

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**REV. DR. DARRYL B. STARNES, INSTRUCTOR**  
THE BOOK OF FIRST CORINTHIANS

**LESSON # 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EPISTLE**

- AUTHOR:** Paul: Missionary-Apostle to the Gentiles
- DATE:** Approximately 55 A.D.
- PLACE:** Written from Ephesus, not Philippi
- RECIPIENTS:** Written to the Church in Corinth; a Roman Colony, a leading city of Greece and a commercial center. Paul found this church on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey [50 A.D.], laboring 18 months (Acts 18).
- PURPOSE:** Written to respond to reports of division in the church and to give practical answers to a number of questions and concerns of the church.
- THEME:** The Life of the Local Church.

**OUTLINE**

- INTRODUCTION:** Salutations and Thanksgiving (1: 1-9)
- UNIT I:** The Division in the Church (1: 10-4: 21)
- UNIT II:** The Disorders in the Church (5: 1-6: 20)
- UNIT III:** The Difficulties in the church (7: 1-15: 58)
- CONCLUSIONS:** Practical and Personal Matters (16: 1-24)

**THE INTRODUCTION: Salutations and Thanksgiving**

**I. The Salutations (1: 1-3)**

- A. The identity of the writer disclosed (1)
1. Paul: an Apostle of Jesus Christ
  2. By the will of God.
  3. And Sosthenes, our brother
- B. The readers addressed (2)
1. To the Church of God in Corinth
  2. To those sanctified in the Christ Jesus
  3. To the saints by calling
  4. To all who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

- C. The greeting (3)
  - 1. “Grace” and “peace”
  - 2. From God our Father and the Lord, Jesus Christ

## **II. The Thanksgiving (1: 4-9)**

- A. For the grace of God given you in Jesus Christ. (4)
- B. For your enrichment in everything-speech and knowledge. (5)
- C. For the testimony of Christ being confirmed in you. (6)
- D. For you not lacking in any gift. (7)
- E. For you eagerly awaiting the revelation of the Lord. (7)
- F. For your conformation to the end. (8)
- G. For your blamelessness in the Day of the Lord. (8)
- H. For God’s faithfulness (9)
- I. For your calling into the fellowship with God’s Son. (9)

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UNIT # 1: THE DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH

LESSON #2: AN APPEAL TO UNITY

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-31

KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

**PROPOSITION:** BECAUSE OUR TRUE ALLEGIANCE IS TO CHRIST, WE MUST NEVER LET OUR LOYALTY TO HUMAN LEADERS OR HUMAN WISDOM DIVIDE US OR CAUSE US TO FIGHT ONE ANOTHER.

**I. The Divisions over Human wisdom and Leadership (1: 10-17a)**

- A. The appeal to be in unity. (10)
  - 1. The basis of the appeal- for Christ's sake
  - 2. The essence of the appeal:
    - a. Be united in the message you proclaim (speech)
    - b. Be united in the beliefs you embrace (mind)
    - c. Be united in the purpose you foster (judgment)
- B. The contentions over human leadership rebuked (11-13)
- C. The insignificance of the human agent of baptism (14-17a)

**II. Human Wisdom Contrasted with the Wisdom of God (1: 17b-25)**

- A. The preaching of the gospel is our primary calling. (17)
- B. Preaching the gospel in the words of human wisdom robs the death of Christ on the cross of its power. (17)
- C. The preaching of the cross is foolishness to the lost, but to those being saved it is the power of God. (18)
- D. God has made foolishness out of human wisdom. (19-20)
- E. God made it impossible to know Him through human wisdom, but chose instead to save those who believe through the foolishness of the message preached. (21)
- F. The preaching of Christ crucified is a stumbling block to Jews who require a sign and it is foolishness to Gentiles who seek wisdom. (22, 23)
- G. But to the called the preaching of the cross is both the wisdom and power of God; for God's foolishness is wiser than men and his weakness is stronger than men. (24, 25)

**III. Human Wisdom and Power Don't figure in God's Choices (1: 26-31)**

- A. Not many are called who are favored or privileged. (26)
- B. God has chosen to use the underprivileged. (27-28)
  - 1. The foolish to confound the wise.
  - 2. The weak to confound the strong.
  - 3. The despised and unwanted to confound the important.
- C. God has made Christ everything we need. (30)
  - 1. Our Wisdom
  - 2. Our Righteousness
  - 3. Our Sanctification
  - 4. Our Redemption
- D. He who boasts must boast in the Lord. (29, 31)

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UNIT # 1: THE DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH

LESSON #3: "GOD'S WISDOM"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 2: 1-16

KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 2: 4, 5

**PROPOSITION:** IN THE PROCLAMATION OF TRUTH THERE SHOULD BE NO ATTEMPT TO DISPLAY ELOQUENCE OR WORLDLY WISDOM, BUT TO SIMPLY DECLARE THE WISDOM OF GOD BY THE POWER OF GOD IN A MESSAGE REVEALED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

**I. God's Wisdom Preached by God's Power (1-5)**

- A. Paul's approach as he proclaimed God's message (1)
  - 1. He did not use eloquence or superiority of speech.
  - 2. He did not use philosophy or worldly wisdom.
  
