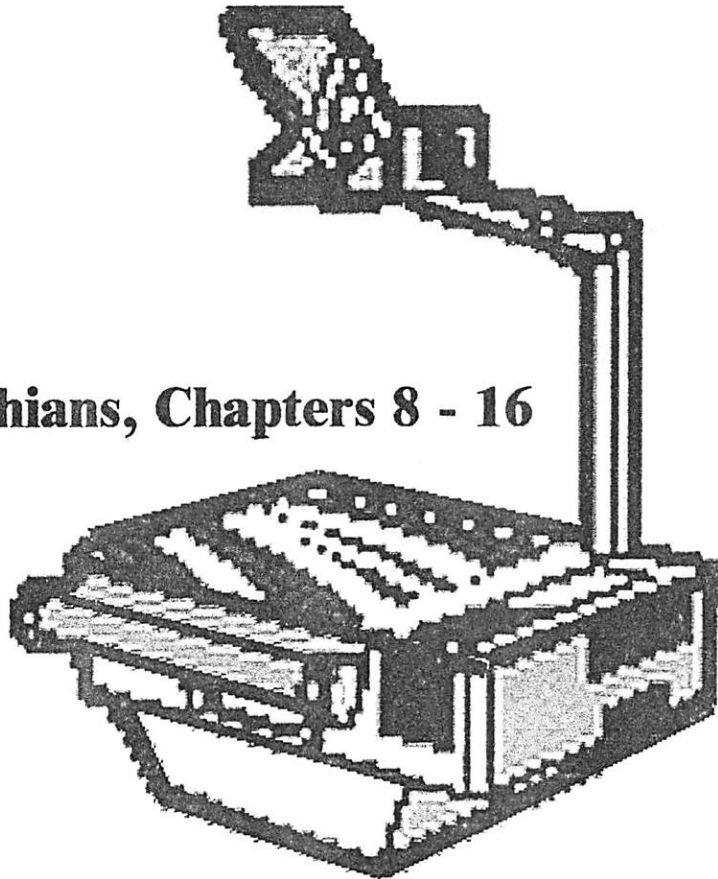


BIBLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Corinthians, Chapters 8 - 16



**CAN BE USED WITH
OVERHEAD TRANSPARENCIES**

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Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapter 8

I. What is an idol referred to by Paul? (8:1)

A. “An image or anything used as an object of worship in place of the true God.”

1. Images represented various gods, thus, objects of worship

2. (1 Cor. 10:14; Gal. 5:20; Col. 3:5)

3. Even Solomon turned to idolatry (1 Kgs. 11:4-6)

B. Example of an idol made by Israel:

1. “*And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands*” (Acts 7:41).

II. What is meant by “all have knowledge?” (8:1)

A. That nothing is unclean of itself

B. (Rom. 14:14)

Bible Discussion Questions

III. How can Knowledge puff up and love edify? (8:2,3)

- A. (*cf. 1 Cor. 4:6*)
- B. Pride can be sinful (*Prov. 16:18; Isa. 13:19*)
- C. Love (agape - ἀγάπη) builds up – figure of building an edifice, a building
- D. Those who think they know it all, know nothing
- E. Loving God is the only thing that matters

IV. How does Paul feel about idols and eating meat? (8:4-6)

- A. Idol is nothing – only one God (*Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Jas. 2:19*)
 - 1. Gentiles sacrifice to demons (*1 Cor. 10:20*)
 - 2. Many so-called gods—only one true God! (*vs. 5,6*)
 - 3. An unknown God to Athenians (*Acts 17:23*)

V. Do all have this knowledge about idols? *No* (8:7,8)

- A. They need time to grow out of influence of idolatry
 - 1. Eat with consciousness of idol - weak conscience
 - 2. Conscience is defiled (*1 Cor. 10:28; Rom. 14:14,22*)
 - 3. Meat does not comment Christians to God

Bible Discussion Questions

VI. Why can liberty of eating cause the weaker to Stumble? (8: 9-12)

- A. They need time to grow out of the influence of idolatry
 - 1. Influence toward others is important (*1 Cor. 10:28*)
 - 2. It is wrong to cause a brother/sister to stumble
 - 3. Stumbling block - a stone in the pathway
 - 4. The strong brother eating, has knowledge that meat offered to an idol is nothing
 - a. The weaker brother may eat from such influence, and think of the idol
 - b. Sinful to destroy a brother whom Jesus saved
 - c. We are our brother's keeper (*Gen. 4:9*)
 - 5. To sin against a brother is to sin against Christ
 - a. (*Mt. 25:40*)

VII. Why would Paul refrain from eating such meat? (8:13)

- A. He would go the extra mile to avoid offense (*Jas. 5:19,20*)
 - 1. How does this apply today?

Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapters 9

I. What is an apostle? (9:1,2)

A. What was Paul's mission as an apostle?

1. *(Acts 9:15; 1 Tim. 2:6,7; 2 Tim. 1:11)*

B. Discuss how Paul saw Jesus?

1. *(Acts 9:5; 1 Cor. 15:8)*

C. The Corinthians were a seal to Paul's apostleship

1. He had proven himself to them in every way
 - a. *(2 Cor. 12:12)*

II. How did Paul defend his apostleship to others? (9:3-6)

A. They had the right to eat and drink

1. At the expense of the churches
 - a. They often refused it *(1 Thes. 2:6,9)*

Bible Discussion Questions

2. They could have chosen a Christian wife
 - a. Context implies—and be supported
 - b. Other apostles had done this
 - c. Example: Brothers of the Lord: James, Joses, Simon, Judas (*Mt. 13:55*)
 - d. Peter had a wife (*Mt. 8:14*)
3. Paul and Barnabas could have refrained from working to support themselves
 - a. Others had chosen to be supported
 - b. (*cf. 1 Cor. 4:12; Acts 18:3*)

