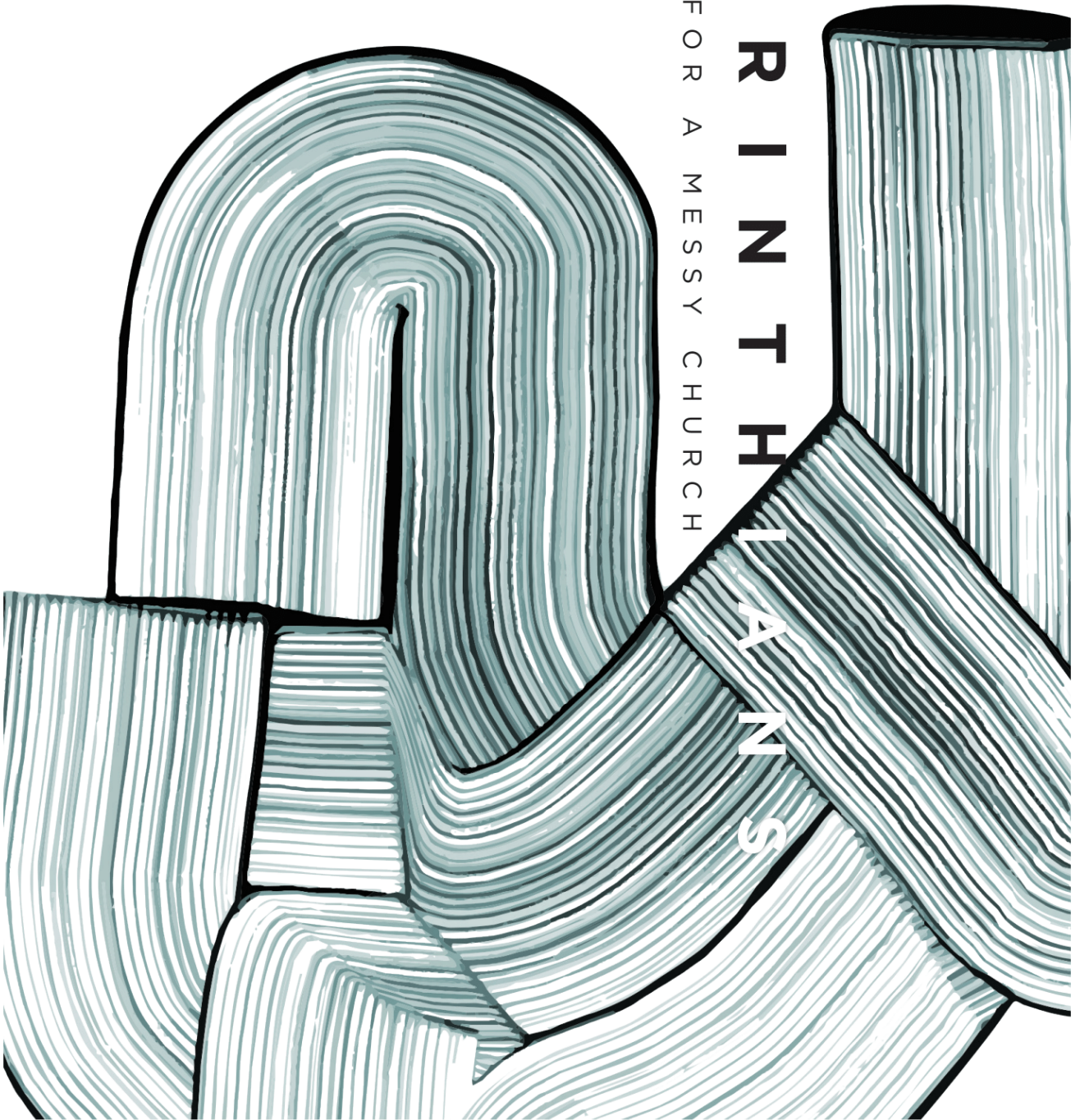




ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

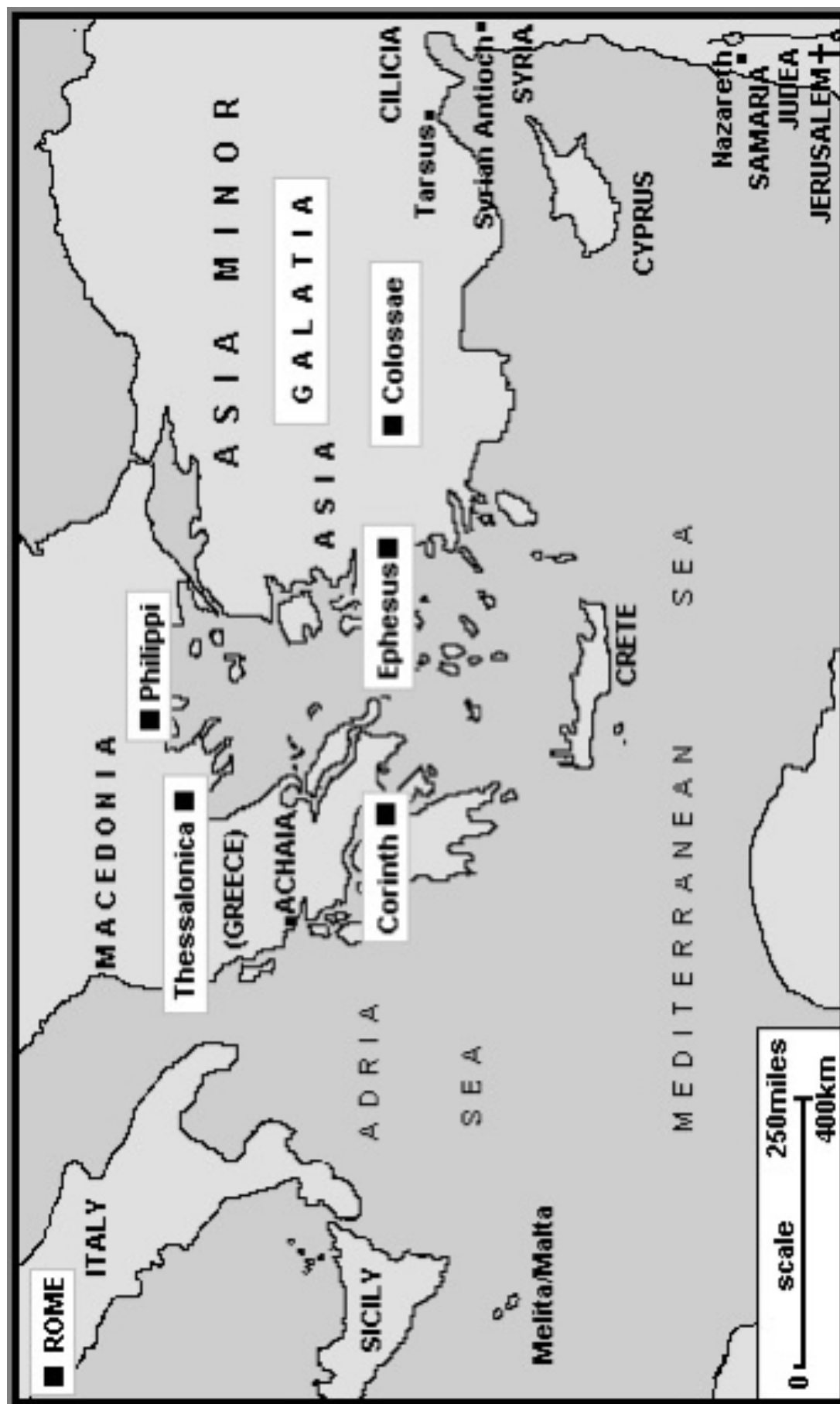
1 CORINTHIANS

GOOD NEWS FOR A MESSY CHURCH



PART 2 – CHAPTERS 11 - 16

MAP SHOWING CORINTH IN PAUL'S TIME



Good News For A Messy Church Part 2 – 1 Corinthians 11-16

THE CORINTH OF PAUL'S TIME

In Paul's time, the bustling city of Corinth, which had been one of the largest in Ancient Greece, was now a Roman colony. The official language of this mountainous peninsula, in the region of Achaia, was Latin, though Greek was widely spoken. Situated on the narrow isthmus that connected the Peloponnese with the mainland of Greece, jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea, Corinth lay strategically at the crossroads of two important trade routes through Asia and Europe. The city and its people prospered greatly by charging taxes levied on goods that passed through its shipping channels. Because of this, ancient Corinth was a wealthy, commercially important city, whose prosperity was reflected in the city's magnificent architecture, temples, fountains, theatres, baths and infrastructure, including paved roads.