- B. Paul's aim as he proclaimed God's message (2)
  - 1. To focus only on preaching Jesus Christ
  - 2. To focus on the significance of His crucifixion
  
- C. Paul's attitude as he proclaimed God's message (3)
  - 1. He had an awareness of his own weakness and inadequacy
  - 2. He had a feeling of godly fear, awe and reverence
  - 3. He had a sense of nervousness
  
- D. Paul's ability as he proclaimed God's message (4)
  - 1. His was not the power of human persuasion
  - 2. His was the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit
  
- E. Paul's ambition as he proclaimed God's message (5)
  - 1. That people's faith not rest on the wisdom of men
  - 2. That people's faith rest on the power of God

**II. God's Wisdom Spoken as God's Mystery (6-9)**

- A. God's wisdom is spoken to the spiritually mature (6)
  
- B. God's wisdom doesn't belong to worldly philosophies (6)
  
- C. God's wisdom doesn't appeal to worldly rulers (6-8)
  - 1. They are losing their power and are passing away.
  - 2. They have not understood God's wisdom.
  - 3. They in their ignorance crucified the Lord of Glory.

- D. God's wisdom is a mystery hidden from the world, but was in the mind of God before time began (7)
- E. God's wisdom is about the glorious things that God has prepared for those who love Him (9)
  - 1. No eye has seen them.
  - 2. No ear has heard them.
  - 3. No mind has imagined them.

### **III. God's Wisdom Revealed by God's Spirit (10-12)**

- A. God reveals His wisdom by His Spirit (10)
- B. God's Spirit knows all about God, even the deep things, just as a man's spirit knows all about the man (10, 11)
- C. Christians have received God's spirit so that He can reveal to them the things God has freely given them (12)

### **IV. God's Wisdom Understood by God's People (13-16)**

- A. We speak God's wisdom to those who have God's Spirit (13)
  - 1. We don't use words taught by human wisdom.
  - 2. We use words taught by the Spirit.
- B. Whoever doesn't have God's Spirit cannot accept the things from the Spirit of God (14)
  - 1. They nonsense to the natural man.
  - 2. He cannot understand them.
  - 3. They are spiritually discerned (only the Holy Spirit can enable one to understand them).
- C. The one who has God's Spirit has spiritual insight (15)
  - 1. He is capable of discerning and judging anything.
  - 2. He is not subject to the judgment of the world.
- D. The Scriptures ask relevant questions (16)
  - 1. "Who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him?"
  - 2. But we who are spiritual have the mind of Christ.

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UNIT # 1: THE DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #4: WORKERS WITH GOD  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 3: 1-23  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 3: 9

**PROPOSITION:** THE CHRISTIAN WORKERS SERVES BY THE POWER OF GOD, IN THE WISDOM OF GOD AND FOR THE GLORY OF GOD WHO WILL BOTH JUDGE AND REWARD HIS LABOR.

**I. The Christians Workers must minister to people on the level in which he find them. (1-4)**

- A. He must feed them according to their spiritual maturity.
  - 1. Milk for the carnal or babes in Christ
  - 2. Solid food for the spiritual.
- B. He must recognize the signs of immaturity and carnality.
  - 1. Jealousy and strife
  - 2. Division and leader-worship

**II. The Christian Worker is only a servant and cannot take credit for the growth of the church. (5-7)**

- A. He/she is God's instrument for bringing people to faith.
- B. He/she does the work that is assigned him by the Lord.
- C. He/she may plant the seed and another may water it, but only God can make it grow.
- D. He/she nor the other workers are important, only God who makes things grow.

**III. The Christian Worker is judged and rewarded by God (8-15)**

- A. Christian Workers are a part of a team and have the same purpose.
- B. Christian Workers will be rewarded according to their own work.
- C. Christian Workers are fellow workers with God.

- D. Christians are like God's field or building.
- E. Christian Workers must work using the gifts that God has given them in building.
- F. Christian Workers must take great care in the work of building the body of Christ.
  - 1. Christ is the only foundation which can be laid and built upon.
  - 2. The materials used to build are important as well.
- G. Christian Workers will have the quality of their works judged by God.
  - 1. If his works pass God's test, he will be rewarded.
  - 2. If his works don't he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved.

**IV. The Christian Worker must respect the temple of God (16-17)**

- A. The Christian is God's temple, for God's Spirit indwells him.
- B. God punishes those who destroy His temple.
- C. The Christian as God's temple is holy and sacred.

**V. The Christian Worker can't boast of his wisdom or work (18-23)**

- A. He/she must not think that he/she is wise by this world's standards.
- B. Worldly wisdom is foolishness in God's sight.
- C. God catches the wise in their craftiness.
- D. God knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.
- E. There should be no more boasting about men.
- F. All leaders are servants of the people of God.
- G. The people of God belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

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UNIT # 1: THE DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #5: GOD'S SERVANTS  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 4: 1-21  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 4: 1

**PROPOSITION:** CHRISTIAN LEADERS ARE GOD'S SERVANTS AND MUST BE FAITHFUL TO HIM BECAUSE HE IS THE ONE WHO WILL JUDGE THEIR LABOR AS THEY ENDURE HARDSHIP AND LEAD THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

**I. Christians Leaders must be regarded as God's servants (1-5)**

- A. They are stewards of mysteries of God (1)
- B. They are required to be faithful and trustworthy to Him (2)
- C. Their judgment belongs only to the Lord (3-5)
  - 1. They are not to be judge by the court of the public opinion.
  - 2. They are not even to judge themselves, except examining their conscience before God.
  - 3. They will be judged by the Lord, Jesus Himself.
    - a. Any judgment before His coming is premature.
    - b. He will bring to light the hidden things.
    - c. He will disclose the motives of people's hearts.
    - d. He will give people their proper recognition.

**II. Christian leaders endure great hardships as God's servants (6-13)**

- A. They must deal with arrogance on the part of people (6-8)
  - 1. Some take pride in one person over against another.
  - 2. Some take pride in what they have.
    - a. We are all the same regardless of what we have.
    - b. We all received whatever it is that we have.
    - c. We cannot truly boast about what we have received.
  - 3. Some take pride in their favored status and circumstances.
- B. They endure shame and suffering as God's servants (9-13)
  - 1. They endure shame as God's servants.



