifts and God commands (through the Apostle Paul) how these gifts are to be used.

25. What is the relationship between the Lord's command and Paul's writings?
What Paul is writing is actually God's Word.

26. What happens if we ignore Paul's commands?
We will be ignored too!

Read 1 Corinthians 14:39-40

27. How should gifts be exercised in church, and why?

In a fitting and orderly way.

As commanded by God.

For the glory of God and for the edification of the church.

A tongue-twisting discussion for your group

28. Are tongues meant to still exist? **Yes/No/Unsure** (circle your response)
If so, how does it compare with the modern phenomenon known as "speaking in tongues"?

Some people today babble in a foreign tongue and this is purely for their own edification. This should be done in private and not corporately.

Paul's teaching here is that tongues are not the most important gift; and if used they should be interpreted so everyone benefits. Also, speaking in tongues is not compulsory and no one should be looked down upon, if they don't.

See also: <https://www.gotquestions.org/gift-of-tongues.html>

Should prophecy still exist? **Yes**/No/Unsure (circle your response)

If so, how does it compare with the modern phenomenon known as prophecy?

In recent years, we have had people come out with prophecies particularly related to Jesus' return and the end of the world.

Prophecy [words from God previously unknown or foretelling future] still exist. However, we need to be mindful of testing what a prophet says is true (see Deut 18:20-22; 1 Thes 5:20-21; 1 John 4:1). Also, see Hebrews 1:1-2: In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

See also: <https://www.gotquestions.org/prophets-today.html>

29. What did the church in Corinth look like? Should we be the same as them?

Explain your view.

Some in Corinth obsessed on spiritual gifts (especially tongues and prophecy) and looked down on those who didn't have these gifts. Some edified themselves rather than using the gifts for the common good of all and to edify the church. This caused disunity and divisions.

We should not emulate this

30. How should we deal with prophecy and tongues in our meetings?

- a. *They should be understandable.*
- b. *They should follow God's pattern as outlined by Paul.*
- c. *They should edify.*
- d. *They should be verified by God's Holy Word.*

31. Why should we do everything in a fitting and orderly way in our church?

- a. *Because God is a God of order*
- b. *To bring glory to God*
- c. *To edify the body*

32. What should men and women be allowed to do in church?

- a. *Men teach everyone*
- b. *Women teach women and children [Women could teach men in Bible Study as they would still be under the spiritual oversight of the elders]*
- c. *Note: women complement men in ministry*

33. What shouldn't we do in church? On what basis should we decide?

- a. *We should not do anything that is contrary to God's word.*
- b. *We should not do anything which does not bring glory to God.*
- c. *We should not do anything that does not edify the church.*

34. **Optional question:** Look up the definition of "regulative" and "normative" forms of worship, and decide what you think.

Regulative form of worship: *The corporate worship of God is to be founded upon the specific directions of Scripture.*

Normative form of worship: *The corporate worship of God in the church can include those elements that are not prohibited by Scripture.*

<https://www.gotquestions.org/regulative-normative-worship.html>



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

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

Use our spiritual gifts according to God's word - in a way that is loving and edifying

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

V1 *Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy*

V12 *So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.*

V40 *But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

Finish in prayer: Pray that in our worship we would glorify God and edify the body of Christ?

Study 4 - The Resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

(Sermon on 21-Jun-2020)

Before we begin: What happens when we die?

CHAPTER 32 - Of the State of Man After Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

I. The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls (which neither die nor sleep), having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. [ref 1] The souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; [ref 2] and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day [ref 3]. Besides these two places for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

II. At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: [ref 4] and all the dead shall be raised up with the self-same bodies, and none other, although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever. [ref 5]

III. The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour; the bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honour, and be made conformable to his own glorious body. [ref 6]

Ref 1 - LUK 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in paradise. **ECC 12:7** Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Ref 2 - HEB 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. **2CO 5:1** For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **6** Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. **8** We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the

body, and to be present with the Lord. PHI 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better. ACT 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. EPH 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

Ref 3 - LUK 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ACT 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. JUD 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. 1PE 3:19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison.

