

1 Corinthians: Harmony in Diversity

Daily Bible Study Guide

Week 4 (#4 of 7) - I Corinthians 9 - 11:1

Each time before you read & study, take a moment to ask God to speak to you through the Word and the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday: Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-18

“Paul had been a persecutor of the young church. When Jesus rescued him from the angry and bitter life he had established for himself, it was so as to commission him to announce the good news. Paul was set free in order to do this, and do it he must. His reward was - that he didn’t get a reward! The paradox of that embodies the paradox of Paul’s whole apostleship, the sheer oddity of who he was and what he was doing.” - 1 Corinthians for Everyone Bible Study

1. How does Paul claim his apostleship in verse 1?
2. Which apostles had wives (vs.5)?
3. Do you know what work Paul did for a living? Google it!

Wednesday: Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

As Americans, freedom is very important for many reasons. Freedom in Christ doesn’t mean we can do whatever we want, whenever we want, but that we are set free from the things that pull us away from God. We have the freedom to choose to become servants of Christ to do God’s work in the world or not. This is called free will.

1. What things have you given up, or what personal inconveniences have you chosen, in order to show God’s love to others through words or service?
2. What are some practical ways you can find common ground with someone you know who doesn’t follow Christ?
3. What did Paul claim he tried to do according to vs. 22-23?

Thursday: Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1. What are the four things Paul implores the early church to refrain from (vs. 6-10)?
2. Read Numbers 25:1-9 to explain the “23 thousand who died in a day”. You’ll notice Paul records a different number. He’s not

striving for exactness, but approximation, which is more a 21st century concern. Paul wants his readers to remember their history as people of God and try not to repeat it, but learn from it. Our choices help create the future of the church and the young people following Christ.

3. Read Numbers 21:4-9 to understand the comment about snakes. Does the “bronze snake on a pole” remind you of anything?
4. Recall a time you thought you were doing well as a Christian and then unexpectedly something went wrong. How did you explain this to yourself?

Friday: Read 1 Corinthians 10:14 - 11:1

“The temptations we run into are the common lot of all human beings. *But God is faithful!* These are words to be carved in letters of gold on the memory and imagination of all Christians. He will make a way of avoiding the temptation.” N. T. Wright

1. Think about the people who have given you Christ-like examples to live by. Now consider the things you would NOT like others to learn from your example and ask God to help you refrain from them.
2. Using vs 31-33, write two statements to sum up Paul’s advice.
3. Sometimes there are gray areas in life where God intends us to use our reasoning and decide what to do. What gray area in your life are you struggling with? How can you apply Paul’s advice from #2 to help you decide what to do?