- a. They are given the least status.
  - b. They are like men condemned to die
  - c. They are made a public spectacle
  - d. They are seen as weak, dishonored fools for Christ
2. They endure suffering as God's servants
- a. They endure the hardship of need: hunger, thirst, nakedness, beatings, and homelessness.
  - b. They endure hardship of toil and manual labor
  - c. They endure the hardship of persecution and insults
  - d. They endure being treated like the scum of the earth

### **III. Christian leaders as God's servants nurture as a father (14-21)**

- A. They warn children to whom they are accountable. (15)
- B. They remind children to whom they are accountable
- D. They urge children to follow their example. (16)
- E. They employ other siblings to assist in the nurturing. (17)
- F. They discipline children who are rebellious or unruly (18-21)
  1. Some children will misbehave when the father is away.
  2. The father must deal with them when he returns.
  3. Their actions and attitude will determine his discipline.

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UNIT # II: DISORDERS IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #6: IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 5: 1-13  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 5: 9-11

**PROPOSITION:** PROFESSING CHRISTIANS WHO ENGAGE IN IMMORALITY MUST BE DISCIPLINED BY THE CHURCH AND IF THEY DO NOT REPENT THEY MUST BE EXPELLED FROM THE CHURCH.

**I. A Horrible Sin in the Church (1)**

- A. Sexual immorality in the Church
- B. A sin unusual among non-Christians
- C. A case of incest

**II. The Church's Improper Response to this Sin. (2)**

- A. Pride and arrogance
- B. Lack of mourning and shame
- C. Failure to expel the guilty party

**III. Paul decides what to do even though he is not present physically, but spiritually and instructs the Church. (3-5)**

- A. They are to call a Church Meeting.
- B. They are to hand the guilty party over to Satan
  - 1. For the destruction of his flesh
  - 2. That his spirit may be saved on judgment day

**IV. Paul scolds them for their pride and boasting. (6)**

**V. Paul explains to them the contagious nature of immorality. (6)**

**VI. Paul warns them to get rid of the immoral person. (7)**

**VII. Paul urges them to celebrate the New Passover of Christ. (7, 8)**

- A. Not with the old leaven of malice and wickedness.
- B. But with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth

**VIII. Paul reminds them of his previous command not to associate with immoral people and explains its meaning. (9-11)**

- A. He did not mean to include the immoral of this world for that would be impossible.
- B. He meant for them not to associate with professing Christians who were continually being immoral.
- C. They are not even to eat with immoral Christians.

**IX. Paul teaches them that the Church is not to judge those in the Church, for God will judge them. (12, 13)**

**X. Paul teaches them that the Church is to discipline those in the Church and that discipline sometimes includes expulsion. (12, 13)**

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UNIT # II: DISORDERS IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #7: LEGAL DISPUTES AND MORAL LAXITY IN THE CHURCH  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 6: 1-20  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 6: 3, 20

**PROPOSITION:** BECAUSE CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN MADE NEW BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD AND BELONG TO GOD, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEIR OWN DISPUTES AND LIVE LIVES THAT GLORIFY GOD.

**I. Legal Disputes in the Church (1-8)**

- A. Christians should be able to handle their own disputes. (1-3)
  - 1. Christians will judge the world. (2)
  - 2. Christians will judge angels. (3)
  - 3. Christians should settle the matters of this life. (2, 3)
  
- B. People who have no standing in the Church should not have to settle the matters between Christians. (4-8)
  - 1. It is a shame for there to be no wise Christians who can settle the dispute between Christians. (5)
  - 2. It is a shame and a spiritual defeat for a Christian to take a Christian to court before unbelievers. (6, 7)
  - 3. It would be better to be wronged or cheated, than to take another Christian to court.
  - 4. It is a shame for Christians to wrong and cheat their own brothers and sisters in Christ.

**II. Moral and Laxity in the Church. (9-20)**

- A. The wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God. (9, 10)
- B. Christians have been changed from that lifestyle. (11)
  - 1. They have been washed by the blood of Christ.
  - 2. They have been sanctified by the Spirit of God.
  - 3. They have been justified in the name of Christ.
- C. Christian liberty does not mean moral license. (12-20)
  - 1. What is legal for me may not be beneficial to me. (12)
  - 2. What is legal for me may be enslaving to me. (12)
  - 3. Even though the body is temporal, it was not made for sexual immorality, but for the Lord. (13)
  - 4. God not only raised Christ's body, but will also raise our bodies through His power. (14)
  - 5. The Christian's body is part of the Christ's Body. (15-17)

- a. The Christian should never take a part of Christ's body and unite it with a prostitute.
  - b. A Christian who has sex with a prostitute becomes one with her/him.
  - c. He who joins himself/herself to the Lord is one with Him.
6. The Christian must flee sexual immorality in order to live a life that glorifies God. (18-20)
- a. The immoral person is sinning against his/her own body.
  - b. The Christian's body is the Holy Spirit's temple.
  - c. The Christian doesn't belong to himself/herself; he/she has been bought with a price and must glorify God in his body.

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #8: MARRIAGE, CONTENTMENT & SINGLE LIFE  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 7: 1-40  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 7: 1,2

**PROPOSITION:** ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO BOTH MARRIED LIFE AND SINGLE LIFE: THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD LEARN TO BE CONTENT IN THE STATE IN WHICH GOD, CALLS HIM / HER.