III. Would God approve of Paul and Barnabas being paid for their labor? (9:7)

- A. Soldiers who go to war are paid
 1. They were spiritual soldiers (*2 Cor. 10:3,4*)
- B. The one who plants a vineyard eats of its fruit (*Deut. 20:6*)

Bible Discussion Questions

C. Those feeding a flock, drink of the milk

D. These examples prove their right for church support

IV. What does the law of Moses teach about supporting those who spiritually work? (9:8-10)

A. The ox that treads the corn could eat (*Deut. 25:4*)

1. Is God concerned only with oxen?

B. Paul says that God said this about the ox for our sakes

1. The farmer who plows and threshes (in hope) shares in the harvest (*2 Tim. 2:6*)

V. Why were Paul and Barnabas worthy to be financially supported? (9:11-14)

A. Like the farmer, they had sowed spiritual things

1. (*cf. Rom. 15:26,27*)

Bible Discussion Questions

B. The church at Corinth had supported others

1. Thus, Paul and Barnabas had the right to be supported
2. They chose no support
 - a. Did not want to hinder the gospel
3. Other churches helped Paul (*2 Cor. 11:7-9*)
4. **Other examples:** Levites who served were supported
 - a. (*Lev. 6:16-26; 7:6,31,32; Num. 18:8-31*)
 - b. Lord ordained gospel preacher support (*cf. Lk. 10:7; Gal. 6:6*)

C. Still Paul refused their support

1. Worked with his hands (*Acts 20:34; 2 Thes. 3:8*)
2. He did not want to put an obstacle in the way of the gospel

Bible Discussion Questions

VI. Why had Paul refused support from this church? (9:15-18)

- A. Some must have accused him of NOT being an apostle—because he was not paid
 - 3. He had a right to be paid, but chose not to do so
 - a. Refused in past and present

- B. He would not have grounds to boast or glory in them and in the gospel
 - 1. *(2 Cor. 11:10)*

- C. If Paul merely preached the gospel because compelled; out of necessity only—no room for glorying
 - a. Wanted to preach it of his own free will
 - b. Either way, Paul was a steward of God
 - c. Paul wanted preaching to go beyond just a trust
 - 1. Felt a reward, to offer gospel without charge

Bible Discussion Questions

VII. Why had Paul Made himself a servant to all?

(9:19-23)

- A. That he might win more to Christ
 - 1. *(Mt. 28:19,20; Mk. 16:15,16)*
 - 2. To Jews, became as a Jew
 - 3. To those under the law, as under law
 - 4. To those without law (Gentiles, *Rom. 2:12,14*) as without law (*Gal. 2:3*)
 - a. He still had the law of Christ
 - 5. To the weak, became weak, to gain the weak
 - a. *(Rom. 15:1)*

- B. Paul did everything possible (except compromise) to share the gospel
 - 1. He wanted himself, these brethren, and others to share eternal life
 - a. *(Rom. 1:16; 6:23)*

Bible Discussion Questions

VIII. How does Paul encourage perseverance? (9:24-27)

A. The runners in a race—all compete. . .

1. One receives the prize or victory
 - a. Not enough just to be in the race
 - b. One must individually run

B. A runner who wins a crown must have self-control

1. Corruptible crown - a wreath that withers
2. Obedience to the gospel brings an incorruptible crown
 - a. Crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8)

C. Paul fought with certainty

1. NOT like a boxer fighting the air
 - a. Not a shadow boxer

D. Kept his body in subjection (*cf. Rom. 8:12,13*)

1. Did this to avoid becoming a castaway (rejected)

Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapters 10

I. How was Israel an example of falling? (10:1-10)

A. Israel had the full blessings of God:

1. He led them by day in a pillar of cloud
 - a. (*Ex. 13:21*)
2. Parted the Red Sea (*Ex. 14:21,22,29*)
3. Baptized into Moses in cloud and sea
 - a. Compare to being baptized into Christ
 - b. (*Rom. 6:3,4; Gal. 3:26,27; 1 Cor. 12:13*)
4. Ate spiritual meat—drank water from that spiritual rock (*Ex. 17:6; Num. 20:11; Ps. 78:15*)
 - a. That rock was Christ (*John 4:10,14*)

B. God was NOT pleased with most of them

1. Murmured, failed to fully believe (*Num. 14:29,35*)
2. Overthrown in wilderness (*Num. 14:16,23,30*)

Bible Discussion Questions

II. How does Israel's sins apply to Christians today?

(10:11)

A. We must not lust after evil things today

1. (cf. *Num. 11:4,34*)

B. Must avoid idolatry

1. Had warned Christians at Corinth (*1 Cor. 5:11*)

2. Israel failed the test (golden calf, *Ex. 32:6*)

3. Christians (*1 Cor. 10:14; Gal. 5:20; Col. 3:5*)

C. Must avoid fornication (sexuality immorality)

1. Israel failed this test (*Num. 25:8,9*)

a. Paul's number of who died, 23,000

b. Old Testament number, 24,000

c. Paul may have rounded off to the nearest

thousand, or between 23 and 24 thousand

2. Christians (*Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5*)

Bible Discussion Questions

D. Must avoid tempting or testing Christ

1. Israel failed by testing God—were destroyed
 - a. Sent fiery serpents (*Num. 21:4-9*)
2. God still hates disobedience today
 - a. Eternal salvation only to the obedient
 - b. (*2 Thes. 1:7,8*)

E. Must avoid murmuring or grumbling

1. Israel was punished (*Ex. 16:2; Num. 14:2; 17:5; cf. Ps. 78:17-22*)
2. Christians ("*Be hospitable to one another without grumbling*" (*1 Peter 4:9*).