Ref 4 - 1TH 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1CO 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed

Ref 5 - JOB 19:26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me. 1CO 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Ref 6 - ACT 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. **JOH 5:28** Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, **29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. **1CO 15:43** It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. **PHI 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1. What problem does Paul address in these verses?

There seems there might be some doubt that Jesus rose from the dead - since in v1 he reminds them of the Gospel he preached and he says 'unless you believed in vain'

2. Why would Paul take them back to the Gospel (verse 1)?

The Gospel is fundamental to our faith. Without the Gospel we don't have forgiveness or eternal life.

3. What did Paul do with the Gospel?

He preached it as the truth - v1

Delivered it to the Corinthians as of first importance - v3

4. What did they do with it?

V1 - received it and they stand upon it. Unless they believed in vain?

5. What does the Gospel do (verse 2)?

Saves people [from sin and death and Hell]

6. What does this tell us about the Gospel?

It's lifesaving and life transforming.

7. What significance is there in the fact that Jesus was buried?

This means he was actually dead - not just wounded or passed out

8. To whom did Jesus appear (verses 5-7 and Acts 1:3-5), and why is this important?

To Cephas (Peter) - the Apostles; 500 brothers (most still alive); then James (Jesus' brother) and to Paul - over a period of 40 days (Acts 1:3)

It's importance because we have eye-witnesses to Jesus' resurrection.

Unlikely that many people could be in collusion.

In our courts today - we don't need that many witnesses to prove a case.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

9. In verses 12-19, what is the implication of saying there's no resurrection of the dead

If Christ is not risen - then there's no resurrection for anyone else.

Preaching is useless - back then and now.

Our faith is useless/futile.

People like Paul have been false witnesses - i.e. telling lies.

The people who have fallen asleep (already died) are lost - they haven't gone to Heaven.

Our hope is only in this life - there is nothing beyond our death.

It calls into question the truth of the whole Bible.

10. **Discuss in your group:** What are some of the substitutes to resurrection, and how should we respond to them?

Here's some:

- a. *Jesus' body stolen - it would be in the best interest of Jewish leaders and officials to produce his body.*
- b. *Jesus wasn't really dead - just fainted (swoon theory) - but no one could survive a Roman crucifixion*
- c. *The women and disciples lied about Jesus' resurrection - impossible for that many people to collude. Why would so many people be prepared to die for a lie.*

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

11. What does it mean that Jesus is the firstfruits (verse 20) (cf. Lev 23:9-14)?

Just like in the OT harvest festival - the priest the first sheaf of grain of the harvest to the Lord - which assured the Jews of God's blessing on the whole

harvest. In the same way, Jesus' resurrection, as the firstfruits, assures our own resurrection one day.

12. What do Adam and Christ have in common?

Both men. Jesus was fully man as well as fully God.

13. What's different about them?

Adam causes all of us to die. Jesus makes us alive.

Adam sinned. Jesus didn't (he took our sin upon Himself - even though perfect and without sin)

14. What will Jesus do at the end (verses 24 to 28)?

Hands over kingdom to the Father - after destroying Satan's power.

Puts all enemies under his feet - including death.

14. What is Jesus doing in the world today? (verse 25)

Reigning until all enemies are defeated once and for all.

15. Why is it important for death to be destroyed? (cf. Gen 2:17; 3:19; Rom 5:12; Rom 6:23)

Genesis 2:17 - eating the forbidden fruit brings death

Genesis 3:19 - man formed from dust and will return to dust

Romans 5:12 - Sin entered the world through Adam and because of that, death came to all people.

Romans 6:23 - Wages of sin is death - BUT - the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is important that death is destroyed because that was not God's plan for humankind. Humankind was designed to live and enjoy God forever. However, because of Adam and Eve's sin - sin and death came into the world for everyone. But God had a plan to fix this brokenness by sending Jesus to fix the punishment of sin and fix the problem of people dying; so that they can spend eternity with God. This can't happen unless, death is destroyed.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-34

16. What does Paul mean when he speaks of baptism of the dead (verse 29)?

It seems like there was a superstitious custom, where some people had died before they had ever been baptized. Paul is not necessarily condoning this practice but saying, why would there been such a practice of baptism of dead people - if resurrection doesn't exist?