**I. Advise on Marriage (1-16)**

- A. Although it is good for a person to remain single, the single life is not for everyone. (1, 2, 6-9)
  - 1. Because of the temptation to immorality each person can have his/her own spouse. (2)
  - 2. Not everyone has the gift of celibacy. (7)
  - 3. If the single can remain unmarried they should do so. (8)
  - 4. If the single struggle with control, they can marry rather than burn with passion. (9)
- B. Spouses are to be totally devoted to each other. (3-5)
  - 1. They are to fulfill their conjugal rights. (3)
  - 2. They no longer have full rights to their own bodies, but must share those rights with their spouse. (4)
  - 3. They must not deprive each other of conjugal rights. (5)
    - a. Except by mutual consent.
    - b. Only for a short period of consecration.
    - c. Quickly resume the rights of marriage to avoid temptation.
- C. Marriages must be honored. (10, 11)
  - 1. Wives must not leave their husbands. (10)
  - 2. Husbands must not divorce their wives. (11)
  - 3. If one does leave or divorce his/ her spouse, he / she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to that spouse.
- D. Marriages with unbelievers must also be honored. (12-16)
  - 1. If the unbelieving spouse desires to stays, he or she must not be sent away or divorced. (12, 13)
  - 2. The saved spouse may lead the unbelieving spouse to salvation and sanctification. (14, 16)
  - 3. The children may also be won to the Lord as well. (14)
  - 4. If the unbelieving spouse leaves, the saved spouse is free to let him or her go and is under no bondage. (15)

**II. The Challenge of Contentment. (17-31)**

- A. Contentment with One's Personal Situation. (17-24)

1. Contentment with One's gifts and calling. (17)
  2. Contentment with One's religious standing. (18, 19)
  3. Contentment with One's social status. (20-23)
  4. Contentment with One's present state. (24)
- B. Contentment with One's Family Situation. (25-28)
1. Contentment with the present state of family life. (26)
  2. Contentment with marriage. (27a)
  3. Contentment with single life. (27b)
  4. Contentment with the fact that either state is acceptable to God. (28a)
  5. Contentment with the fact that marriage brings extra challenges and problems. (28b)
- C. Contentment with One's Service in the Lord's Work. (29-31)
1. Remember that because time is short, our opportunities for serving the Lord are also limited. (29a)
  2. Those who are married must stay as free as possible for the Lord. (29b)
  3. Happiness or sadness or wealth should not keep anyone from doing God's work. (30)
  4. Those who deal in worldly goods must not become overly occupied with them, for this world is passing away. (31)

### **III. The advantages of Single Life. (32-40)**

- A. The Single Christian can devote himself / herself fully to the Lord's Work. (32, 34b, 35)
1. He / she is free from the worries of married life. (32)
  1. He / she can focus totally on pleasing the Lord. (32)
  2. He / she can dedicate both body and spirit to the Lord and His Work. (34b)
  3. He / she can give himself / herself completely to the Lord's service without any reservation. (35)
- B. The Married Christian is pulled in two directions. (33, 34)
1. He / she must concern himself/ herself with worldly matters (how He / she may please his / her spouse).
  2. He / she must also concern himself / herself with how he / she may please the Lord and serve Him.
- C. The Christian who decides to get married has not sinned. (36)
- D. The Christian who decides to remain single has not sinned. (37)
- E. The Christian who chooses the single lifestyle has done better because he / she will be more useful to the kingdom of God. (38)
- F. A Christian can remarry only after his / her spouse dies. (39)
- G. A Christian should only marry another Christian. (39)
- H. He / she may be happier and more useful if she stays single. (40)

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #9: LOVE VERSES LIBERTY  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 8: 1-13  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 8: 9

**PROPOSITION:** THE CHRISTIAN WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH MUST LOVE GOD ENOUGH TO LIMIT HIS OWN LIBERTY IN ORDER TO AVOID BECOMING A STUMBLING BLOCK TO THE WEAK.

**I. The First Question: Shall We Eat Food Offered to Idols? (1a, 4-6, 8)**

- A. Christians know that idols stand for something that does not really exist. (4)
- B. Christians know that there may be many so called “gods” or “lords” who are man-made. (5)
- C. Christians know that there is only one God, the Father. (6)
  - 1. Who is Creator of all things
  - 2. For Whom we live
- D. Christians know that there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. (6)
  - 1. Through Whom all things were created
  - 2. Through Whom we live
- E. Knowledgeable Christians know that food will not help nor hinder their relationship with God. (8)
  - 1. We will not lose anything if we do not eat.
  - 2. We will not gain anything if we do eat.

**II. The Next question: Shall We Be Guided By Knowledge or Love? (1b, 2, 3, 7, 9-13)**

- A. It is true that we are all possess some knowledge. (1b)
- B. Knowledge makes people full of pride and conceit. (1b)
- C. Love builds people up and helps them grow. (1b)
- D. A person may think that he/she knows something, but in reality may not even know what he/she ought to know. (2)



- E. A person who truly loves God is known by God. (3)
- F. Not everyone may know the truth about idols and it may defile their consciences for them to eat food offered to idols. (7)
  
- G. The Christian must be careful not to let his/her liberty become a stumbling block for the weak. (9)
  - 1. A person of weak conscience may see one who has knowledge eating and be encouraged to eat himself. (10)
  - 2. This weak person will be ruined as a result. (11)
  - 3. By wounding this weak brother's conscience one is sinning against a brother and against Christ. (12)
  - 4. If a liberty causes a brother to fall into sin, that liberty should be limited by all means. (13)

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #10: SELF-DENIAL AND DISCIPLINE IN THE GOSPEL MINISTRY  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 9: 1-27  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 9: 23

**PROPOSITION:** PAUL'S MINISTRY IS AN EXAMPLE OF ONE LIMITING HIS OWN LIBERTY AND RIGHTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL AND THE SALVATION OF SOULS.