F. All these happened and are written for our examples

1. (*Rom. 15:4*)
2. These examples are to be applied to this last dispensation of time (*Heb. 1:1,2*)

Bible Discussion Questions

III. Can these Christians, and Christians today fall from God? (10:12)

- A. Examples of Israel prove that one can fall
- B. Christians who do not remain faithful to God can fall!
 - 1. Great danger to believe and teach one can't fall
 - 2. (1 Cor. 9:27; Gal. 5:4; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-6; 4:9,10; Heb. 3:12-15; 6:4-6; 10:26; 2 Pet. 1:10; 2:4,21,22)

IV. Will God help Christians with temptations? (10:13-15)

- A. Yes, Paul says He will! God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9)
 - 1. Others have resisted
 - 2. Will provide a way of escape with each temptation
 - a. James refers to how God was merciful and compassionate to Job
 - b. (Jas. 5:11)
- B. Therefore, flee from idolatry!

Bible Discussion Questions

V. How does Paul use the Lord's Supper to condemn idolatry? (10:16-22)

- A. The cup and bread—a communion of blood and body of Jesus
 - 1. (Mt. 26:27,28; 1 Cor. 11:24,25)
 - 2. This brings complete unity
 - a. No room for idols; thus flee it!

- B. Uses Israel to illustrate unity to same God
 - 1. Idols and what sacrificed, are nothing
 - a. (1 Cor. 8:4)

- C. Gentiles (pagans) sacrifice to demons, not God!
 - 1. Don't fellowship demons
 - 2. Can't have it both ways:
 - a. Cup of Lord/cup of demons
 - b. Table of Lord/table of demons
 - 3. Idolatry will provoke the Lord to jealousy

Bible Discussion Questions

VI. What did Paul teach about eating meat from market? (10:23-30)

- A. Important to do things that edify—build up
 - 1. May be lawful, but not expedient (*1 Cor. 6:12*)
 - 2. Seek good of others—never be selfish

- B. Eating meats from market, was permissible
 - 1. Eat without question—may have been used for idols
 - a. Everything belongs to Lord (*Deut. 10:14*)
 - 2. If invited to the feast of an unbeliever, eat without question
 - a. Meat is wrong only if it offends conscience
 - b. If someone says, “*This was offered to idols,*”
refuse to eat—for conscience sake
 - c. Quotes again (*Deut. 10:14; cf. Ex. 19:5; Deut. 10:14*)

Bible Discussion Questions

VII. Is glorifying God the most important thing? (10:31-33)

- A. Some might ask, “Why am I evil spoken of for eating, when I gave thanks?”
 - 1. No problem with meat, even if it came from an idol
 - 2. The problem was offending a weaker brother
 - a. Why is my liberty judged by the conscience of another?

- B. Paul gives the true issue to consider:
 - 1. Act in such a way as to glorify God
 - 2. Give no offense to Jew, Gentile, church of God
 - a. Cost the blood of Jesus (*Acts 20:28*)

- C. Paul made every possible effort NOT to offend
 - 1. Without compromising truth
 - a. (*Gal. 1:10; cf. Rom. 15:2; 1 Cor. 9:22*)
 - b. Ultimate goal - save others (*cf. Mt. 18:11*)

Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapters 11

I. In what ways do Christians honor God? (11:1-3)

A. Paul followed Christ—wanted Corinthians to follow or to imitate him

1. (*1 Thes. 1:6*)
2. Wanted them to keep ordinances—as he taught

B. Sets forth God's order of authority and worship

1. Head of man - Christ
 - a. (*Eph. 1:22,23; 4:15, 5:23; Col. 1:18*)
2. Head of woman - man
 - a. (*Gen. 3:16; Eph. 5:23*)
3. Head of Christ - God
 - a. (*John 14:28*)

C. Foundation is laid to discuss men and women in worship

Bible Discussion Questions

II. What did Paul say about man and woman in worship? (11:4-7)

- A. Men were NOT to cover their heads when praying or prophesying
 - 1. Prophesying was a spiritual gift (*1 Cor. 12:10*)
 - 2. To cover head, is to dishonor their head
 - a. Either their position, or Christ head of church
 - b. Why? He is the image and glory of God (*vs. 7*)

- B. Women were to cover their heads when praying
 - 1. When prophesying
 - a. When speaking by inspiration
 - b. (*cf. Acts 2:17; 21:9*)
 - 2. Failure to do so dishonors her heads
 - a. Either her position from God or her husband
 - b. If it is a shame to shave it, then cover it
 - c. Why? The woman is the glory of man (*vs. 7*)

Bible Discussion Questions

III. How does Paul describe the nature of men and women? (11:8-16)

A. Man is not from woman, but woman from man
1. (Gen. 2:21-23)

B. Man was not created for man, but woman for man
1. (Gen. 2:18)

C. Reason why a woman should wear a symbol of submission (veil or covering) on her head
1. Angels submitted to their God-given place

D. Regardless, man and woman are important to each other
1. Man is by the woman (birth)
2. Both from God
3. Both (if Christians) in the Lord (Gal. 3:28)