17. Why does Paul speak of suffering in verses 30 to 32?

Paul's point is why would he suffer in his work in spreading the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection; if it's not true? He would be crazy to do that for a complete falsehood.

18. **Think it through:** How does the average Aussie think they're getting to Heaven?

Aussie thinking might include:

- a. I'll get to Heaven by being "good".*
- b. "Everyone goes to Heaven" and "Hell doesn't exist".*
- c. God wouldn't let people go to Hell, would he?*
- d. No such place - this life is all there is - just enjoy it while you can.*

19. Does verse 32 undermine this thinking?

V32 - is saying, why would Paul fight off wild beasts in Ephesus if our hopes were just on Earth and not in Heaven; then the attitude would be party until we die.

20. How can we use 'the resurrection' **evangelistically**?

- a. At funerals.*
- b. Ask people what they think happens when they die.*
- c. There is a better place than Earth - where there are no more tears, or pain or suffering or death.*

21. How should our theology of resurrection impact our lives today?

We are not just thinking about this life on Earth.

We are thinking about the eternity for ourselves and for others.

Our attitude should be - Jesus' is coming back one day - our job is to spread the Gospel so everyone hears about it, so they don't miss out.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-41

22. What two issues does Paul address in verse 35; and how might they relate to the first part of the chapter.
- How are the dead raised?*
 - What kind of body?*

It relates to the first part of the chapter in that Jesus appeared to be fully functional in his resurrected body; what will it be like for us?

23. What analogies does Paul use, in verses 36-41; what's Paul's point here?
- Analogy one - We have to die - like a dead seed which is planted and comes to life. This is a picture of our dead body going into the ground and they rising again.*
 - Analogy two - people, animals, birds and fish have different types of bodies; so do we*
 - Analogy three - earthly and heavenly bodies are different. Even sun, moon and planets are all different.*

Paul's point - our new body will be suitable for Heaven - not for this Earth. Also, we will all be different.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

24. How will our resurrected bodies compare with our present bodies?
- Present body is perishable - resurrected body is imperishable*
 - Present body is dishonoured (because sinful) - resurrected body is glorious*
 - Present body is weak - resurrected body is raised in power*
 - Present body is natural (physical) - resurrected body is spiritual*

Read 1 Corinthians 15:44-50

25. Which body came first?

The natural (physical) body came first; then the spiritual

26. How do Adam and Christ differ, and how are they the same?

Adam came from the dust of the Earth

Jesus came from Heaven

Adam a living being

Jesus a life-giving spirit

Both in God's image.

27. What point is Paul making with the "Adam - Christ" comparison? (cf. v50)
The earthly body (flesh and blood) cannot inherit the Kingdom of God because it is perishable. Therefore, resurrected body will be imperishable so it can be in eternity in Heaven.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

28. What is the mystery, and when will it happen?

Mystery is we will not all sleep (die) - because Jesus will return one day - and those who are still alive won't die.

However, mystery is also that we will all be changed (into imperishable bodies)

When? When Jesus returns!

29. What will have happened when we are resurrected?

The dead will be raised with imperishable (never-dying) bodies.

We will all be changed - ready for Heaven.

We will become immortal.

Death will be swallowed up in victory - because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

30. What victory is described?

Victory over sin - sin's punishment (death) is gone.

Victory over the law - which has the power to identify our sin.

Victory over death.

All, only possible, because of Jesus.

31. What 3 commands does Paul give in verse 58?

1. Stand firm.

2. Let nothing move you.

3. Give ourselves to the work of the Lord (=Gospel = Great Commission) because our labour for the Lord is not in vain.

32. What is our motivation to obey these commands?

a. We are working for the Lord

b. We don't want anyone to perish and miss out on Heaven

33. **Think it through:** What is our labour in the Lord, and why isn't our labour in the Lord in vain?