**I. Paul's Right to Financial support. (1-14)**

- A. Authority as a Minister. (1, 2)
  - 1. As a free Christian.
  - 2. As a Apostle.
  - 3. As a Pastor.
  - 4. As a Founder and Apostle.
  
- B. Rights as a Minister. (3-5)
  - 1. Support for temporal needs. (food, drink, etc.)
  - 2. Support for family. (wife, children, etc.)
  
- C. Grounds for the Minister's Right of Financial Support (5-14)
  - 1. The Example of others. (5, 6)
  - 2. The Principle of common right. (7)
  - 3. The Teaching of the Scriptures. (8-10) [Deut. 25: 4]
  - 4. The Right of Holy Ministry. (11-13) [Num. 18: 8-24]
  - 5. The Command of the Lord. (14) [Matt. 10: 10] [Luke 10: 7]

**II. Paul's Self-Denial and Refusal to Exercise His Rights. (15-23)**

- A. He refuses his ministerial rights to gain a reward. (15-18)
  - 1. His refusal is voluntary. (15)
  - 2. His preaching is by compulsion. (16, 17)
  - 3. His reward is preaching the gospel without charge. (18)
  
- B. He limits his human rights to win the lost. (19)
  
- C. He limits his Christian rights to the lost. (20-22)
  - 1. To reach the Jews, he became as a Jew.

2. To reach those under the Law, as one under the law.
3. To reach those without the Law, as one without the law.
4. To reach the weak, as one who is weak.

D. He did all things for the sake of the gospel. (23)

### **III. Paul's Personal Discipline and Privation. (24-27)**

A. The Christian should live and serve to win God's prize. (24)

B. Strict training and discipline is needed. (25-27)

1. His prize is eternal and incorruptible. (25)
2. He must run with determination and purpose. (26)
3. He must fight to win. (26)
4. He must bring his body under complete control. (27)

C. Preaching to others, he mustn't be disqualified himself. (27)

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THE BOOK OF FIRST CORINTHIANS

UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #11: A WARNING AGAINST IDOLATRY  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 10: 1-33  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 10: 14

**PROPOSITION:** ISRAEL'S HISTORY TEACHES US OF THE DANGERS OF IDOLATRY AND ITS EVIL EFFECTS ON THE PEOPLE OF GOD. THEREFORE, THE GOOD OF OTHERS AND THE GLORY OF GOD SHOULD BE GUIDELINES FOR ALL OF OUR ACTIONS.

**I. Most Israelites who saw God's power didn't enter God's rest. (1-5)**

- A. They all witnessed the cloud's protection and guidance.
- B. They all witnessed the passing through the sea on dry land.
- C. They all were baptized as followers of Moses.
- D. They all witnessed God sending manna from heaven to feed them.
- E. They all witnessed God providing water from a rock. (Christ)
- F. Most of them displeased God and died in the wilderness.

**II. Their mistakes were recorded that we might learn from them. (6-11)**

- A. That we should not desire evil things.
- B. That we should not worship idols.
- C. That we should not commit sexual immorality.
- D. That we should not test God's patience through rebellion.
- E. That we should not grumble and complain.

**III. Our faith must be in God and not in ourselves. (12, 13)**

- A. Over-confidence in ourselves often leads to a fall.
- B. Only God can be trusted to bring us through temptation.
  - 1. Our temptation is the kind that normally comes to people.
  - 2. God never lets us to be tempted beyond what we can bear.
  - 3. He'll always provide a way of escape, so you can endure.

**IV. We should avoid all types of idolatry. (14-22)**

- A. The danger of idolatry. (14)
- B. The significance of sharing in the Communion Meal. (215-18)
  - 1. All who share the cup share in the blood of Christ.
  - 2. All who share the bread are share in the body of Christ.
  - 3. All in Israel who eat the sacrifices share in the altar.
- C. The danger in sharing in food sacrificed to demons. (19-22)

1. Foods sacrificed to idols are really sacrificed to demons.
2. We can't share in the Lord's Table and that of demons too.
3. None of us are strong enough to withstand God's anger.

**V. God's glory and the good of others should guide our actions. (23-33)**

- A. Benefit to and edification of other must guide actions. (23, 24)
- B. Eat freely when there is no danger of offense. (25-27)
- C. Limit freedoms for the sake of others and conscience. (28-33)
- D. Do everything (eating and drinking) to the glory of God. (31)

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #12: PROPRIETY IN WORSHIP AND SACRAMENT  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 11: 1-34  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 11: 1

**PROPOSITION:** THE RESPECTING OF AUTHORITY IN WORSHIP SERVICES AND THE PROPER OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER ARE SERIOUS MATTERS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

**I. The importance of Following Godly Leadership. (1, 2)**

- A. Godly leadership follows Christ. (1)
- B. Godly leadership should be recognized and followed. (2)

**II. The Reasons for symbols of Submission to Authority. (3-16)**

- A. The Theological Reason. (3-6)
  - 1. There is a order of authority that God has established.
    - a. The head of the woman is the man.
    - b. The head of the man is Christ.
    - c. The head of Christ is god.
  - 2. Men must worship publicly (preach or pray) with their heads uncovered showing submission to their head, Christ.
  - 3. Women must worship publicly (preach or pray) with their heads covered, showing submission to their head, man.
- B. The Biblical Reason (7-12)
  - 1. Men must not cover their heads in worship because they are made in the image of God and reflects His glory, while women reflect the glory of man.
  - 2. Man did not come from woman, but woman came from man.
  - 3. Man was not created for the sake of woman, but woman was created for the sake of man.
  - 4. A woman's covering on her head is a symbol of her being under authority, a fact the angels notice and rejoice in.
  - 5. Men and women are interdependent: woman may come from man, but is born of woman, both come from God.
- C. The Physical Reason (13-16)
  - 1. Common sense teaches us that it is unfitting for a woman to pray in public worship with her head uncovered.

