



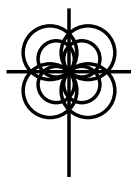
JESUS IN ALL OF LIFE

Part 2 | 1 Corinthians Study Guide



CONTENTS

Division in the Church 1 Corinthians 1:10–31	5
Syncretism: Combining Cultural Sins with Christianity I Corinthians 10:1–13	9
The Lord’s Supper 1 Corinthians 11:17–32	13
Unity: Understanding and Using Spiritual Gifts 1 Corinthians 8:1–13	17
Diminished View of Teaching 1 Corinthians 14:1–19	21
Notes	24–27



DIVISION IN THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 1:10-31

In this section Paul sketches how the Gospel's message strikes most hearers as foolishness and how those who respond to the Gospel's call are regarded as foolish by the world. The Gospel is the power of God to absorb all the blind rage of humanity and to avert its deadly consequences, but the world fails to recognize that truth because it does not fit their categories. Paul's point is clear: humans cannot grasp God's wisdom through their own wisdom.

Big Idea: The unifying hope of the people of God is found exclusively and primarily in the wisdom of God revealed through the Gospel. Placing allegiance to secondary ideals according worldly standards and philosophies only lead to quarreling and division in the church.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- Why is the unity of the church an important concern?
- What are some of the negative effects of disunity in the church?
- Who decides what principles and priorities the church will unify under?

GOING DEEPER.

1. The Appeal to Unity (1:10)

This appeal to unity is based on the “name of the Lord Jesus Christ” displaying both the importance and authority of the request. The inherent belonging among God's people is established in and through Christ Jesus. Therefore,

JESUS IN ALL OF LIFE

those who are in Christ Jesus are unified. Unity among the people of God is not something that is built or designed, but rather protected and enjoyed.

This unity believers share in Christ gives His people a belonging that shapes reality. Paul encapsulates his appeal to unity by stating the church should “be united in the same mind and same judgment.” Paul is not speaking of unilateral agreement, but foundational commitments on the essential truths of life. It is this Gospel mindset, worldview, belief system, that brings believers together in unity (Eph. 4:1–32; Col. 3:1–16). This unifying gift has been given to us in Christ, and not by any other means (Eph. 2:8–9).

2. The Expressions of Disunity (1:11–17)

Although we do not know much about “Chloe’s people” we can discern that they were identifying rivalry and discord (translated quarreling in the text) in the Corinthian church. This contention was expressed through a false competitive hierarchy of different teachers. These “followings” sanctioned peoples’ hearts to hold in higher esteem the ideals and popularity of something other than Christ. Paul is appealing to the believer’s prime identity that interprets every area of life (Col. 3:1–4; Gal. 2:20–21; Phil. 3:12–16), and not in secondary things. This commitment to place Christ at the center of life is not only righteous, but better than any other ideologies, personalities, or methodologies could offer (Eph. 3:14–20; I Thess. 1:2–10; Col 1:9:14).

3. The Pathway to Unity (1:18–31)

The ideology of cultural Corinth perceived human wisdom as the highest form of achievement. Paul seeks to help the church recognize that the best of human wisdom will never eclipse the power and authority of God. In fact, unbelieving humanity sees the wisdom of God as foolishness. However, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the message of the Gospel redeems us from the foolishness of sin unto salvation (II Cor. 4:3–4; Rom. 8:5–8) which the unbelieving world can not understand.

Paul brings to conclusion the question of the pathway to true knowledge and wisdom. It is found exclusively in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is Christ alone who unifies our hearts to live in a manner that is pleasing to God. The church at Corinth was becoming distracted and divisive because they were infighting according to what the world esteems as wisdom. Paul reminds the believers that “the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of

Division in the Church

God is stronger than men.” To place your unifying hope in anything other than your identity in Christ is truly foolish (Eph 1:3–23; II Cor. 5:11–21; Phil. 4:10–13).

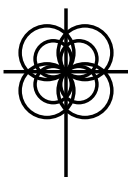
SO WHAT?