Luxury, materialism, indulgence and decadence were an unfortunate by-product of this wealth, with many native to Corinth worshipping pleasure and prosperity. Corinth was known for its arts, drama and skilled craftsmen. Many foreigners would come to Corinth, trading goods and gathering at the marketplace (Agora).

Steeped in mythology, it also became a hub for the worship of the old Greco-Roman gods, including Aphrodite and Apollo, who both had large temples in the city of Corinth, and idol worship was rampant amongst Corinth's philosophy-loving inhabitants.

PAUL'S BACKGROUND WITH THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

Paul's relationship with the Corinthian Christians spanned a period of several years (c.AD 50 - 57).

Paul actually visited the city on three separate occasions, as well as sending representatives on his behalf. Members of the church at Corinth also visited Paul while he was in Ephesus, (1Cor 1:11, 16:17) on one occasion even bringing him a letter from their church in Corinth (1 Cor 7:1).

In Acts 18 we read of Paul's first visit to Corinth. As was his custom, he spent time in the Jewish synagogues reasoning with the Jews and sharing with them the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He spent 'some time' there, staying with

fellow-tent-makers and fellow believers Aquila and Priscilla. His message was rejected on the whole, by the Jews in Corinth, so Paul turned his attention to preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, many of whom believed and were baptised. It was this group of believers that formed the foundation of the Corinthian Church, established through Paul's preaching and leadership.

Paul had rising feelings of trepidation during this initial visit to Corinth, perhaps due to the abuse and opposition he faced from the Jews (Acts 18:6) but we are told in Acts 18:9-11 that the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, saying: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." Following this, we are told, Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half.

Three or four years later, Paul made a second visit to Corinth (2 Cor 13:2) where it seems he was required to assist in a disciplinary matter within the congregation there. He described this visit as "painful" (2:1) - a situation he didn't want to repeat several years later.

In AD 56 or 57, Paul headed to Corinth one last time (13:1) and stayed for a period of around three months. It was during this time that Paul wrote his letter to the Romans. (Acts 20:2-3)

1 Corinthians was written by the Apostle Paul, around 55AD, from Ephesus (see Acts 16:5-9 and 20:31), primarily a letter of rebuke, addressing behavioural issues that had caused divisions amongst the believers, such as sexual immorality and lawsuits amongst the brethren.

GOOD NEWS FOR A MESSY CHURCH PART 2

1 CORINTHIANS 11-16

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PEDALS! is an acronym to help us remember the steps we can take to share our faith with non-believers.

Pray, ask for an **e**vangelistic opportunity, **d**rop a Christian word, **A**sk what they believe, **L**isten to their point of view, **S**hare why you believe in Jesus, **I**nvite them to hear more.

At the back of this bible study booklet, you will find a PEDALS! Page, where there is space to fill in the names of your non-Christian family and friends that you are praying will become Christians. Please be praying for one another, for opportunities to share the gospel in our daily lives with these people.

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved... How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" - Romans 10:9-15

For some Christians, the idea of sharing your faith with someone can be filled with fear, dread, anxiety and other unpleasant feelings. We may think things like "What will they say?" "What will they think?" "What if I don't know what to say?" "What if it's weird?" "Where do I start?"

Each week, in your groups, we encourage you to spend a few minutes keeping the eternal salvation of our friends, family and neighbours on the agenda, by breaking down the steps of evangelism into manageable bite-sized goals, using PEDALS!

But before we start, one of the reasons we find talking to friends about Jesus so scary is that we fear the worst, but the opportunities to chat often go much better than we expect. Prayer has a lot to do with this!

Study One: 1 Corinthians 11:1-34 Headship, Hats & The Meal That Unites

Some Background Info:

Having some cultural background information may help us make sense of Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 11. In the city of Corinth, women typically had long hair and men had short hair. If a woman cut her hair very short, she was probably trying to pass herself off as a man. In the culture of Paul's day, this was considered shameful.

In Corinth, it was normal for both single and married women to wear their hair up, partially covered with a cloth or veil. This was a sign of respectability. Among the women who wore their hair down and uncovered, in contrast, were ecstatic non-Christian priestesses speaking prophetic oracles at the pagan temples, or 'high-class' mistresses of influential Corinthians.

It seems that this practice of women letting their hair down and leaving it uncovered, whilst prophesying or excitedly worshipping God, had crept into the church at Corinth. It is this practice, and its association with the pagan women of the time, that Paul speaks against here.

