

1 Corinthians Notes

See every part of life through the Gospel!

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Written to a church community that Paul knew very well

Corinth ([Acts 18](#))

- Major port city
- Many temples to Greek and Roman gods
- Big economic center
- Paul strategically went there specifically as a missionary
 - Spent 1 year 6 months
 - Getting to know people, talking to them about Jesus
 - Many became followers and started a church community

Paul moved on to start other churches in other cities, but then started getting reports that things were not going well at all back at the church in Corinth.

5 Main Problems

Reads like essays

1. Describes the problem
2. Responds to the problem with the story of the Gospel which is Jesus
3. Look at every area of life through the lens of the Gospel:
Life: Relationships, Family, Community, Work

Chapters 1-4 Divisions

- Other teachers had come through town: Paul, Apollos, Peter.

- People picked their favorite teacher, then began to talk negatively about those who picked or favored another leader
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- Paul responds sarcastic and sharply
 - *This is not a popularity contest!*
 - The Church is a community of people **centered around Jesus**
 - Leaders and teachers are merely servants of Jesus
 - While one might prefer a leader over another, this is not worth dividing over this or speaking poorly of another

Chapters 5-7 Sex

- Number of people sleeping around in the Church
 - One instance of guy with his stepmom
 - Others still worshipping at the Greek temples to other gods and sleeping with the prostitutes that worked there
 - People in the church were saying this was just fine “We are Free in Christ, God’s grace is bottomless.”
 - Paul says It’s not fine! Wrong!!!
- Remember that Jesus died for your sins! Including the ruin of broken relationships that are caused by sexual misconduct.
 - If you’re a Christian, sexual integrity is one of the main ways that we respond to Jesus’ love and grace
 - Our bodies will be raised from the dead because of Jesus
 - Now ----- Future: What you do with your body matters; it’s not ours to do whatever we want with it
 - Being a follower of Jesus involves no compromise when it comes to sexual integrity

Chapters 8-10 Food

- Not about preferences
 - Meat that came from animals sacrificed in the local temples to Greek and Roman gods
 - Split between the Jewish and non-Jewish Christians about how to respond
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- Paul’s Response: (core ideas from the Gospel)
Our allegiance is to Jesus as Lord, not to other gods

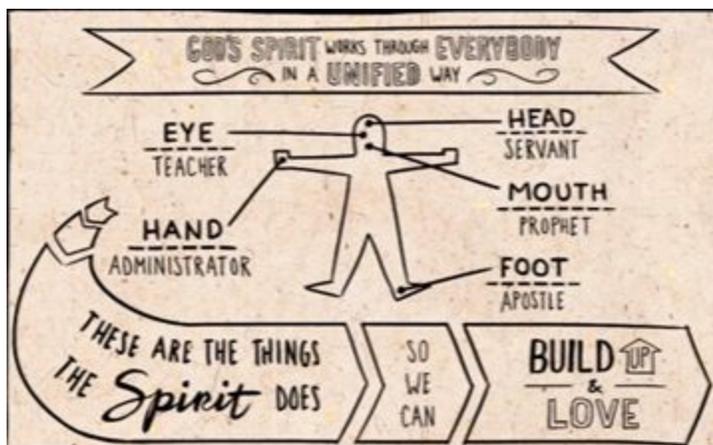
- Scenario 1: If the option comes to eat the meat, and there are people around that might watch you and conclude “Christians worship Jesus and worship other gods too”: **Don’t eat the meat!**
 - Our loyalty is to Jesus
 - Love those people more than yourself and not to mislead them
- Scenario 2: As Christians we believe that God is the Creator of all things, including that animal and the temple idols are nothing but wood and stone, so if there is no one around who is going to misunderstand your actions and you’re hungry...**eat up!** You’re free as a new creature in Christ to follow your conscious in these debatable matters.
- Core Principle: LOVE
 - Love will deny itself and look out for the well-being of others
 - God’s love is at the core of the Gospel: What Jesus did for us!

Chapters 11-14 The Gathering

Weekly worship gathering

- Powerful experiences would pray out loud in unknown languages
- Others might share a teaching or a word from God, and then someone would get up and interrupt them because they wanted to share
 - All was chaotic and distracting people from hearing the Gospel: Especially visitors!

Purpose: God’s Spirit works through Everybody in a Unified Way
Church as a Human Body



- Use their role to serve and seek the well-being of others!
- Some people think that the purpose of the gathering is to have intense and powerful spiritual experiences or get a chance to speak their mind

- Paul says I'm a fan of spiritual powerful moments of prayer, but if it distracts, it should stop
 - Because I'm loving myself more than I'm loving those people
- The gathering around Jesus should be orderly:
 - So that everyone can learn, sing, worship, and hear God speaking to them

Chapter 15 The Resurrection

The future hope of Jesus' followers

Some people in the church said that the idea of resurrection is ridiculous and doesn't really matter to being a Christian.

Paul reacts hugely!

- **He says that the Resurrection is Indispensable!**
- We believe because hundreds of eyewitness say Jesus alive in a physical body after being publicly executed
 - If Jesus didn't rise from the dead Paul says...
 - His death was meaningless
 - We are all still lost in our sin and selfishness
 - We should stop being Christians

The Resurrection was:

1. Jesus' Victory of death and evil
2. Source of power and life for us now in the present
3. Promise of future hope for the whole world

Because of the Resurrection:

1. A Reason to be Unified around Jesus (reconcile Divisions section)
2. Motivation for Sexual Integrity (reconcile Sex section)
3. Power of Loving Others More than Ourselves (reconcile Food and Gatherings sections)
4. Our Hope for Victory over Death (reconcile The Resurrection section)

So... we do believe that Jesus was raised from the dead! - Paul concludes

The Gospel is an announcement about Jesus that opens up a new reality: See every part of life through the Gospel!

Chapter 16 Final Greeting