Bible Discussion Questions

E. Based on customs:

1. A woman was not to pray in public uncovered?
2. Nature teaches that long hair is a shame to man

F. If these statements seemed contentious

1. They had no other custom
2. Not even in the church
3. Paul did not want arguments and strife
 - a. (Compare: *1 Tim. 6:3,4*)

IV. What problems did these Christians have with the Lord's Supper? (11:17-22)

A. Paul could not praise their coming together in the church

1. They came together in division
 - a. Paul heard about this, and to some extent believed it
 - b. (*1 Cor. 1:10-12; 3:3*)

Bible Discussion Questions

2. Divisions had been foretold
 - a. (*Lk. 17:1; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1*)
3. Separated the approved from the unapproved

B. Their coming together was not to eat the Lord's Supper as it should have been eaten (*Acts 20:7*)

1. Turned it into a selfish, drunken feast
 - a. (*cf. Jude 12*)
 2. Had brought home style food into the worship
 - a. Context does not relate to a fellowship meal, but to the worship of the church
 - b. In selfishness, they shamed the poor
3. Their actions did not deserve praise

C. Therefore, Paul chose to review the truth about the Lord's Supper

1. Paul wanted to show their error

Bible Discussion Questions

V. What are the true facts relative to the Lord's Supper? (11:23-34)

- A. That which Paul had taught them was from the Lord
 - 1. Gave thanks (*Mk. 14:22*) for the bread
 - a. Unleaven bread from Passover (*Mk. 14:12*)
 - b. A memorial of His body broken on the cross
 - 2. Gave thanks for the cup (*Mk. 14:23*)
 - a. Fruit of the vine (*Mt. 26:29*)
 - b. New covenant in His blood
 - c. Shed for many/remission of sins (*Mt. 26:28*)
 - d. A memorial of His shed blood
 - 3. For as often . . . New Testament example:
 - a. First day of the week (*Acts 20:7*)
 - b. To be remembered until He comes

- B. All must partake in a worthy manner, or be guilty of body and blood
 - 1. Corinthians were guilty - made a drunken feast

Bible Discussion Questions

C. Important to examine oneself (*2 Cor. 13:5*)

1. Be sure to remember body and blood
2. Eating and drinking in unworthy manner
 - a. Eat and drink damnation
 - b. Will not discern Lord's body

D. Because they failed to eat and drink with God's approval:

1. Many weak, sick, and asleep
 - a. Probably speaking metaphorically
2. True self-judgment, avoids God's chastening hand
 - a. (*1 John 1:9*)
3. God disciplines to avoid condemnation
 - a. (*Heb. 12:5,6*)

E. Concluding instructions - avoid selfishness

1. Do not eat food as a part of worship - eat at home
2. Context: not referring to common meals (*Acts 2:42*)

Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapters 12

I. What were some misunderstandings about spiritual gifts? (12:1-6)

A. Spiritual gifts: Gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit

1. Probably a previous question (1 Cor. 7:1)

B. Gives a test to see if spirit is Holy or unholy

1. As Gentiles, had come from mute idols

2. Holy Spirit would never call Jesus accursed

a. Holy Spirit would say, "Jesus is Lord!"

b. (Mt. 10:32,33; Lk. 12:8; cf. Rom. 10:9,10;
John 16:13,14)

3. One Spirit (Eph. 4:4) - different kinds of gifts

4. One Lord (Eph. 4:5) - different ministries

5. One God (Eph. 4:6) - various operations

a. (1 Cor. 15:28)

Bible Discussion Questions

II. How does the Spirit give gifts to profit all? (12:7-11)

A. Paul gives a list of gifts

1. Word of wisdom (*cf. 1 Cor. 2:6,7*)
2. Word of knowledge (*Rom. 15:14*)
3. Faith (associated with miraculous power)
 - a. (*Mt. 17:20; cf. 1 Cor. 13:2*)
4. Gifts of healing (the sick, *Mk. 3:15; 16:18*)
5. Working miracles (to bend nature from its course)
6. Prophecy - words by the Holy Spirit
 - a. (*Rom. 12:6; cf. 1 Cor. 12:28; 13:1-3*)
7. Discerning of spirits (testing a spokesman)
 - a. (*1 John 4:1*)
8. Different kinds of tongues
 - a. Languages, (*vs. 30; Acts 2:6-8*)
9. Interpretation of tongues (what was spoken)
 - a. (*1 Cor. 14:5,26*)

B. All these given by the same Spirit

1. He knew what each individual needed

Bible Discussion Questions

III. In what way does Paul use the human body to illustrate? (12:12-27)

A. Like all members of the human body are important, so are these various gifts for Christ

1. (*cf. Rom. 12:4,5*)

B. By one Spirit baptized into one body—His spiritual body, His church

1. (*Eph. 1:22,23; 4:4,12; 5:23,30; Col. 1:18*)

2. Immersed, (*Rom 6:4; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:26,27*)

3. Jews/Gentiles, bond/free

a. Guided them to God's word, (*John 6:63*)

C. Each member of human body important to body

1. One member doesn't seek to be another

D. Each member in spiritual body also important

1. (*Rom. 12:3; 1 Cor. 12:28*)

Bible Discussion Questions

- E. If all one member, the body would not function
1. Therefore, many members, but one body
 - a. (*Eph. 1:22,23; 4:4*)
 2. One member must not rebel against another
 - a. Even seemingly weak members are valuable
 - b. God has composed the body to honor all parts
 3. God's plan is designed to avoid divisions
 - a. Promotes care for both physical and spiritual bodies
 - b. If one member suffers, all members suffer
 - c. If one member is honored, all members rejoice
 - d. (*Rom. 12:15*)
- F. Applies illustration of the human body
1. You are the body of Christ—individual members
 - a. (*Eph. 1:22,23; 4:12; 5:23; Col. 1:24*)
 2. To follow this, will remove all schisms