Paul teaches that there is an order in creation, with God at the head of Christ, who is at the head of man, who is at the head of a woman. The bare-headed female prophet was reflecting a wildness and independence which dishonoured her husband and, in some sense, disrupted the created order.

Focus On The Bible, 1 Corinthians, Paul Barnett p197-198
The Message of 1 Corinthians, David Pryor

1. Read 1 Cor 11:1-16

What are the teachings/traditions Paul is speaking of in v2? Why are they important to hold onto? (see also **1 Cor 15:1-2**)

2. Understanding the relationships of equality within the Trinity, how can Paul say: “the head of Christ is God?” (eg. Matt 24:36, Matt 26:39)

3. What is the main issue Paul is addressing in this passage and why is it significant in the church in Corinth? (see also 10:31-32)

4. In our current cultural climate, where gender distinctions are becoming increasingly blurred, consider both the similarities/areas of equality, and also the differences, between men and women, that Paul highlights in this passage. Give examples.

5. What are some practical ways we can live out this idea of ‘headship’ within our own relationships?

6. Paul gives specific instructions to men and women, relevant to the culture of the time, regarding how they should pray and prophesy in church, while glorifying God.
- a) Do you think we should adhere to this practice (head covering for women, no head covering for men) in our meetings today? Why or why not?

 - b) Can you think of some examples of how we might dishonour God by our conduct in church?
7. How has this passage been misused by some for selfish gain? (11:3)

Read 1 Cor 11:17-34

8. According to Paul, what is the purpose and significance of the Lord's Supper?

9. **v27** says: *So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*

How were those in the Corinthian church guilty of taking the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner"?

The Lord's Supper allows us to look *back* to Jesus' death and resurrection, look *forward* to his return and look *within*, to examine ourselves before God.

10. a) What do you think it means to examine ourselves before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup (v28).

- b) Do you think there is ever a time when we should not join in the Lord's Supper? (see Matt 5:23-24)

Spend some time in prayer, examining yourselves before the Lord.

PRAYER POINTS

Spend a few minutes hearing from members in your group who have had a positive experience talking about God, Jesus, the Bible or spiritual things with someone who doesn't believe. (Hopefully this will encourage you to see what God can do!)

Fill out the 'PEDALS! Page' at the back of this booklet, jotting down group members' names and beside them, the people with whom they are specifically hoping to share the gospel.

For whenever you
eat this bread and
drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's
death until he
comes.

1 Cor 11:26

Study Two: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 Spiritual Body Language

The theme of the church being the “Body of Christ” is a common theme in Paul’s letters (eg. Rom 12:3-8, Eph 4:11-18, Col 1:18, Col 3:15). In this chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul’s specific focus is the interrelation of members of the Body and how they are to exercise their spiritual gifts for the common good. It’s a great picture of unity in diversity.

The Corinthian church was a richly gifted church but there was division amongst the believers. Those with the more esteemed or ‘showy’ gifts were becoming conceited and claiming to be more “spiritual”, looking down on their brothers and sisters with the seemingly less important gifts.

The church had written to Paul for advice and his teaching on the matter is recorded for us in Chapters 12-14 of this letter he penned back to them.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

1. According to verses 1-3, what is the mark of a truly spiritual person?
2. How is the unity of the Trinity related to the diversity of the gifts? (v4-6)

3. What is the main purpose of the spiritual gifts God gives his church?
(Discuss the meaning of v7).

Verse 7 states: “*to each one*, the manifestation of the Spirit (gift) is given...” so we know that every Christian has at least one spiritual gift. Because these gifts are given for the good of the whole Body, we can think of it this way: our gifts are given *from* God, *through* us, *to* the church.

4. How can we know what spiritual gift(s) God has given us?*

*There is a spiritual gifts survey at the back of the book that might help you work out what your gift is, if you are unsure.

5. a) Discuss together what spiritual gift(s) you can see in one another.

b) How and why might our spiritual gift(s) change over time?

6. Why do you suppose God has gifted you in these ways? How are you using your gift(s) to build up the Body of Christ?

7. In verses 14-26, Paul outlines three ways in which the Body can malfunction.

Identify the **problem**, a **modern example** and a **solution** for each one:

Verses 14-16

Verses 17-20

Verses 21-26

Spend some time praying about how you can use your gifts 'for the common good'.

