

*Paul's Epistle of*

# 1<sup>st</sup> CORINTHIANS

84<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ – March - May, 2022



# Outline

## **I. Introduction (1:1- 9)**

## **II. Dealing with Problems Reported to Paul (1:10 – 6:20)**

A. Problem of Factionalism (1:10 – 3:23)

B. Problem of Rejecting Paul's Work (4:1-21)

C. Problem of the Fornicator and Church Discipline (5:1-13)

D. Taking Problems between Brethren to Civil Courts (6:1-11)

E. Responsibility to Glorify God with the Body (6:12-20)

### **III. Dealing with Questions Asked by the Corinthians (7:1 – 16:9)**

A. “Now Concerning” – Marriage and Present Distress  
(7:1-40)

B. “Now Concerning” – Idolatry and Personal Liberty  
(8:1 – 11:1)

C. “Now... Remember Me” and Apostolic Tradition

1. Submission and Customs (11:2-16)

2. Pattern for Lord’s Supper (11:17-34)

D. “Now Concerning” – Spiritual Gifts (12:1 – 14:40)

E. “Now...” Concerning – The Resurrection (15:1-58)

F. “Now Concerning” – The Collection (16:1-9)

### **IV. Concluding Remarks (16:10-24)**

- 1 Corinthians 14 – Context is dealing with the assembly
  - V.3 – edifying the church
  - V.5 – church may receive edification
  - V.12 – edification of the church is the goal
  - V.16-17 – edification is needed for the group and all need to understand for this to be the case
  - V.19 – “in the church I would rather speak 5 words of understanding...”
  - V.23 – “if the whole church comes together in one place...”



- 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 – Desiring spiritual gifts
  - V.1a – “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts”
    - Love is necessary (Ch. 13)
    - Spiritual gifts are to be desired because they benefit the work of the Lord
  - V.1b-4 – “Especially that you may prophesy...”
    - Tongue speaking – “does not speak to men but to God”, “no one understands him”
    - Prophecy – “speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to all men”
  - V.5 – “he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues...”
    - Prophesying edifies because all understand

- 1 Corinthians 14:6-12 – Speaking in tongues is useless if not understood
  - V.6 – “If I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching”
    - Tongue speaking was a miracle, but the message was understood and was profited by means of the message taught
  - V.7-8 – “Even things without life, whether flute or harp...”
    - Flute and harp make a distinct sound, so we know what is played
    - The trumpet makes a distinct sound so those who know it will prepare for battle

- 1 Corinthians 14:6-12 – Speaking in tongues is useless if not understood
  - V.9-11 – “Unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand...”
    - Words that are spoken must be understood in order to edify, otherwise they are useless
  - V.12 – “since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel”
    - Spiritual gifts are to be desired, but the goal is not to glorify our self, but that God is glorified, and the church is edified



- 1 Corinthians 14:13-21 – Desire to speak with understanding not just be seen by men
  - V.13 – “Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret”
    - Purpose is that other may understand
  - V.14 – “If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful”
    - The one who prays understands but that understanding is unfruitful because only he and the interpreter(s), if there are any present, understand
  - V.15-17 – “What is the conclusion then?...”
    - When I pray, sing, etc. it will be in an understood by all



- 1 Corinthians 14:13-21 – Desire to speak with understanding not just be seen by men
  - V.18-19 – “I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather...”
    - Paul would rather speak fewer words that are understood and edifies the those present than words in a language in which none present can understand
  - V.20 – “do not be children in understanding... in malice be babes... understanding be mature”
    - Do not be immature in this matter but be mature
  - V.21 – “In the law it is written...”
    - The use of a foreign language is for the unbeliever

- 1 Corinthians 14:22-25

- V.22 – “tongues are for a sign...”

- The purpose of tongues is for a sign amongst unbelievers

- V.23-24 – “Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place”

- If an assembly occurs and an unbeliever walks in with those speaking in tongues, he will think they are mad, but if they are prophesying, he can understand the language and be convinced and convicted

- V.25 – “thus the secrets of his heart are revealed”

- By understanding the message, they will recognize the need for change and do so

- Hebrews 4:12-13 – The word of God is able to lay open and make bare revealing the heart