Telling people, the Good News of Jesus.

Not in vain because God wants us to bear fruit - fruit that lasts.

Luke 15:10 - "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

34. Do you believe: a) Jesus was resurrected from the dead; and b) we will be resurrected from the dead?

a) *Yes*

b) *Yes*

35. How should this impact on our work for the Gospel?

There should be an urgency and a compassion to help those who are lost from God - to become believers in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Corinthians 15:1-58?

Christ is raised from the dead - and we can be confident will be too. IF we believe in Jesus' death and resurrection.



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

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

a. *We have a certain hope of Heaven, which should help us to continue our labour on Earth - even though this life on Earth is difficult.*

b. *We have a purpose (a job) to do for the Lord - in sharing the Gospel.*

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

V20

V51

V58

Finish in prayer: Thanking God for Jesus' resurrection and His victory over sin and death. Thank God for our certain hope of our own resurrection.

Study 5 – Final Advice – 1 Corinthians 16:1- 24

(Sermon on 28-Jun-2020)

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

1. In this context, who are the Lord's people (verses 1 to 4)

The Lord's people are fellow Christians (literally saints in Greek).

From verse 4, we see that these are the believers in Jerusalem.

We know from Acts 6:1-6 - there were many widows in Jerusalem and from Acts 11:27-30, there was a famine.

2. **Check Romans 15:25-27.** What do these verses tell us about the nature of the collection Paul is talking about? (cf. Acts 9:13, 24:17)

Romans 15:26 - 'the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem'

What a contrast between Acts 9:13 and 24:17 - in the former, a disciple named Ananias says how much harm Saul/Paul has done to the people of Jerusalem (as at this point Paul is unconverted and persecuting Christians); whereas in the latter, Paul is bringing gifts to the poor in the Jerusalem church.

3. What process does Paul set down in 1 Corinthians 16:2-4?

Each Lord's Day (Sunday) - put aside a sum of money, in keeping with one's income, in readiness for Paul coming to Corinth.

Paul didn't want to have a collection and twist people's arms when he arrived with some fund-raiser; he wanted the Corinthians to think about other churches all the time.

Then Corinthians will appoint men to take their gift to Jerusalem; Paul will give letters of introduction; but the Corinthians choose who they send.

4. **Think it through:** What is Paul trying to achieve through the collection?

Foster the idea that all believers give something to the collection (according to their income).

Unity across churches.

Foster a willingness to support other churches in need.

A feeling of belonging.

5. Does this passage (1 Corinthians 16:1-4) tell us anything about how we should give? If so, what?

- a. Regularly.
- b. Willingly.
- c. Lovingly.
- d. According to our income.

See also 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

6. **Discuss in your group:** Is it incorrect to refer to taking up a collection, as an offering? Yes/No/Maybe? Why/Why not?

The Greek word used in verse 1 and verse 4 means 'a collection of money gathered for the relief of the poor' - and only used here in 1 Cor 16:1, 4.

{other places 2 Cor 8:19 - word translated offering is 'gracious work'}

In Romans 8:3; 15:6; Eph 5:2; Phil 2:17; 4:18; 2 Tim 4:6; Heb 10:5, 6, 8; 11:4; 13:11 - offering used in terms of sin offering or sacrifice to the Lord

On balance, offering seems to be more in line with a sacrifice to God. However, when we give money to the church/poor - we are thanking God for enabling us to have money to give in the first place; and we are making a sacrifice in giving it; and then relying on God to show us how to use this money for the benefit of His people and His Kingdom work; so in that sense we are offering it to God too.