PRAYER POINTS

God uses everyday people, even people who don't think much of themselves, to be involved in His work of salvation.

Spend a few minutes praying that God will help you to overcome any fears or obstacles that you may have, and to soften your heart to be willing to be actively involved in God's mission for the lost. Think about the networks of your daily lives, eg work, school, university, sporting teams, clubs...where you can be a shining example for Jesus.

Don't forget to pray for the people on your PEDALS! Page.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Cor 12:12

Study Three: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Love Rules Supreme

Aside from John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 is perhaps one of the best-known passages in the Bible. It's read at countless wedding ceremonies and quoted often - even by non-believers - but have we become so familiar with the words that they have begun to lose their meaning? It's important to see how Chapter 13 fits in with the chapters it's sandwiched between and how it adds to the discussion about spiritual gifts and the Body of Christ being the church together.

Read 1 Cor 13:1-13

1. The Corinthians are enthusiastic about gifts of the Spirit and of power. Paul explains that even the most impressive gifts, if exercised without love, are 'nothing'. Why is that?

2. From the passage, jot down what love IS and what love IS NOT:
Love is....

Love is not.....

3. Read verses 4-8 again, this time, substituting the word 'love' with the word 'Jesus'. Jesus is our ultimate example of how to love.
In the following passages, how does Jesus demonstrate the love Paul talks of in 1 Cor 13?

1 John 4:9-10

Rom 5:6-8

John 8:2-11

Phil 2:5-8

4. Which aspects of love, from this passage, do you most need to develop in your service of God and his people? (v4-7)

5. What contrast does Paul draw between love and the gifts of the Spirit in verses 8-10?

6. Why will the gifts be unnecessary when Christ returns?

7. What does verse 12 tell us about how we see God now and how we will see him one when Christ returns? (see also 1 Jn 3:2)

John 13:34-35 says: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

8. Why is love so important in a Christian community? How do you think we measure up and how might we love one another better?

Think of a person you know who serves with the type of love Paul talks about in Ch 13. Take the time to encourage them and to thank God for them.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for opportunities to speak to those you've listed on your PEDALS! Page. Ask God to soften their hearts towards Him and pray for courage to take up the opportunities that God gives you to share your faith.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Cor 13:4-8a

Study Four: 1 Corinthians 14:1-25 – Orderly Worship Part 1: Keeping It Intelligible

Last week, we talked about love being THE essential ingredient in the life of a Christian, especially in the use of spiritual gifts. This week we will see examples of what can happen when gifts are exercised without love.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

1. What happens when love is absent in the use of our gifts?
2. How can we serve in a way that edifies and encourages the church?
3. What, according to Paul, is the *purpose* of these gifts:

Tongues?

Prophecy?

4. How would speaking in a foreign language (without an interpreter or native speaker present):

a) edify Paul?

b) fail to edify the church?

c) be a deterrent to unbelievers? (v23, see also Acts 2:13)

5. Discuss how Paul contrasts the gift of prophecy with the gift of tongues.
(vv4-12)

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for your PEDALS! Page names; that God will use *you* in their journey to know Christ, and pray that God will give you an evangelistic opportunity to talk about God, Jesus, church, the Bible or anything spiritual or religious.

“Please give me an opportunity to talk about You with _____”

Since you are eager for
gifts of the Spirit, try to
excel in those that build
up the church
1 Cor 14:12

Study Five: 1 Corinthians 14:25-40 – Orderly Worship Part 2: Meeting Matters

Having just reminded the Corinthians that love should be the motivation for how they relate to one another, Paul now turns his attention to the matter of order in their church gatherings.

Read 1 Cor 14:25-40

1. What do you think is meant by ‘prophecy’ in this chapter?

2. Do you think it is the same or different to prophecy in the Old Testament? Why?

Verses 33-35 address the issue of women “remaining silent” in church. We know that Paul isn’t advocating a blanket prohibition of women speaking in church because, as we saw in Study One, Paul talks of women praying and prophesying in church (in the context of what they are wearing on their heads) as being part of a normal gathering (1 Cor 11:5,10).

3. From the following verses in Chapter 14, who is to remain silent, and why?
 - a) vv 27-28

 - b) vv 29-31

 - c) vv 34-35

4. What principles should guide how we conduct our church services?

5. a) What is apostolic authority? (vv37-38)

- c) Why is apostolic authority so important?

- d) Can you think of present-day examples where the apostles' teachings are not taken seriously?