Only loving obedience to Jesus Christ in all of life truly unifies the Church. Sadly, many secondary things distract and bring dissention as the people of God forsake the wisdom of God. Paul rightly appeals to Christ-followers not to be persuaded by earthly philosophies and to remember the hope of the Gospel that brings lasting joy and unity.

- How does the consideration of our “calling” (1:26) transform how we live everyday life?
- The people of God are immensely diverse (personality, giftedness, cultural backgrounds). How can unity in Christ be celebrated through diversity? What are some challenges to this kind of unity? How does the Gospel address those challenges?
- Why are believers tempted to follow worldly philosophies other than the wisdom of God? What are some practical ways we can guard our hearts from this temptation?
- How can we promote Gospel unity in our relationships at Grace Baptist Church? What are some everyday choices we could make towards encouraging one another to live out our unity in Christ?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Praise God for opening our hearts to the realities of the wisdom of God through the work of the Gospel that has saved us from death to eternal life.
- Ask God to help us realize the power of the Gospel in everyday life and relationships while resisting the temptation to follow worldly ideals.
- Ask God to strengthen unity of Grace Baptist Church towards the singular commitment to live out the lordship of Christ in all of life.



SYNCRETISM: COMBINING CULTURAL SINS WITH CHRISTIANITY

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Learning from the past experience of others is a wise way to live. In this section Paul will use the past example of Israel in the wilderness to warn the Corinthians of their sinful practices. Paul warns the Corinthians, they, like the Israelites, are not to be cravers of evil, practice idolatry, grumble, or put the Lord to the test, if they expect their relationship with God to be healthy and strong. If they are faithful exclusively to God, they will never be in a situation too difficult for God to sustain them and to empower them to endure.

Big Idea: God is faithful in giving His people examples, instructions, and the power to overcome temptation to live a life of honorable worship and refrain from idolatry.

OPENING QUESTIONS

- Paul begins this section with the word “For...” This word indicates a ground to the following verses. What is the connection Paul is making in this context?
- Why does Israel serve as an example to us according to Paul? What lessons should we take?
- Can God be displeased with us like He was with Israel in the wilderness?
- What should be our response to God given that He is faithful regardless of our imperfection? How do we fight our temptations?

JESUS IN ALL OF LIFE

GOING DEEPER

1. God's Faithfulness Despite Israel's Failure: Verses 1–5

- Write out the following examples of Israel that Paul laid out in verse 1–4.
- What is Paul's purpose in revealing these examples to his readers?
 - Look at Exodus 16: The Wilderness Manna and Exodus 17: The Rock.
 - What do these things represent for the people of Israel and Paul?
- Verse 5: "Nevertheless"—What is Paul indicating to his readers with this word?
- Why did Israel ultimately displease God?

2. An Example for Us: Verses 6–13

- How do the preceding verses lay an example for us in regards to God? What is its purpose?
- What was the root of Israel's disobedience?
- List out Paul's, "We must not" statements.
 - What is the pattern Paul lays out for us in these statements?
 - Cross Reference Exodus 32:6; Numbers 25:9; Numbers 14
 - Verse 11: Paul mentions once again that these are an example. What example do they provide and why?
- Verse 12: "Therefore..." What does this word indicate and how does this give purpose to Paul's goal for the Corinthians? (Hint: Remember, they struggled with pride and division)
- Why is God's faithfulness the conclusion to Paul's argument?
 - All sins and temptations are not unique, thus you can overcome them why?
 - Because God is faithful and He will give you the strength to withstand your temptations AND provide a way to run away from it and keep running away from it (endurance).
 - How should this bring us comfort even in the midst of our sinful tendencies?

Israel was "under the cloud" and "passed through the sea". Paul is referring back to Exodus 13–14. This Exodus event was when God brought Israel out of the land of Egypt. All were under the same Authority of God and were baptized into Moses.

SO WHAT?

This is where we bring it to a close. Bring the "Big Idea" to bear on the whole study. Ask Questions. Call them to obedient action. (approximately 100–150

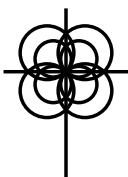
Syncretism: Combining Cultural Sins with Christianity

words) Paul is encouraging the Corinthian Church to trust in their faithful God! Despite Israel's failures as His people, God still remained faithful to them. Like so, God remains faithful to us in our failures! Yet, God in His faithfulness gives us everything we need to endure the battle with our flesh and have victory over it!