2. Nature teaches us that long hair is a disgrace for a man.
3. Long hair is a woman's pride and glory.
4. This is universally recognized church practice.

### **III. The Seriousness of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. (17-34)**

- A. Problems in the observance of the Lord's Supper. (17-22)
  1. Because of failure to follow directions properly, the meetings have done more harm than good.
  2. The problem of factions and divisions surfaced.
  3. Being selfish and inconsiderate in the observance of the Lord's Supper.
  4. Actions more deserving of chastisement than compliments.
- B. The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper. (23-26)
  1. The source of the ordinance is the Lord Jesus Himself.
  2. The time of the institution is the night of his betrayal.
  3. The elements of the ordinance are bread and the cup.
  4. The meanings are "My body" & "new covenant in My blood."
  5. The command is "Do this in remembrance of me."
  6. The celebration is a proclamation of the Lord's death until He comes.
- C. The proper observance of the Lord's Supper. (27-34)
  1. The danger of improper observance: sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.
  2. Self-examination: the prerequisite to proper observance.
  3. The punishment for improperly observing the Lord's Supper.
    - a. Weakness
    - b. Sickness
    - c. Death
  4. Self-examination before sacrament can prevent punishment.
  5. The purpose of God's discipline is to prevent us from being condemned with the world.
  6. Demonstrate patience and consideration of others in the observance of the Lord's Supper.
  7. Don't let your meeting bring your condemnation.

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #13: SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 1-31  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 1

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE VALIDITY, UNITY AND DIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

**I. The Validity of the Gifts. (1-3)**

- A. The reality of spiritual gifts. (1)
- B. The possibility of being misled. (2)
- C. The tests of validity. (3)
  - 1. The negative criterion- “Jesus is accursed”
  - 2. The positive criterion- “Jesus is Lord”

**II. The unity of the Gifts (4-11)**

- A. A unity of source (4-6)
  - 1. Variety of gifts, but the same Spirit. (4)
  - 2. Variety of ministries, but the same Lord. (5)
  - 3. Variety of operations, but the same God. (6)
- B. A. unity of purpose. (7-11)
  - 1. The Holy Spirit gives gifts for the common good. (7)
  - 2. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to each Christian. (8-10)
    - a. Wisdom            d. Healing            g. Discernment
    - b. Knowledge       e. Miracles           h. Tongues
    - c. Faith                f. Prophecy          i. Interpretation
  - 3. The Holy Spirit gives gifts as He wills. (11)



### III. The Diversity of the Gifts (12-13)

- A. In Christ- “unity in diversity” & “diversity in unity.” (12)
- B. The Source of Unity- The Spirit’s Baptism and Indwelling. (13)
- C. The Importance of Diversity in the Body of Christ. (14-20)
  - 1. The Body doesn’t have just one part, but many parts. (14)
  - 2. The Body can’t function if all parts are the same. (15-17)
  - 3. God has placed the parts in the body as He desired (18)
  - 4. It takes many different parts to make a one body. (19, 20)
- D. The Interdependence of the Parts of the Body of Christ. 21-26)
  - 1. Each part of the Body needs the other parts. (21)
  - 2. The weakest parts are as necessary as the strongest. (22)
  - 3. Some parts must be dressed up more than others. (23)
  - 4. Those parts which seem least important are valuable. (24)
  - 5. This avoids division and fosters care of all parts. (25)
  - 6. The result is shared suffering and shared joy. (26)
- E. The Organization of the Body of Christ. (27-31)
  - 1. All Christians are a part of the Body of Christ. (27)
  - 2. God has appointed the gifts in the Body of Christ. (28)

a. Apostle	d. Miracles	g. Administration
b. Prophets	e. Healing	h. Tongues
c. Teachers	f. Helps	
  - 3. All do not have the same gifts. (29, 30)
  - 4. Christians should seek the best gifts and pursue the more excellent way of love. (31)

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #14: LOVE: THE EXCELLENT WAY  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 31 – 13: 13  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13: 13

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** THE EXERCISE OF LOVE AS A WAY OF LIFE IS THE HIGHEST CHRISTIAN PURSUIT AND GIVES MEANING, PURPOSE AND CREDIBILITY TO ALL OTHER ENDEAVORS.

**I. Love's Preeminence (12: 31 – 13: 3)**

- A. Love's Preeminence over spiritual gifts. (13: 1, 2)
  - 1. The exercise of love excels that of spiritual gifts
    - a. Tongues      b. Prophecy      c. Wisdom (mysteries)
    - d. Knowledge    e. Faith
  - 2. Lack of love makes the exercise of gifts meaningless.
  - 3. Lack of love makes the individual who exercise the gifts worthless in God's sight.
- B. Love's Preeminence over humanitarian acts. (13: 3)
  - 1. The exercise of love excels all humanitarian acts.
    - a. The acts of charity and philanthropy.
    - b. The acts of martyrdom and self-sacrifice.
  - 2. Lack of love makes humanitarian acts unprofitable.