- e) Looking back over the whole of Chapter 14, what do you see as the key verse of this section and why?

PRAYER POINTS

Did God answer your prayers from last week and has anyone been given the opportunity to share their faith or talk about Jesus with anyone this week?

Thank God if they did!

Continue to pray for your PEDALS! Page people.

For God is not a God of
disorder, but of peace –
as in all the
congregations of the
Lord's people.
1 Cor 14:33

Study Six: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - A Reminder About Basics

“Reports from Corinth had come to him in Ephesus that ‘some’ in Corinth were denying a future resurrection of the body (v12). As a result, others in the church were being ‘led astray’(v33), ‘shaken’ in their faith, ‘moved’ from their firm seat as Christians (v58). This unbelief by some of the members was ‘corrupting’ the whole body (vv33-34).

Paul has addressed a sequence of serious current difficulties in Corinth through the pages of this letter, but none so critical as this. He has kept the most potentially dangerous matter to the end so that his words will have the greatest impact on the assembly as they sit listening to his letter being read to them.” *P.Barnett - 1 Corinthians - Holiness and Hope of a Rescued People, 2011*

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1. What is it that Paul wants to remind the Corinthians of?
2. How has this message impacted the Corinthians? What has it resulted in for them?
3. Summarise what Paul describes in verses 3-8.

4. Verse 3 tells us *Christ died according to the Scriptures*.
Read Isaiah 53:10-12. How does this passage of Scripture support Paul's argument?
5. Why does Paul give the Corinthians this summary of the gospel?
6. What was the evidence that Jesus rose from the dead? (v5-8)
7. a) How does Paul refer to his own apostleship? (vv8-9)
(see also Acts 9).
- b) What qualifies Paul as an apostle?

8. Paul strongly acknowledges the 'grace of God' at work in his conversion and ministry. What role does God's grace play in our lives?
9. Reflection - Are you certain of the fundamentals of the gospel Paul describes here? Do you believe each one?
10. If someone asked you: "what is the gospel?", how would you answer them? In pairs, or as a group, take turns to tell one another the gospel, imagining you are speaking to someone who has never heard it before.
11. Reflection - How do we fall into the same trap as the Corinthians? How can we help one another stand firm on the fundamentals of the gospel?

PRAYER POINTS

Having thought through how you would explain the gospel to a non-believer, pray you will get the chance to tell someone what the gospel means to you this week.

By the gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise you have believed in vain.

1 Cor 15: 2

Study Seven: 1 Corinthians 15:12-34 - What's The Point?

1 Peter 3:13 says: *...always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

If someone asked you to describe what Christian hope is, what would you say?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

1. What problem is Paul seeking to address in this passage?
2. What does Paul say is wrong with this line of thinking? What is the outcome? (v 19)

3. Paul refutes this false teaching by giving an argument that goes right back to Adam.

Summarise his argument from verses 20-22.

4. List out the sequence of events Paul discusses from v23-28. What is the end result?

5. Those who are denying the resurrection of the dead are misleading others. Paul warns of this in v33 - 34. How can this be a danger for us too?

6. What are the implications for you personally, if Jesus was never raised from the dead? (vv17-18)

7. Discuss whether someone can be a Christian if they don't believe in the resurrection of Christ.
8. "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die" (v33) could almost be a catch-cry for our society. How could you use this passage to encourage someone who feels this world is all there is, that there is no life after death?
9. How did Paul's view of the resurrection shape the way he lived? (v30)
10. How should a belief in the resurrection of the dead shape the way we live now?

PRAYER POINTS

Continue to pray for the names on your PEDALS! Page and ask God to give you the courage to ask your friends what they believe about God, and why.

And if Christ has not
been raised, your faith
is futile; you are still in
your sins.
1 Cor 15: 17

Study Eight: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 - New Bodies - WOW!

Have you thought much about what our new bodies will be like? Discuss your thoughts together.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

1. What does Paul mean by 'what you sow does not come to life unless it dies' v36?
2. Who gives 'bodies' to all the various different life forms? Are any better than any others? (37-38)

3. **Re-read v42-44** - List and discuss the differences between the perishable and the imperishable.

4. Again, Paul goes back to Adam for his argument about the natural body and the supernatural body (v45-49).
 - a) Who is the second man/heavenly man he is referring to?

 - b) Discuss the differences between the natural/earthly man and the supernatural/spiritual man.