Bible Discussion Questions

IV. What is the order in which God set some in the church? (12:28)

A. First, **apostles** (Eph. 4:11)

1. Men who were sent to lay the foundation of Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone
 - a. (Eph. 2:20; 3:5)

B. Second, **prophets**, for the present and future

1. (Acts 13:1)

C. Third, **teachers**, those who explain God's will

1. (Eph. 4:11; Heb. 5:12; Jas. 3:1)

D. Fourth, **miracles**, those with supernatural power to bend nature

1. (1 Cor. 12:10,29; Gal. 3:5)

Bible Discussion Questions

E. Fifth, **Gifts of healing**, power to help the sick
1. (*Mk. 16:18*)

F. Sixth, **helps**, the ability to help others

G. Seventh, **Governments**, gifts of administrations

H. Eighth, **diversities of tongues** (other languages)
1. (*1 Cor. 12:10; Acts 2:4-11*)

V. Did each Christian have all these gifts? (12:29-31)

A. Paul's answer implies, "no."

1. Must have strife and jealousy over gifts
2. However, their spiritual value was most important
 - a. (*1 Cor. 14:1*)

B. Paul will now show that love, is the more excellent way!

Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapters 13

I. What illustrations does Paul use to present love's great contrast? (13:1-3)

- A. Tongues or languages of men and angels
 - 1. Without love . . . sounding brass or a clanging symbal
 - a. No more than making a loud noise

- B. Gifts of prophecies, understand all mysteries and knowledge, and have all faith to remove mountains
 - 1. Without love . . . I am nothing

- C. Give all my goods to the poor, and my body to be burned
 - 1. Without love . . . it profits me nothing
 - 2. He will now explain why love is so great:

Bible Discussion Questions

II. Why is (*agape*) love so great? (13:4-7)

- A. It suffers long (*cf. 1 Pet. 4:8*)
- B. It is kind (*Eph. 4:32*)
- C. It does not envy—no jealousy (*Gal. 5:26*)
- D. It does not parade itself (does not brag)
- E. It is not puffed up (not arrogant)
- F. It does not behave rudely
- G. It is not self seeking
 - 1. (*Rom. 12:10; 1 Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:4*)
- H. It is not easily provoked (temper is controlled)

Bible Discussion Questions

- I. It does not think evil (thinks on good things, *(Phil. 4:8)*)
- J. It does not rejoice in iniquity
- K. It rejoices in truth (*2 John 4*)
- L. It bears all things (*Rom. 15:1; cf. Gal. 6:2*)
- M. It believes all things (full confidence)
- N. It hopes all things (has a positive attitude)
- O. It endures all things (perseveres, even when suffering)

III. How will love endure compared to others? (13:8-10)

A. Love will NEVER fail!

1. Therefore, it is “the most excellent way”

a. (*1 Cor. 12:31*)

Bible Discussion Questions

B. Prophecies (*vs. 8*) will fail or cease

C. Speaking in tongues (other languages, *vs. 8*) will cease

D. Knowledge - teaching and applying divine wisdom, will vanish away (*Rom. 15:14*)

E. All of the above things are in part, not the completed will of God

1. When the perfected will of God comes, these spiritual gifts will be done away
2. Their need will be fulfilled

IV. What two illustrations does Paul use to show the gifts will cease? (*13:11,13*)

A. First, development from childhood to adulthood

1. Manhood equals complete will (*2 Pet. 1:21*)

Bible Discussion Questions

B. Second, Looking in a glass or mirror

1. Paul makes a contrast between **NOW** and **THEN**
 - a. Now - During Paul's time and spiritual gifts
 - b. Then - When complete will of God is fulfilled
 - c. (2 Cor. 3:18; cf. Jas. 1:23-25)
2. The complete will would prepare them for the return of the Lord

C. Three gifts will remain when the others are gone:

1. Faith - Faith in God and faith in the faith (Jude 3)
2. Hope - Eternal life in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 15:19)
3. Love - God, His Son, His church, God's will!

D. Of these three, LOVE is the greatest! Why?

1. Because faith and hope are nothing without love
 - a. (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
2. Love gives honor and glory - God is love (1 John 4:7-11)

Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapters 14

I. Why was instructions concerning spiritual gifts important to the Corinthians? (14:1)

- A. They had faced problems with gifts (*vs. 26*)
 - 1. Paul did not want them to be ignorant
 - a. (*1 Cor. 12:1*)

II. Why was prophecy preferred to tongues? (14:2-9)

- A. Discusses the best gifts (*1 Cor. 14:1*)
- B. An unknown tongue (another language) does not speak to men
 - 1. Don't understand—need interpreter (*vs. 13*)
 - a. In his spirit, he speaks mysteries
- C. Prophecy helps in three ways:
 - 1. Edifies, (*Rom. 14:19; 15:2; 1 Cor. 12:19; Eph. 4:12,29*)

Bible Discussion Questions

2. Exhorts, (*cf. 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2*)
3. Comforts (*see vs. 19*)

D. Summation comparison

1. Unknown tongue edifies himself
2. Prophesying builds up the church, the spiritual body (*1 Cor. 12:12,13*)

E. Paul wished that all could speak in tongues

1. But desired more, that they could prophesy
2. Because prophecy is greater unless interpreted

F. Gives two illustrations:

1. Lifeless things giving sounds (pipe or harp)
 - a. Must give distinct sound to be understood
2. Trumpet must give a clear sound for battle
3. Unless understood, unknown tongues are like speaking into the air

