

“Lessons Learned From First Corinthians”

1 Corinthians 16:13-24

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Teaching Aim: To review some of the lessons learned as we’ve studied through **the Book of 1 Corinthians**. To realize church is a group effort, no one person can do it alone. To examine the final principles Paul laid out in this incredible book. To apply the principles learned in **1 Corinthians** to our churches and our lives today.

Part I: Paul’s final words of encouragement to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 16:13-18)

1. What can we learn about the household of Stephanas from **verse 15**? Where have we seen Stephanas mentioned before? (See **1 Cor. 1:16**) According to **verse 16**, does it appear the Corinthians had “*little*” or “*much*” respect for Stephanas and his household? Why do you think several members of the Corinthian church may have been angry at him? What was Paul’s response to these individuals?

2. What did Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus supply for Paul that the rest of the Corinthians had not (**vv. 17 & 18**)? Why is it important for every Christian worker to have other believers come alongside to encourage and help them? According to Paul’s instructions, how should the church respond to these three men once they return to Corinth (**vs. 18**)?

Part II: Greetings and Paul’s conclusion to the letter (1 Cor. 16:13-24)

3. The churches in Asia would include the biblical cities of Colosse, Laodicea, Hierapolis, and the city from which Paul wrote this letter, Ephesus (**vs. 19**)? Who were Aquila and Priscilla and what was their relationship to the Apostle Paul (See **Acts 18:1-4, 24-26**) How important was their ministry to Paul? What fact can we learn about Aquila and Priscilla from **Rom. 16:3-5** and **1 Cor. 16:19**? Why do most churches meet in large buildings today instead of in homes like they did in biblical days?

4. How would most people respond today if we greeted them with “*a holy kiss*” in church? Why would this be frowned upon? Was this kind of greeting commonly practiced in ancient times? (See **Rom. 16:16; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; 1 Pet. 5:14**) What was the significance of a holy kiss?

5. As highly educated as Paul was, why do you think he needed a scribe to write the main body of his epistles (**vs. 21**)? (See **Gal. 4:15**) According to **Rom. 16:22**, who was the scribe that assisted Paul in writing the Book of Romans? What was the significance of Paul concluding his epistles in his own handwriting?
6. What curse did Paul place upon false teachers and anyone else who did not love Jesus Christ (**vs. 22**)? What is the meaning of the word “*anathema*?” (See Dictionary) Will those who “*ultimately reject Jesus Christ*” as Savior and Lord be accursed forever? Why? (See **John 3:16, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12**) Paul ends **verse 22** with the Aramaic word “*Maranatha*.” Depending on spelling, what is the meaning of this word? (See Commentaries) Where else do we find this word being used in the New Testament? (See **Rev. 22:20**) Should this still be our cry today? Why?
7. In **verse 23** Paul finished “*the Book of 1 Corinthians*” in his customary fashion. What did he do? What key word did Paul use in this verse? Why? After correcting the Corinthians in many areas, how did Paul end his letter (**vs. 24**)? What can we learn from Paul’s demonstration of tough love? Are there still times today when we need to use tough love with other Christians? If so, when?
8. Paul addressed many issues in this letter: division; sectarianism; sexual immorality accepted within the church; lawsuits among believers; problems in marriage; food offered to idols; abuse of the Lord’s Supper; abuse of spiritual gifts; a lack of love; a misunderstanding about the bodily resurrection of the dead. Which part of this book touched you the most? Why?

Part III: Lessons from the Book of 1 Corinthians

How do you see each of these lessons applying to the Christian church today?

1. Christian pastors should not be competing against one another, we are on the same team!
2. Ministry should not be focused on us as individuals, but rather on Christ and reaching other people for Him!
3. If the world sees us as fools for Jesus Christ, that is okay, we live to please God not man!
4. Sexual immorality has no place in the Christian church; Christians are called to live their lives in holiness!
5. Believers are not to sue one another; we should go to church leadership and ask them to intercede!
6. Sex is one of God's greatest gifts when practiced properly within the marriage relationship!
7. We should think twice before doing anything that would cause our fellow Christians to stumble!
8. We cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons at the same time!
9. The Lord's Supper is serious business; we should properly examine ourselves before partaking to see if we are right with God and right with other people as far as it is possible with us!
10. Our spiritual gifts are not our own; they were given to us for the building up of the body of Christ!
11. Agape love [*an unselfish Christ-like love*] should be the motivating factor behind everything we think; everything we say; and everything we do!
12. Christian worship should be done in an orderly way bringing honor and glory to God!
13. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can know with certainty that born-again Christians are in a "win/win" situation; our labor in the Lord is not in vain!

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- After coming to Christ, every Christian should devote the rest of his or her lives to honoring and serving Him!
- Each of us should be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and ministries!
- It is important to encourage those serving in fulltime ministry; if serving the Lord faithfully, they and their families are taking a beating from the enemy!
- Anyone who ultimately rejects Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will be eternally accursed by God!
- Even in spite of the Corinthian's many problems, Paul still loved them; His love should be an example and encouragement to every Christian today!
- If there was hope for the imperfect Corinthian church then, then there is hope for our imperfect church today!
- As we live through the many challenges of life, our heart's desire as Christians should be, "*maranatha,*" Come Lord Jesus, come!