**II. Love's Properties. (13: 4-7)**

- A. Patient and kind. (4)
- B. Never envious or jealous. (4)
- C. Never boastful or proud. (4)
- D. Never rude or selfish. (5)
- E. Never irritable or resentful. (5)
- F. Never rejoices in wrong, but always rejoices in the right. (6)

- G. Never gives up. (7)
- I. Always believes. (7)
- J. Always hopes. (7)
- K. Always endures. (7)

**III. Love's Preeminence. (13: 8-13)**

- A. Love is eternal and will outlast spiritual gifts. (8)
  - 1. The gift of prophecy shall cease.
  - 2. The gift of tongues will disappear.
  - 3. The gift of knowledge will vanish away.
- B. The gift of knowledge and prophecy are imperfect. (9)
- C. When perfection comes, the imperfect disappear. (10)
- D. Maturity requires the putting away childish things. (11)
- E. Visions and knowledge now unclear will then be clear. (12)
- F. Of the three lasting qualities, love is the greatest. (13)

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #15: SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN PUBLIC WORSHIP  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 14: 1-40  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 14: 1

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** CHRISTIANS SHOULD DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS WHICH EDIFY THE BODY OF CHRIST AND SHOULD EXERCISE THEM IN A MANNER THAT CONFORMS WITH BIBLICAL GUIDELINES.

**I. Prophecy is a spiritual gift that edifies the Church. (1-5)**

- A. The Christian should make love his greatest aim. (1)
- B. The Christian should desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. (1)
- C. The Christian who speaks in tongues speaks to God alone and consequently helps only himself / herself.
- D. The Christian who prophesies speaks God's message to people for their edification, encouragement, and consolation; and consequently helps the entire church. (3)
- E. The Christian who prophesies does a greater work than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets for the benefit of the church.

**II. Tongues help the church only when they are interpreted. (6-19)**

- A. Communicating to someone in a language that they do not understand is useless, only what is spoken plainly helps. (6)
- B. Even musicians must play notes that are recognizable. (7, 8)
- C. Unless someone can understand the meaning of what is said talking is useless. (9-11)
- D. The Christian should make use of the gifts that are most helpful to the church. (12)
- E. The Christian who speaks in tongues should pray for interpretation. (13)
- F. When a Christian prays in tongues his spirit prays, but his mind is unfruitful. (14)
- G. There are times when we should pray and sing with our spirit and there are times when we should do so with our mind. (15)
- H. Public prayers and songs edify others as well. (16, 17)
- I. Paul testified that he spoke in tongues in private, while in public worship he spoke words people could understand. (18, 19)

**III. Christians must be mature in the use of spiritual gifts. (20-25)**

- A. Maturity and innocence are important. (20)
- B. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers. (21, 22)

C. Prophecy serves the church and can reach unbelievers. (22-25)

**IV. Christians must follow rules in the use of spiritual gifts. (26-33)**

A. Whatever is done must be done for the good of everyone. (26)

B. No more than two or three can speak in tongues and that must be done one at a time. (27)

C. There must be someone present who can interpret or else those persons must speak only to themselves and God. (28)

D. Two or three persons may prophesy and everyone else must listen carefully. (29)

E. Persons should speak one at a time and everything should be done decently and in order. (30-33)

**V. Special rules and advises must be respected and obeyed. (34-40)**

A. Special rules about women in worship. (34-35)

B. Those with the gift of prophesy. (36-38)

C. Encourage prophesy and do not forbid tongues. (40)

D. Let all things be done decently and in order. (39)

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #16: THE CERTAINTY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-34  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 20

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST IS THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR FAITH.

**I. The resurrection of Christ is the heart of the gospel. (1-11)**

- A. The Saving power of the Gospel. (1, 2)
  - 1. The gospel must be preached. (1)
  - 2. The gospel must be believed and received. (1)
  - 3. The gospel must be that on which our faith stands. (1)
  - 4. The gospel saves those who hold firmly to it. (2)
  - 5. It is possible to believe in vain. (2)
  
- B. The Saving Message of the Gospel: Jesus Christ. (3-11)
  - 1. His death for our sins, according to Scripture. (3)
  - 2. His burial. (4)
  - 3. His resurrection, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, according to Scripture. (4)
  - 4. His resurrection appearance. (5-8)
    - a. To Peter. (5)
    - b. To the Twelve Apostles. (5)
    - c. To 500 other followers. (6)
    - d. To James, his brother. (7)
    - e. To all of the Apostles. (7)
    - f. To Paul. (8)
      - 1) He was as one born out of due time. (8)
      - 2) He saw himself as the least of apostles. (9)
      - 3) He felt undeserving of the title, apostle. (9)
      - 4) He showed his gratitude for God's grace in his life by working harder than any apostle. (10)
      - 5) He taught that the message, not the messenger should be the object of the people's faith. (11)

**II. Those who doubt the resurrection don't believe the gospel. (12-28)**

- A. If there is no resurrection, Christianity is a hoax. (12-19)
  - 1. Christ wasn't resurrected. (13, 16)

2. Our preaching is worthless and our faith is vain. (14)
3. We are false witness about God. (15)
4. We are all still in our sins. (17)
5. Those who have died in Christ are lost. (18)
6. Christians are worse off than anyone else. (19)

B. Christianity rests on the fact that Christ did rise. (20-28)

1. The truth is that Christ did rise as the guarantee that those who sleep in Him also be raised to life. (20)
2. Just as death came by one man, Adam; so resurrection has come by one man, Jesus Christ. (21, 22)
3. Our resurrection will come at His second coming. (23)
4. After Christ destroys all powers and forces, the end will come and He will give the kingdom to His Father. (24-28)
  - a. He must reign until He conquered all enemies. (25)
  - b. The last enemy that he destroys is death. (26)
  - c. Everything will be under the rule of the Son, except the Father, Who gave Him authority. (27)
  - d. The Son will then put Himself under the power of His Father, Who gave Him the power. (28)