Bible Discussion Questions

II. How does Paul illustrate by many languages? (14:10-19)

- A. Many important languages in the world
 - 1. Without knowing one's language, both foreigners
 - a. All communication is broken down
 - b. Applies to tongue speaking
- B. Be zealous for spiritual gifts that edify the church
 - 1. Members of the spiritual body, (*1 Cor. 12:12,13*)
- C. Use unknown tongue, only if it is interpreted
 - 1. Prayer (in unknown tongue) is fruitful only to one's spirit, and not to understanding
 - 2. In prayer and singing, both spirit and understanding are important
 - a. (*Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; John 4:24*)
- D. Amen cannot be said to prayer in unknown tongue
 - 1. Great for self, but no edification for others

Bible Discussion Questions

- E. Paul was thankful for tongues more than all of them
 - 1. In the church, rather speak five words understood than ten thousand in an unknown tongue

III. What was the purpose of tongues (other languages)? (14:20-25)

- A. These brethren did not understand the purpose
 - 1. Abused tongues like children (*1 Cor. 3:1; 4:14*)
 - a. Needed to be like men - mature (*Rom. 16:19*)
 - b. (*cf. Mt. 11:16,17; Eph. 4:14*)
 - 2. In malice, needed to be childlike (*Mt. 18:3; 19:14*)
 - 3. Quotes (*Isa. 28:11,12*) to prove that tongue speaking did not make Israel listen
- B. Tongues are for a sign to unbelievers (*Acts 2*)
 - 1. Prophesying is for believers
 - 2. (*Rom. 12:6*)

Bible Discussion Questions

- C. Illustrates effect of all church speaking in tongues
 - 1. Unlearned/unbeliever comes in, thinks you're mad
 - a. Peter/apostles accused of being drunk
 - b. They were speaking in tongues (*Acts 2:4,13*)
 - 2. With prophesying, unlearned and unbeliever will be taught, worship, and see God in them

IV. What were Paul's instructions for orderly worship? (14:26-33)

- A. Let all things be done for edifying (*vs. 19*)
 - 1. Avoid mixing all gifts together at the same time
 - a. Let unknown tongue be by twos or threes with one to interpret
 - b. If no interpreter, keep silent in the church!
(speak only to self and God)
 - c. Let two or three prophets speak—one by one
(others weigh what is said)
 - d. Prophets can speak or wait

Bible Discussion Questions

B. God is not the author of confusion, but peace

1. In all churches of the saints (*1 Thes. 4:7*)

a. (*cf. 1 Cor. 11:16*)

V. What is involved in women keeping silent in the churches? (14:34-40)

A. After instructions to men, now instructs women

1. They are not permitted to speak in the worship

2. They are to be under obedience—subjection

(*1 Tim. 2:11-13*)

a. As the law also says (*Gen. 3:16*)

3. Ask their husbands at home

a. A shame to speak in the church (worship assembly where men are present (*1 Tim. 2:12*))

4. True prophets will affirm what Paul writes is truth

a. Paul inspired apostle (*Col. 1:1; Gal. 1:12*)

5. Desire earnestly to prophesy, forbid not tongues

a. Do so decently and in order!

Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapters 15

I. What did Paul deliver when he delivered the gospel?

(15:1-4)

- A. The gospel - good news, glad tidings of Jesus
 - 1. *(Rom. 1:16,17; 1 Cor. 1:18,24)*
 - 2. They had obeyed the gospel *(1 Cor. 2:2)*

- B. Christians at Corinth were saved by the gospel
 - 1. If they would hold fast what Paul preached
 - 2. Danger of falling *(1 Cor. 10:12)*

- C. The gospel that Paul preached, had been received from the Lord
 - 1. *(1 Cor. 11:23; Gal. 1:12)*
 - 2. All Scripture inspired of God
 - a. *(2 Tim. 3:16,17)*

Bible Discussion Questions

D. The three-point gospel:

1. Jesus died for our sins
 - a. According to Scriptures (*Ps. 16:9-11*)
2. Jesus was buried
 - a. (*Isa. 53:9; Mt. 27:60*)
3. Jesus rose again the third day
 - a. According to Scriptures (*Ps. 16:9-11; Mt. 28:1-6*)

II. Who saw Jesus after His resurrection? (15:5-8)

A. He was seen of Cephas (Peter)

1. (*Lk. 24:34*)

B. He was seen by the twelve

1. Judas Iscariot was not present - Mathias would later be appointed
 - a. (*Mt. 28:16; Acts 1:26*)

Bible Discussion Questions

C. He was seen by more than five hundred brethren

1. Paul said that some were dead, but others alive

D. He was seen by James

1. This was possibly James the Lord's brother
 - a. (Gal. 1:19)

E. He was seen by all the apostles

1. (Acts 1:2-4)

F. He was seen last of all by Paul

1. (Acts 9:3-8; 22:6-11; 26:12-19)
2. Paul born out of due time

III. How did Paul feel about himself as an apostle? (15:9-11)

A. As the least of the apostles

1. Persecuted the church of God
2. (Acts 7:58; 8:3; Gal. 1:13; Phil. 3:6; 1 Tim. 1:13)

Bible Discussion Questions

B. Because of God's grace, Paul overcame

1. *(Eph. 3:7)*
2. God's grace was not in vain
 - a. Paul proved himself by more labor than all the apostles
3. He allowed God to work through him
 - a. *(Phil. 2:13)*