Therefore, seems 'collection' and 'offering' are interchangeable; as long as we accept there is another meaning for offering - as in the Old Testament temple sacrifices.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-9

7. What's stopping Paul from visiting the Corinthians now?

- a. *He doesn't want it to be a flying visit; he wants to spend quality time with them.*
- b. *Has a great door of opportunity at Ephesus he would like to explore first.*

8. Why does Paul want to eventually revisit the churches he mentions?

To check on progress, to encourage and to correct.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:10-18

9. In verses 10 to 11, how should the Corinthians treat Timothy? Why?

How - don't give him anything to fear. Don't treat him with contempt. Send him on his way in peace -so he can return to Paul.

In 1 Tim 4:12 - Timothy lacked confidence and was disrespected because of his youth

Why - because Timothy is carrying out the Lord's work, not his own; and so, deserves respect and honour for that.

10. Why might they not treat him this way? (cf. 1 Timothy 4:12; 5:23)

¹²*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are **young**, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity (1 Tim 4:12)*

²³*Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your **stomach** and your **frequent illnesses** (1 Tim 5:23)*

11. What does verse 12 tell us about Apollos and Paul's relationship?

They are friends, despite they perceived rivalry (1 Cor 1:12)

Paul respects Apollos' ministry (no hierarchy) and wanted him to go to Corinthians (therefore no jealousy); however, Apollos will go when he has opportunity.

12. What does Paul command them to do, in verse 13 and 14, and why?

V13 - Be on their guard [watch]. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous and strong.

V14 - Do everything in love [agape]

13. What is the focus of these commands?

Love! Sounds familiar - the most excellent way (1 Cor 12:31b and 1 Cor 13)

14. In verses 15 to 17, who might Stephanus, Fortunatus and Achaicus be?
These were the men who brought the questions of the Corinthian Christians to Paul. And Paul sends them back with this letter. Paul wants them to be treated well - they deserve recognition.
Stephanus mentioned in 1 Cor 1:16 - he and his household baptized.
It seems Fortunatus and Achaicus were two household slaves of Stephanus.
15. How did they supply was lacking from the Corinthians (verse 17)?
They made up for the Corinthians lack of communication and lack of adherence to Paul's teaching; and lack of loyalty. Which refreshed Paul.
16. How should the Corinthians treat them (verse 16)?
Submit to them (as they have been sent with Apostolic authority)

Read 1 Corinthians 16:19-24

17. Why does Paul end his letter with greetings?
To show unity with the other churches of Asia.
To show that even though, much of his letter, has been rebuking them, the Corinthians are still well loved and part of the body of believers in Christ.
18. Why does Paul add his own greeting in his own writing? (cf. 2 Thes 3:17)
This is a distinguishing Mark of his letters (2 Thes 3:17).
Paul used a scribe (an amanuensis) at times - See also Romans 16:22; Gal 6:11; Eph 4:18; Philemon 19.
This shows it is authentically Paul's writing.
19. What does this tell us about how the letter was written? (cf. Romans 16:22)
Most likely dictated
20. Who is the one who does not love the Lord? (verse 22)
Any unbeliever.
21. Why would Paul pray for the Lord to come? (verse 22) (cf. Rev 22:20)
So that all he's said in 1 Corinthians 15 can occur. Judgement and resurrected body and with the Lord forever.

22. What does it mean for the grace of the Lord Jesus to be with someone?
(verse 23)

If someone has the Lord Jesus' grace - it means they acknowledge that God has sent His Son (as a free gift) and they have accepted His Son as their Lord.

23. How does Paul end his letter and why?

With the love of Christ - which he has emphasized throughout his letter!

Think it through:

24. What is Paul's attitude to the Corinthians?

One of loving correction and sincerity.

25. How has this dictated the way he has treated them?

He has majored on love (agape)

26. What should our attitude be to one another?

Using our gifts with love.

Correcting with love.

Encouraging with love.

This chapter makes it very clear that Paul's ministry was all about the Gospel, and Gospel focused people who love other people.

What might these mean for our attitude as a **church**:

a. Towards property & ownership matters?

All we have is only because God has blessed us with it; therefore, share it.

b. Use of our finances?

Use our finances to help others and show love to those less fortunate in our church.

What might these mean for our attitude as **individuals**:

a. Towards property & ownership matters?