**III. Refusing to believe the resurrection is foolish and wicked. (29-34)**

- A. It makes baptisms for the dead meaningless. (29)
- B. It makes the risks we take for the gospel senseless. (30-32)
- C. It makes the epicurean philosophy seem valid. (32)
- D. It reveals that bad company ruins good character. (33)
- E. It reveals the need to be sensible and stop sinning. (34)
- F. It reveals the need to be ashamed of this lack of spiritual knowledge and understand of God. (34)

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UNIT # III: DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHURCH  
LESSON #17: THE MYSTERY OF RESURRECTION  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 35-58  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 57

**PROPOSITION:** BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST, WE HAVE THE VICTORY OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE;  
AND SHALL BE GIVEN GLORIOUS SPIRITUAL BODIES WHICH ARE IMMORTAL AND  
INCORRUPTIBLE.

**I. God gives everything the kind of body He wants it to have. (35-41)**

- A. Foolish Questions. (3)
  - 1. How are the dead raised up?
  - 2. And with what body do they come?
- B. A seed must die before it can sprout to life. (36)
- C. The wheat seeds and other seeds that we plant are different from sprouts and plants that come up. (37)
- D. God gives each seed its own proper body as He wishes. (38)
- E. Because all flesh is not alike, humans, animals, fish and birds all have different kinds of flesh. (39)
- F. Everything in the heavens and on earth has its own unique body and beauty [glory]. (40, 41)
  - 1. The sun, moon and stars all have their own unique beauty.
  - 3. Even each star has its own unique beauty.

**II. Our physical bodies will be changed into spiritual bodies. (42-44)**

- A. When these bodies are buried they are mortal; but when they are raised they are immortal. (42)
- B. When these bodies are buried they are ugly and weak; but when they are raised they are beautiful and strong. (43)
- C. When these bodies are buried they are physical; but when they are raised they are spiritual. (44)

**III. As we have borne Adam's image, we shall bear Christ's image. (45-49)**

- A. So it is written, "The first man, Adam became a living being."  
The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. (45)
- B. The physical comes before the spiritual. (46)
- C. The first man is from earth; the second is from heaven. (47)



- D. Everyone on earth has a body like Adam's and everyone in heaven will have a body like Christ's. (48)
- E. As we have had a body like Adam's, so shall we also have a body like Christ's. (49)

**IV. Through Christ, we'll have bodies that can't die or decay. (50-57)**

- A. Our physical bodies will decay and cannot share in God's kingdom, which lasts forever. (50)
- B. The mystery of the resurrection. (51-57)
  - 1. Not everyone of us will die,
  - 2. but we will all be changed.
    - a. Suddenly- "In a moment"
    - b. As quickly as "the twinkling of an eye"
    - c. When the last trumpet sounds
      - 1) The dead shall be raised immortal
      - 2) And we shall be changed
  - 3. What's mortal must clothe itself with what's immortal.
  - 4. What will die must clothe itself with what cannot die.
  - 5. Then the Scripture will be fulfilled.
    - a. "Death is swallowed up in victory."
    - b. "O Death, where is your sting?"
    - c. "O graves [Hades], where is your victory?"
  - 6. Sin is what gives death its sting.
  - 7. The law is what gives sin its power.
  - 8. God gives us the victory through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**V. Everything we do for the Lord is worthwhile. (58)**

- A. We must be steadfast. [Stand Firm]
- B. We must be immovable. [Let nothing shake or move us]
- C. We must give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.
- D. We must know that our work in the Lord is not in vain.

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THE CONCLUSION OF THE EPISTLE  
LESSON #18: PRACTICAL AND PERSONAL MATTERS  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 16: 1-24  
KEY VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 16: 13, 14

**PROPOSITION:** IT IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP TO TREAT EACH OTHER WITH LOVE AND CONCERN AS WE SERVE THE LORD TOGETHER.

**I. As Christians we must support God's work financially. (1-4)**

- A. As members we must give as God has blessed us. (1, 2)
  - 1. We must give systematically. (1)
  - 2. We must give regularly. (2)
  - 3. We must give proportionately. (2)
- B. As leaders we must be accountable for all these gifts. (3-4)
  - 1. We must collect them responsibly. (1, 2)
  - 2. We must account for them accurately. (3)
  - 3. We must distribute them faithfully. (3,4)

**II. As leaders we must minister to people as God leads us. (5-9)**

- A. We must go to our Macedonia. (5)
- B. We must go when and where God leads us. (6, 7)
- C. We must go where there are opportunities for ministry. (8, 9)
- D. We must go in spite of opposition. (9)

**III. As members we must support the leaders that God sends us. (10-18)**

- A. We must give friendly welcomes when they come. (10)
- B. We must not mistreat them while they are with us. (11)
- C. We must give them our blessings when they leave. (11)
- D. We must wait patiently for them when they are delayed. (12)
- E. We must demonstrate a Christlike attitude with them. (13, 14)
  - 1. By keeping alert. (13)
  - 2. By being firm in our faith. (13)
  - 3. By being brave and strong. (13)
  - 4. By showing love in everything we do. (14)

- F. We must obey and respect them for their authority. (15, 16)
  - 1. As they devote themselves to serve God's people. (15)
  - 2. As they work hard with us. (16)
- G. We must acknowledge and appreciate them for their work. (17, 18)
  - 1. For their ministry to us. (17)
  - 2. For their ministry to others. (18)

**IV. As Christian we must always care for God's people. (19-24)**

- A. We must always send greetings to God's people. (19-21)
- B. We must always bless God's people. (22-23)
- C. We must always love God's people. (24)