C. Paul and others preached, and these brethren believed

IV. How could some among them say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (15:12-19)

- A. Either false teachers had come in, or some in Corinth church teaching this doctrine
1. This is the doctrine of the Sadducees
 - a. *(Acts 23:8; cf. 17:32)*

Bible Discussion Questions

B. First argument: If no resurrection of the dead, Christ is not risen (*vs. 16*)

1. (*1 Thes. 4:14; cf. John 14:19*)

C. Second argument: If Christ is not risen, their preaching and their faith was vain

1. No Judgment Day (*Acts 17:31*)

D. Third argument: If Christ is not risen, Paul and others would be false witnesses

1. Example: Peter's sermon, (*Acts 2:24*)

E. Fourth argument: If Christ is not raised, you are still in your sins

1. Baptism is a form of His burial and resurrection
 - a. (*Rom. 6:4*)
 - b. Into Christ (*Gal. 3:26,27*)

Bible Discussion Questions

F. Fifth argument: If Christ is not raised, those asleep in Christ have perished

G. Sixth argument: If Christ is not raised: Hope does not extend beyond this life

1. We are of all men most pitiable (to be pitied)

V. When Jesus was raised from the dead, what did He become? (15:20-22)

A. The firstfruits of those who slept

1. He was first to rise, never to die again

2. Some Old and New Testament verses on firstfruits:

a. (*Ex. 23:16,19; 34:22,26; Rom. 8:23; 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:15; Jas. 1:18; Rev. 14:4*)

B. By Adam (one man) came death

1. (*Rom. 3:23; Heb. 9:27*)

Bible Discussion Questions

C. By Jesus (one man) came the resurrection of the dead
1. *(John 11:25)*

D. In Adam, all die

E. In Christ, all are made alive
1. Some to life, others to damnation
a. *(John 5:28,29)*

VI. In what order is the resurrection of the dead and the end of time? (15:23-28)

A. Christ the firstfruits (vs. 20)
1. *(1 Pet. 1:3,21)*

B. Those in Christ at His coming
1. *(1 Thes. 4:14-17)*

C. The end of time

Bible Discussion Questions

- D. Jesus delivers up the kingdom (His church) to God
 - 1. Jesus is presently at the right hand of His father
 - a. *(Rom. 8:4;)*
 - 2. Christ will give back to the Father, all rule, authority, and power *(see vs. 28)*

- E. Will put all enemies under His feet
 - a. Death, the last enemy under His feet
 - b. *(vss. 54-57; Rev. 20:12-14)*

VII. How does Paul further prove the resurrection of Jesus and all the dead? (15:29-34)

- A. If no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for or with reference the dead?
 - 1. Those who die to sin, are buried and raised in baptism, do so in the likeness of His death, burial, and resurrection
 - a. *(Rom. 6:1-5; cf. Acts 18:8)*

Bible Discussion Questions

2. This form of doctrine was obeyed, because they believed that after physical death, they would be raised
 - a. Thus, they were baptized with reference to the dead
 - b. Why do this, if the dead do not rise at all?
3. Some have falsely taught that one can be baptized for someone dead, who were never baptized
 - a. This is nowhere taught in the New Testament

B. Paul stood in danger every hour of his life

1. Why do this, if there is no resurrection!
 - a. (2 Cor. 11:26-28)
 - b. His rejoicing in them led him to die daily, because of Jesus Christ our Lord

C. Paul fought (probably metaphorically) with beasts in Ephesus (2 Cor. 1:8)

1. What advantage was this, if dead do not rise?

Bible Discussion Questions

D. If no resurrection, just eat and drink for tomorrow we die

1. Millions follow this rule today

E. Warns against being deceived

1. Bad company corrupts good habits (vs. 33)
 - a. *(Gal. 6:7)*

F. Awake to righteousness - do not sin

1. Some among them did not have knowledge of God
2. This Paul spoke to their shame

VIII. How are the dead raised, and with what body do they come? (15:35-44)

A. Gives their argument against the resurrection

B. Calls them a fool or foolish

Bible Discussion Questions

1. Example: grain sowed by the farmer must die before a new life
2. This example is applied, beginning in (*vs. 42*)

C. Different kinds of flesh

1. Men, beasts, fish, birds

D. Different kinds of bodies

1. Celestial - heavenly; Terrestrial - earthly
 - a. Each one has its own glory
 - b. Sun, moon, stars—each is different!

E. Applies to the resurrection of the dead

1. Sown in **corruption** - raised in incorruption
2. Sown in **dishonor** - raised in glory
3. Sown in **weakness** - raised in power
4. Sown a **natural body** - raised a spiritual body
 - a. Mentions two kinds of bodies

Bible Discussion Questions

IX. How does Paul compare the two Adams? (15:45-49)

- A. The first man Adam, was made a living soul or being
- B. The last man Adam, was made a life-giving spirit
 - 1. (*Rom. 5:14; John 5:21; 6:57*)
- C. The natural Adam came first, and is of the earth
 - 1. (*Gen. 2:7; 3:19; cf. John 3:13*)
 - 2. Those of the earth are earthy
- D. The spiritual Adam came second, and is from heaven
 - 1. (*1 John 3:2*)
- E. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God
 - 1. Nor can corruption inherit incorruption

Bible Discussion Questions

X. What is the mystery that Paul wants to share with them? (15:50-58)

A. Faithful Christians shall not sleep in death forever

1. They will be changed (*Phil. 3:21*)
 - a. Those alive/dead at His coming
 - b. (*1 Thes. 4:13-17*)

B. In a moment - twinkling of an eye

1. Last trumpet will sound at His coming
 - a. (*Mt. 24:31*)
2. Dead will be raised and changed to an incorruptible spiritual body
 - a. (*vss. 42-44*)