- What are your present temptations? What have you done to put them off both spiritually and practically?
- How can we reflect on God's faithfulness and use that to help us battle our temptations?
- Sometimes pride can inhibit us from putting off our sin (Verse 12). One way to humble ourselves is through a recognition that we can't battle sin alone and confess (James 5:16). Pray about who is in your life that can help you in your battle with sin and follow through with them.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Praise God for His faithfulness in being our God despite our sin and for giving us everything we need to live a life that is pleasing to Him.
- Pray to God and ask for a humble heart so that whatever sin we struggle with we can seek the help of the Church and our brothers and sisters in Christ around us.
- Pray for God to give us a deeper desire for sanctification and holiness through His Word, His People and Prayer.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:17-32

Depending on your background, you might associate the Lord's Supper with moments of trembling introspection or just the hum-drum routine of ingesting an old wafer and bad juice. But, throughout Church history, the Lord's Supper has been a vital means of recalling and celebrating the sacrifice of Christ for sinners and recognizing the calling this sacrifice makes on the redeemed. In Scripture, the Lord's Supper is an object lesson, given to the Church to explicate, in a real and tangible way, the truth of the Gospel. It calls us to freshly rest in Christ's work and to live in loving unity with one another and thankful worship to God.

Big Idea: The Lord's Supper is a gift to God's people, meant to stimulate our thankfulness to God, enhance our unity with one another, and testify to the greatness of Christ's work.

OPENING QUESTIONS

- What comes to mind when you think about the Lord's Supper?
- What questions or concerns have you had about it?
- Is the Lord's Supper something you regularly look forward to, something you dread, or something that passes by you indifferently each month?

GOING DEEPER

In 1 Corinthians 11:17–32, Paul outlines three purposes for observing the Lord's Supper. Rightly and regularly partaking should engender unity in the Church, worshipful remembrance, and proclamation of Christ's death.

JESUS IN ALL OF LIFE

1. The Lord's Supper Should Produce Unity

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:17–22
- What problem is Paul addressing here? What seems to be the custom of the Corinthian church?
- How does this reveal the dividing line among these Christians? What was wrong with the wealthy Christians eating and drinking too much while the poorer Christians went hungry? What does Paul mean, in verse 20, in saying that in so doing, they were not actually eating the Lord's Supper?
- How is it that the Lord's Supper can create unity among a church family? What common principles, regardless of economic or other differences, does this call each Christian towards?
- What is the overall caution that Paul is expressing here? In our day, how is it that the Lord's Supper can be a catalyst towards unity?

2. The Lord's Supper Should Cause Worshipful Remembrance

- Read Luke 22:14–22 and 1 Corinthians 11:23–26.
- Why are regular reminders of Christ's sacrifice so necessary for us? Why was this instituted for our good?
- In the Christian faith, following Christ as a disciple flows out of thankfulness and love, not a sense of obligation. How does recalling the body of Christ that was broken for us and the blood of Christ that was shed for us sustain an overflow of love and thankfulness to God?
- How does this fit into the worship and discipleship life of a church?
- What does thoughtful participation in this act of remembrance look like?

3. The Lord's Supper Should be a Proclamation of His Sacrifice

- Consider 1 Corinthians 11:26
- In what ways does the Lord's Supper proclaim, very visibly and really, the sacrifice of Christ? How does the means of our receiving it—taking it into our body—underscore and symbolize salvation?
- How is this a tool to underscore the message of the Cross to our children? To the lost? To ourselves?

4. A Caution and an Instruction:

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:27–34.
- What is Paul warning against here? How has the passage been misunderstood? How has it been overlooked?

The Lord's Supper

Failing to understand these three purposes means that the Church will not rightly cherish this act of observance. By rushing ahead to eat, by getting drunk, by not coming with a solemnity to the meal—Christians fail to rightly discern the purpose of the Lord's supper. Paul is exhorting a meal that rightly unites Christ's people, remembers Christ's sacrifice, and proclaims Christ's death.

