

1 Corinthians: Harmony in Diversity
Daily Bible Study Guide
Week 1 (#1 of 7) - I Corinthians 1 & 2

Monday: Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

We can't have any doubt what Paul was most excited about in life. Look through this first paragraph and find the name that keeps popping up. This is where Paul's heart remained. It's a good way to start this letter, which in Greek is "epistle". As we start to read about the problems with the church at Corinth, remember Who is at the center of all things.

1. What name is written most often in these verses?
2. Look at verse 2 - whose church is it?
3. What do you think "sanctified" means? If you aren't sure, look it up. Do you believe we are sanctified today in 2021?

Tuesday: Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Every church that has been around a while has had a change of pastors. It's completely natural for a church to compare one pastor to another. But this can also become a basis for factions and rivalry. Even the Corinthian church faced such divisions.

1. What does vs. 12 explain the Corinthian church was quarreling about?
2. Look at vs. 10 - what was this quarrel causing in the church?
3. What does Paul suggest his most important task is in vs. 17? Should that be our most important task also?

Wednesday: Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

We find no fence-sitting when it comes to one's belief about Christ. If the message of the cross is not the center of our community of faith, unity is quickly threatened. The church at Corinth might have been made up of multiple house churches meeting in different parts of Corinth and this geographical division might have motivated rivalry.

1. Why does the wisdom of God appear foolish to the world?
2. What are the two outcomes for the two different views about the cross according to vs. 18?

3. Do you believe there is a third position, or does everyone fall into one of these two camps?

Thursday: Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-10

God is perfect, we are not. God uses our imperfection as a platform to prove God's power through us so that we might not boast of our own abilities. The "secret wisdom" spoken of here has already been revealed through Jesus' life, death and resurrection to those who choose to believe.

1. What did Paul NOT use in proclaiming the mystery of God (vs 1)?
2. What things did he have trouble with as he spoke about God (vs 3 & 4)? What do you have trouble with?
3. What do you think about "God's secret wisdom that has been hidden" (vs. 7)?

Friday: Read 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

God doesn't leave us to figure things out on our own. God longs for us to know and be close to God, yet we can easily become unaware of God's presence. Many fail to understand true wisdom, because such wisdom is perceived by the Spirit dwelling inside. The unbeliever seems to be overcome by the physical or natural world, because they do not possess the Holy Spirit.

1. How do we receive the Spirit from God that's spoken of in vs. 12 (see Acts 38 & 39)?
2. How do we discern the things of God (vs. 14)?
3. What does it mean to you to have the mind of Christ?