C. At this change from the corruptible physical body to the incorruptible spiritual body (*2 Cor. 5:4*)

1. "Death is swallowed up in victory"
 - a. (*Isa. 25:8*)

Bible Discussion Questions

D. The sting of death (*Rom. 6:23*)

1. It is sin (*1 John 3:4*)
2. Identified by the law
 - a. (*Rom. 3:20; 4:15; 7:8*)
3. Corruption (*Gal. 6:8*)

E. God gives victory through Jesus Christ

1. The theme of the book of Revelation:
 - a. "Victory through Jesus the Lamb"
 - b. (*1 John 5:4; 2 Tim. 4:8*)

F. Therefore, Paul has proven that those who teach:

1. There is no resurrection, are false
2. Jesus will return

G. Be steadfast, immovable,

1. Always abound in the work of the Lord
2. Your labor will not be vain in the Lord
3. You will be rewarded (*Rev. 22:12; cf. 1 Cor. 3:8*)

Bible Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians — Chapters 16

I. What instruction did Paul set forth for the collection? (16:1-4)

A. He had given the same teaching to the churches of Galatia

1. (Rom. 15:26; 2 Cor. 8:1,2; 9:1,2)

B. Paul specified the day of the week - Sunday

1. Same day Christians assembled to break bread
a. (Acts 20:7)

C. Called for personal giving: *“let each one of you”*

1. No one can be a Christian for you!

D. Lay by in store or put aside - as God has prospered

1. We are responsible for what God has given us
a. Stewards of God (1 Cor. 4:1,2)

Bible Discussion Questions

- E. Paul and others did not bind the Old Testament tithe
1. (*Deut. 14:22*)
- F. The percentage will be acceptable if the heart is right
1. Purposing - sacrificing - giving willingly, cheerfully, and with love are essential
 - a. (*2 Cor. 9:6-8*)
- G. No collecting when Paul came (a prepared gift)
1. Weekly giving prepares the church for good works
 2. Failing to give, affects you and the church
- H. Whomever they approved by letter, would deliver it to Jerusalem
1. Paul also offered to go
 2. Paul later went to Jerusalem
 3. (*Acts 19:21*)

Bible Discussion Questions

II. What instruction did Paul set forth for the collection? (16:5-12)

- A. Paul planned to see them when he passed through Macedonia
 - 1. Paul spent three months in Greece
 - a. *(Acts 20:2,3)*
 - 2. Hoped to winter with them, and be sent by them on his journey
 - a. *(cf. Acts 15:3)*

- B. He would not see them now
 - 1. Would remain in Ephesus until Pentecost
 - 2. A great door was open in Ephesus, but many adversaries
 - 3. *(see Acts 19)*

- C. Timothy may come to them
 - 1. Paul had instructed him to visit them

Bible Discussion Questions

a. (1 Cor. 4:17)

2. Highly recommends Timothy

a. (Phil. 2:20; cf. Acts 19:22)

3. Let no one refuse his message

a. Timothy was young (1 Tim. 4:12)

b. Paul wanted him to eventually come to him

c. He later came to Paul (2 Cor. 1:1)

D. Paul encouraged Apollos also to visit them

1. However, it was not his will to visit at this time

2. He will come at a convenient time

a. Not told why it was not convenient

III. How did Paul admonish these Corinthian brethren?

(16:13-18)

A. Gives five important commands:

1. Watch - be on guard

Bible Discussion Questions

2. Stand fast in the faith (*Phil. 1:27*)

a. Must contend for it (*Jude 3*)

b. (*1 Cor. 15:58*)

3. Act like men - be mature

4. Be strong (*Eph. 6:10,11*)

5. Do all with love

a. (*1 Pet. 4:8; cf. 1 Cor. 13*)

B. Reminds them of the household of Stephanas

1. Paul personally baptized them

a. (*1 Cor. 1:16*)

2. Firstfruits of Achaia, southern part of Greece

a. Corinth was its Capital

b. (*cf. Rom. 16:5*)

3. They were fully devoted to the ministry of saints

4. Submit to these and others who labor with us

a. (*cf. Heb. 6:10*)

Bible Discussion Questions

C. Paul had received three visitors

1. Stephanas (*vs. 15*)
2. Fortunatus and Achaicus
 - a. These two are mentioned only in this verse
3. They had refreshed Paul's spirit
 - a. They had represented the church at Corinth
 - b. Acknowledged or gave them credit
 - c. (*cf. Col. 4:8; Phil. 2:29*)

IV. To whom did Paul send salutations? (16:19-24)

- A. The churches of Asia (Asia Minor; where seven churches of Asia were located)

- B. Aquila, Priscilla, and the church in their house
 1. Paul met them in Corinth (*Acts 18:1-3*)
 2. Tentmaker like Paul
 - a. Did great work in Ephesus
 - b. (*Acts 18:24-26*)

Bible Discussion Questions

- C. All the brethren (specifically in Ephesus)
 - 1. Greet one another with a holy kiss
 - a. *(Rom. 16:16; 1 Pet. 5:14)*

- D. The salutation with Paul's own hand
 - 1. He evidently dictated all except the salutation
 - a. *(cf. Rom. 16:22; 2 Thes. 3:17)*

- E. Those who do not love the Lord
 - 1. Let him be Anathema (accursed)

- F. Maranatha, "our Lord has come," or "come O Lord!"

- G. Closes with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you *(Eph. 2:8)*
 - 1. Also, his love in Christ Jesus!