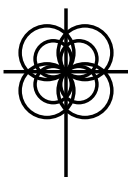
SO WHAT?

Any habit of worship runs the risk of becoming more pedestrian than transformative. But the Lord's Supper is a gift to God's people that stimulates unity, thankfulness, and worship.

- How should we prepare our hearts to rightly take the Lord's Supper together each month?
- What should this produce in our hearts personally? What should this produce in our Church corporately?

PRAYER FOCUS

Let us pray that as we celebrate the Lord's Supper each month, that God would catalyze our faithful worship and grow our loving unity with each other—as we proclaim the great sufficiency of Christ's work.



UNITY: UNDERSTANDING AND USING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The opening verses to this section are crucial for understanding Paul's intention for the entire passage. The topic is the "spiritual ones" (gifts), and the message is that all Christians are spiritual. Paul will begin by contrasting the Corinthians' religious past with their spiritually transformed present as Christians and affirms that everyone who confesses that Jesus is Lord is directed by the Holy Spirit. Paul argues that these gifts are not given to people because they are especially spiritual, but because they are according to God's sovereign purpose.

Big Idea: The gifts the Holy Spirit gives to every believer are for the benefit of the Church, reminding us that we need each other so we can bring greater glory to our God.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

There is no way around it: controversy exists among Christ-followers concerning the spiritual gifts. Are they all still in use today? Do we exercise them as they are intended? What should we think of the "sign gifts"? All these questions and more can swirl in our minds, clouding our ability to recognize the intended encouragement they offer. The beauty of this passage, which begins a long discussion of the gifts by Paul, is that it leads us to recognize that our God has not left us alone. He is with us, working in us, for His glory and the unity of His Body. Keep that in mind as you work through the study. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1–11 before answering the following questions.

JESUS IN ALL OF LIFE

- In chapters 8–10, Paul addresses issues related to idolatry. In chapter 11, he focuses more specifically on corporate worship matters. How does the teaching on spiritual gifts beginning in chapter 12 connect to these themes, and how does that inform what Paul means his readers to take away from this teaching?
- Note how often Paul uses the phrase “the same” and “the one” in referring to the Holy Spirit in this text. What do you think he is emphasizing by doing this?
- Why does Paul begin his teaching on spiritual gifts in verses 1–3 by first reminding the Corinthians of their pagan roots and then emphasizing the Spirit’s power and believers’ discernment?
- The teaching on spiritual gifts extends through chapter 14. Scan chapters 12–14 briefly. How does Paul use this teaching to emphasize the Corinthians’ need of unity?

GOING DEEPER

- In verses 1–3, Paul draws a line between being merely “spiritual” and being led by the Holy Spirit. Read 1 Cor. 3:1–4. How would you contrast a person whose spirituality is self-induced and a true believer, in terms of their actions and attitudes?
- Read Rom. 14:7–9 and 1 Cor 8:5–6. What does saying “Jesus is Lord” really mean? How does that play out in your own life, if you are a Christ-follower?
- In 1 Cor 12:4–6, Paul uses a series of parallel statements to make the strong point that, while there are many different gifts, they all have the same source – our Triune God. How does this principle of unity in diversity address the issue of division within the Corinthian church? What does it imply about the value of every gift?
- According to verse 7, what is the purpose for every spiritual gift? What does that suggest about your duty to use your own gift(s) and where you should use them, if you are a believer?
- Read Rom. 12:3–8; Eph 4:11–16; 1 Pet 4:8–10 and 1 Cor 12:7–11. None of the lists of gifts in Scripture is complete; there likely are many gifts not directly named in the New Testament. But each list has a common theme. What is that? How does knowing that serve as an antidote for the sort of division and rivalry that existed in Corinth? How could that help us at Grace Baptist to encourage unity among us?

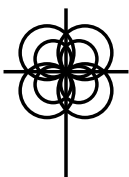
SO WHAT?