5. Who will, and who will NOT, inherit the Kingdom of God?

6. What do you think the 'mystery' is that Paul goes on to describe in verse 51? (see also Phil 3:20-21; 1 Thess 4:13-18)

7. In verses 54-57 Paul reaches the end of his discussion on the importance of the resurrection of the dead. What pastoral hope do these verses give to the Corinthians and also to us today?
8. What is it that Paul wants the Corinthians and us to 'stand firm' in? (v58)
9. Reflection - How are you going at 'standing firm' in the gospel? Are you letting NOTHING move you?
10. What is one thing that might threaten you from standing firm?
11. Reflection - What does 'giving ourselves fully to the work of the Lord' have to do with us standing firm? Are the two related, do you think? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray that God provides an opportunity to talk with the people you are praying for (PEDALS! Page) about the deeper things of life and that you can move from beyond the superficial.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Study Nine:1 Corinthians 16:1-24 - Final Words

1. What importance do we usually place on someone's final words to us? Can you think of a personal example?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

2. What issue does Paul address in the opening verses of this chapter? What are his instructions? (vv1-4)
3. Why is he telling the Corinthians to do this?
4. In verses 5-9 Paul explains his travel plans. What do these plans tell us about how Paul feels about the Corinthian church?

5. How does see Paul refer to others who are ministering the gospel?
(v10-12 and v13-18)

6. Why are Paul's words in v13-14 a fitting reminder at the end of his letter?

7. How does Paul's statement in verse 14, summarise the whole of the letter?

8. How can we 'do everything in love'? Discuss some thoughts that come to mind when you think back over the issues Paul has addressed in this letter.

9. Discuss ways in which you can personally encourage one another to live out what Paul says in v13 - *'Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong'*
10. What are some practical ways we can 'refresh the spirit' of those who are serving us and ministering to us, just as Paul was refreshed by Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus (v18)
11. Reflection - think back over the term. What have been some areas you have been challenged on as we've looked at 1 Corinthians together?
12. Reflection - How can we learn from the mistakes within the Corinthian church, to ensure we don't fall into the same traps?

PRAYER POINTS

Continue to pray for God to reveal himself to the people on your PEDALS! Page and think and pray about ideas for introducing them to God. Is there a way you can introduce them to some of your Christian friends?

Be on your guard; stand
firm in the faith; be
courageous; be strong. Do
everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

Rate yourself from 0-5 according to the following statements.

(0,1 means you don't rate, or hardly rate at all, 5 means this is one of your very strong points)

The following is true of me:

	1	I am good at listening
	2	I enjoy explaining things to others from the Bible
	3	I love talking about Jesus to a congregational group
	4	I am often used to bring others to Christ
	5	I enjoy administrative work
	6	I feel a deep caring love for those who are ill and a call to help them get well
	7	I am handy at most things and adaptable
	8	I am deeply concerned about the world and social affairs
	9	I am usually looked to for a lead
	10	I enjoy thinking of imaginative ways to communicate God's Word
	11	I am able to distinguish between spiritual truth and error
	12	I have been used to encourage Christians in their living for Jesus
	13	I feel responsible to help meet our church's financial needs
	14	I am not put out by unexpected visitors
	15	Sick, helpless or shut-in people are helped when I minister to them
	16	I make helpful relationships with others easily
	17	Others are helped when I teach them things
	18	I love the study and work in preparing a message
	19	God has given me a great love for others and a longing to speak to them about the gospel
	20	I can organise well, clearly and efficiently
	21	Others find my presence soothing and healing
	22	I like helping people
	23	I am active in service in the community
	24	In a group I am often elected spokesperson or leader
	25	I have used a creative ability (writing, painting, music, etc) to benefit other church members
	26	I have detected fake or manipulative persons and teachings when others have not
	27	I am glad when people needing comfort seek my help
	28	I have lowered my standard of living to do God's work
	29	I am glad to welcome strangers at church
	30	I sense it when people are hurting in some way
	31	I have been effectively responsible for others' spiritual lives
	32	I love studying and finding the facts
	33	My sermons/talks have been clearly a blessing to others
	34	I find my life is full of opportunities to witness for Christ
	35	I love doing office work and do it thoroughly
	36	I feel called to pray for the sick and lay hands on them
	37	I am a practical type
	38	I am very aware of the needs of society today and feel called to do something about it