All we have is only because God has blessed us with it; therefore, share it.

b. Use of our finances?

Not our own money; but the Lord's. Ask the Lord to guide us in how to use it for His work.

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Corinthians 16:1-24?

Showing Love in Christ in all we do.



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



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

How can we show the love of Christ in all we do?

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

V13 and V14

Finish in prayer: Pray that we would show the love of Christ to all we meet.

Appendix 1 - Spiritual Gifts/Skills Survey

Feet Go!



Hands Do!

During our discussions on Vision Sunday, we agreed that we would conduct a Spiritual Gifts/Skills Survey, to determine how best our church family can serve the Lord in various ministries here at St. David's. From Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4 and various other Bible passages, it is clear that God has blessed us with spiritual gifts and skills for the mutual benefit of one another.

PLEASE TAKE TIME OUT, TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SURVEY

NAME: _____

Read each statement below and mark one of the following letters:

Y = Definitely true of me

N or Blank = Not true of me

S = Sometimes true of me

? = I'm not sure

- ___ Administration: I have computer skills in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- ___ Administration: I have secretarial skills and manage details well
- ___ Administration: I have accountancy or book-keeping experience
- ___ Discernment: The gift of discerning truth and error according to God's Word
- ___ Evangelism: I have a great desire to engage with non-Christians and effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- ___ Encouragement: I have the gift of comforting, challenging and affirming those who are having difficulty with their lives and their faith
- ___ Faith: I have the ability to trust God's faithfulness to provide a way in all circumstances
- ___ Giving: I have the Spirit given ability to contribute significant personal and material resources to the Lord's work freely, cheerfully and sacrificially
- ___ Healing: I have the Spirit given gift to serve as a human intermediary through whom it pleases God to heal a person spiritually, emotionally or physically
- ___ Serving: I am able to serve in various ministries in such a way that it increases the effectiveness of others – without the need for recognition or human praise
- ___ Hospitality: I like preparing meals for people and delivering meals to their home
- ___ Hospitality: I like working/helping in the kitchen
- ___ Hospitality: I like preparing morning and/or afternoon tea
- ___ Hospitality: I am comfortable offering accommodation, safety & security to those in need
- ___ Welcoming: I like welcoming and talking to new people

- ___ Prayer: I am able to pray from the heart with intensity, fervency and perseverance on behalf of the needs of others, on a regular basis
- ___ Leadership: God has gifted me with leadership skills and I have led successfully led various ministries or groups
- ___ Leadership: I am competent at leading Sunday Services
- ___ Mercy: I have the ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion
- ___ Shepherding: I have the special ability to assume a shepherding responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers and to equip them for ministry
- ___ Teaching: God has gifted me with the ability to communicate God's truth to others in such a way that it brings understanding and application
- ___ Teaching: God has gifted me with the ability to teach and disciple children
- ___ Preaching: God has gifted me with the ability to expound and exhort God's Word
- ___ Pastoral Care: I like to phone people to chat, encourage & listen to them
- ___ Pastoral Care: I have a heart for people and get joy in visiting them in their home
- ___ Pastoral Care: I have a gift of compassion and like to visit people in hospital and age care facilities
- ___ Practical: If you need something built or fixed, bring it to me
- ___ Practical: I have experience in gardening and building maintenance
- ___ Music: I am able to play a musical instrument; please specify _____
- ___ Music: People say that God has blessed me with a wonderful singing voice
- ___ Creative Communication: I have been gifted with the ability to communicate God's truths through visual, written or performing arts; specify: _____
- ___ Discipleship: I am good at inspiring and motivating people
- ___ Discipleship: I enjoy helping people to grow in love for Jesus and His Word
- ___ Missions: I have a heart for Missions and Missionaries
- ___ Counselling: I have the ability to listen to people and guide them with wisdom from God's Word
- I have formal qualifications in the following areas: _____
- _____
- God has blessed me with the following talent(s) not already mentioned above:
- _____
- _____

Thank you for completing the survey

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