- Given the purpose of the gifts, why is there so much controversy about them? How can we avoid that?
- Would you say using your spiritual gift(s) is optional? How are you currently exercising your gifts?
- How could serving in different areas of church ministry help a believer discover his/her spiritual gifts?
- If every believer at Grace Baptist used their spiritual gifts as the Lord intends, what difference would that make in our Body? How would that impact spreading the gospel in Santa Clarita?

The Holy Spirit has gifted every believer for the benefit of His church. This is a great reminder to us that we need each other! Our Lord is glorified through the unity and shared commitment that result when we each use the gifts God has given us according to His will. Let's be people devoted to serving each other well as the Spirit gives us opportunity.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Take time to thank God for the gifts He has given you. Ask Him to help you use them more effectively for the benefit of those around you.
- If you are one who has been reticent to serve in the Church, ask the Father for forgiveness and a renewed sense of purpose to use your gifts.
- Ask the Lord to move all the Christ-followers of Grace Baptist to use their gifts to help foster unity among believers here and to better reach our community with the Gospel.



DIMINISHED VIEW OF TEACHING

1 Corinthians 14:1-19

In this section Paul does not mean to diminish speaking in tongues, he himself spoke in tongues more than any of them, but Paul wants them to rightly understand its place in church gathering. Here he will define the difference between tongues and prophecy. Tongues, if not interpreted, only confuse. The believer does not know how to respond, and the unbeliever is bewildered. Paul's goal is to make the Corinthians sensitive to the needs of those gathered, including the unbeliever, and to have them do all things in the assembly according to decency and order for the sake of others.

Big Idea: If love is the “more excellent way” (I Cor. 12:31) then we ought to pursue love through our pursuit of spiritual gifts that edify and build each other up.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- Verse 1 says, “Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts”. Do you “earnestly desire” to know and exercise your spiritual gift(s)?
- In Chapter 12, Paul identifies many spiritual gifts. Why do you think he chooses to focus on only two of them, tongues and prophecy, here?
- Verse 12 says the Corinthians were “eager for manifestations of the Spirit”. If “manifestations of the Spirit” are spiritual gifts, what type of spiritual gifts can you assume the Corinthians were “eager” to have? Consider what you already know about the issues in the church at Corinth.

JESUS IN ALL OF LIFE

GOING DEEPER

1. Read I Corinthians 14:1–19

Use the chart below to list what the passage says about “tongues” and “prophecy” (use verse references)

TONGUES	PROPHECY

- Paul separates the discussion of the two gifts in verse 3 with the transition, “on the other hand”. What does this indicate is the purpose of the discussion?
- How does Paul continue this contrast in verses 4–5?
- Verse 6 starts a new direction with the word “now”. Paul says, “If I come speaking in tongues” it will only have value if he brings what also?
- Looking at the list of uses of the word “prophecy”, is Paul referring to “foretelling” of the word or “forthtelling” of the word?
- In your own words, then, why is the gift of prophecy to be preferred over the gift of speaking in tongues?

2. Read Acts 2

In this passage tongues and prophecy are closely related:

- The Holy Spirit filled the Apostles and they begin to “speak in other tongues”. Who was able to understand them? (2:5–11)
- As an explanation, in Peter’s sermon at Pentecost, Peter quotes the prophet Joel saying “your sons and your daughters” shall do what?
- Therefore, what do you think the Apostles were doing when they spoke in tongues on this occasion?

Diminished View of Teaching

SO WHAT?

Paul's teaching to the church at Corinth includes directions concerning love and the spiritual gifts. He clearly elevated love of the brethren as the most important focus of anyone's service in the church. If love and a desire to edify or "build up" each other is the focus of our service we will not have a desire to bring the attention to ourselves and we will seek to exercise our spiritual gifts for edification and encouragement of the Body.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray that God would help you recognize your spiritual gifts if you don't already know what they are.
- Pray that God would help you serve the body of Grace Baptist in a way that encourages others and doesn't draw attention to yourself.
- Pray that the leaders and teachers at Grace would be wise and discerning in their exposition of Scripture to the "building up" of all the members.



GRACE
BAPTIST CHURCH

22833 Copper Hill Drive
Santa Clarita, CA 91350
www.gracebaptist.org

  @gracescv