	39	When leading something, I put a lot of preparation into it
	40	I am aware that others have been blessed through my creative ability (drama, puppets, skits etc)
	41	I tend to look beneath the surface and perceive people's motives
	42	I am sensitive to suffering, troubled and discouraged people and I want them to see God's answers to life's problems
	43	I have often given more than my weekly proportion for God's work
	44	My home is regularly available for meetings and guests
	45	I have a knack for turning my compassion into cheerful acts of kindness
	46	I assume responsibility to restore when I see a Christian led astray
	47	I have patience in helping others understand Christian things
	48	Objective people have said I preach the Bible well
	49	I love to talk to individuals about Jesus
	50	I am painstaking about details in organisation
	51	I spend time praying with and for sick people
	52	I spend much of my time helping others in practical ways
	53	I feel God is at work in the world today and I must work along with him there
	54	I am good at delegating work to others in a team setting
	55	I would enjoy expressing myself creatively for others' benefit through artistic expression, eg poetry or sculpting
	56	I am usually aware of people who wear 'masks' or pretend
	57	I want to help people spiritually mature through counsel and instruction from the Word
	58	I am very conscious I am a steward of all that I have
	59	I am very conscious of lonely, shy or new people at church or meetings
	60	I can cope with touching and helping the unlovely

Once you have scored yourself on all of the above, it's time to interpret your scores.

Interpreting Your Scores

Next to the numbers below, write your score for that particular statement.

Then, add your scores along each line and place each line's total next to A, B, C etc.

Score	Score	Score	Score	Line Total	
1	16	31	46		A
2	17	32	47		B
3	18	33	48		C
4	19	34	49		D
5	20	35	50		E
6	21	36	51		F
7	22	37	52		G
8	23	38	53		H
9	24	39	54		I
10	25	40	55		J
11	26	41	56		K
12	27	42	57		L
13	28	43	58		M
14	29	44	59		N
15	30	45	60		O

Place your 3 to 5 highest totals next to the list below, to see where your gifts lie:

	A	Pastoral
	B	Teaching
	C	Preaching
	D	Evangelism
	E	Administration
	F	Healing
	G	Practical Help
	H	Community Service
	I	Leadership
	J	Creative Ability
	K	Discernment
	L	Encouragement
	M	Giving
	N	Hospitality
	O	Mercy

- A cluster of totals well over 12 may describe your gift-mix.
- A clearly distinguishable highest total of 16 or over may be your gift.
- Highest totals around 12 may mean your gift is not listed, or your experience is limited.
- It is easy to mislead yourself, especially by answering as you would like to be. It may be helpful therefore, to give a close friend a copy of these statements and ask them to fill them in *about you*, then compare your totals.

What Now?

- If you have discovered something about the gifts God has given you, look out for ways to serve God using them. It may take a while to see where the best place is to use your gifts. Try out different possibilities. Speak to group leaders or members of the ministry team about how you can use the gifts you think you have.
- If you have reconfirmed things that you already knew and are currently involved in a ministry using those gifts – keep it up!
- God wants you to serve him and his people. He has equipped you to be part of the church; a group of people working together to attain maturity in Christ.

1 Cor 12:4-7 - There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

pedals!

Name	Friend	Next Step

What's your next step in pedals!



Pray for their salvation. "Please soften 's heart so they accept you as their saviour".



Pray that God gives you an **Evangelistic Opportunity**.
"Please give me an opportunity to talk about You with"



Do they know you're a Christian? If not, **Drop** a Christian word in a sentence. "How was your weekend? I went to church...."
Do they know any other Christians? If not, WHO would be a good person to introduce them to? Who might they get along with? And HOW would you introduce them? For a social, coffee, beer, BBQ...? WHEN could you arrange this?



Ask. Have you asked them what they believe? If they've had any church experiences?
If it seems too soon for a spiritual convo, have you asked them what their interests are? Have you asked them WHY they like those interests? Have you asked them deeper questions? Have you shown a deeper and genuine interest in them?



Listen. Have you listened to their points of view? Their interests? Their struggles? Their loves? Their hates? Their beliefs? Their issues with Christianity?



Share. Have you shared with them why you're a Christian? What it means to be a Christian? The difference that Jesus has made in your life?



Invite. Have you invited them to hear more? What do you think would be best for them? Alpha? Read the Word 121? Read a book or listen to a podcast in their own time? Come to church?

NOTES

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Sarah Jones & Rosemary MacGregor
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