

1 Corinthians: Gospel Empowered Love 2023-12-10

1 Corinthians 13:7

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Paul founded Corinth church 51 A.D. on second missionary journey. Act 18:1-18.

- 1 Corinthians written 55 A.D. from Ephesus during third mission journey, 16:8.
 - Not first letter Paul wrote to Corinth...misunderstood earlier letter. 1 Corinthians 5:9–11

All cities in New Testament, Corinth most like a modern-day American city.

- 400,000 resort city, gathering place for great Greek thinkers: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle.
 - Unrestrained sensuality and obscenity.... impacted church.

1 and 2 Corinthians response to different issues related to life and doctrine in Corinth church. See outline at the end.

- Problems caused by outright sin or lack of love.
 - Gospel source of power to live transformed life of love.

Corinth spiritual infants who do not apply Gospel to everyday life. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 6:5

- Should been mature but still infants because fleshly.
 - Fed old nature, starved new nature. Dog fed wins fight.
 - Paul's council: Stop making excuses...grow up and mature.

Key to mature: Holy Spirit empowered discipline and self-control. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27

- Self-control means "exercise self-restraint, strength within" ...idea of mastering oneself instead of giving in to impulse and overindulgence.
 - "Stop sinning" ...Gospel, Jesus' victory over sin and death, source of power for Christian to live holy. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 11, 6:18a, 10:7, 15:34, 57-58

Live by principles of Agape love in two areas: exercising liberty and use of gifts.

- Weak, immature Christians want list of do and don't.
 - Mature know script do/don't and principles that guide Christian actions.

Law of liberty: if not sinful in itself then free to enjoy if conscience clear. 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23, 8:9, 9:19-23, Galatians 5:13-15

- Thinking something right not make it right (lie, adultery), but think wrong make it wrong for you.....When in doubt, don't. Fantasy Football, video games.
 - Not everything helpful.... wing (facilitates faith) or weight (hinder).
- True freedom does not do what want BUT power do what know pleases God.

Law of love; free to do but won't if cause weakness to live by your conviction rather own.

- **Set aside my rights** when appropriate to **avoid offense and hurt weaker.**
 - **When you love someone, generally put their needs above own.**
 - In **essentials and unity; nonessential and liberty; in everything, love.**

Love others beyond not exercising liberty but use gifts to humbly serve others.

- **Diverse individual members of church come together as one body, unified not uniform for His glory, build up each other.** 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11-12, 24-27, 13:7
 - **Unity and love in diversity only possible cause "in Jesus Christ" & Holy Spirit empowers.**
 - **Gospel source of power to live a transformed life of love.**

Love exercised in use of liberty and gifts shows broken world what true Christian love looks like and brings glory to God. 1 Corinthians 10:31, John 13:34-35

- **Genuine Christian love testifies to power of Gospel and is proof that Jesus can transform messed up lives and bring peace within people, and between people.**
 - **When world sees love in family of God will they be drawn to Him.**

Outline of 1 Corinthians

1:1-9	INTRODUCTION
1:10-6:20	PROBLEMS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE OF CHLOE
1:10-4	Divisions in the church
5:1-13	Sexual immorality
6:1-11	Lawsuits among brethren
6:12-20	Moral defilements
7:1-16:4	PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN THE LETTER FROM CORINTH
7:1-40	Marriage, divorce & celibacy
8:1-11:1	Eating food sacrificed to idols
11:2-34	Weekly worship service
12:1-14:40	Spiritual gifts
15:1-58	Resurrection from the dead
16:1-4	Collection for the saints
16:5-24	CONCLUDING REMARKS, INSTRUCTIONS, BENEDICTION