



Everything is in the light of the gospel

The gospel is not just a few moral commandments or a way to live well... This is the revelation of our Lord Jesus about Himself and a completely new way of life... And strength to live it.

+ **Number of chapters:** 16 chapters.

+ **Circumstances of writing:**

- Corinth (in Greece) was an important economic port in that period, and of course paganism was widespread there... And as usual in the ports at that time, the people were not having good manners, and the city had many cultures.
- And Saint Paul spent there a year and a half on his second missionary journey... He knew the people there very well and this city is one of the cities that tired St. Paul the Apostle, but in the end, there remained a church there.
- But after the second missionary journey was concluded and he walked from there, news came to him that there were many problems in the church and misconceptions came back again! So, he wrote them this letter before he passed by them on the third missionary journey.
- Who are the target audience for this chapter? For the Corinthian church ... And for our church now because there are problems that existed at that time and are very present in our churches now... Like the problem of partisanship and the misconception of freedom.

+ **Book objective:**

- Discuss 5 Major Problems in the Corinthian Church.
- The book demonstrates to us how we should look at everything in our life through the word of our Lord... what is the Lord saying for such thing.

+ **The key to understanding the book:**

- To present the problem and define it in a direct and clear way
- To respond to it with verses from the Bible and the life of our Lord Jesus... to tell them that their behavior now is not in line with their faith

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+ Book Sequence:

CHAPTERS 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Partisanship.- Partisanship means dividing the church into parties, each party with a specific servant.
CHAPTERS 5-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Immorality.- Immorality is a problem of moral corruption, especially in terms of marriage.
CHAPTERS 8-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Food.- The problem of what is good to eat and what is not.
CHAPTERS 11-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The system of meetings.- How can there be a system in church meetings for the benefit of those who are served.
CHAPTER 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Questioning the Resurrection.- Is Our Lord really risen, or are these words spoken by the apostles?

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+ The book summary:

1: Partisanship (Chapters 1-4)

+ *The Problem:* Divisions and Partisanship inside the Church:

- Of course, after St. Paul planted the seed of faith in Corinth, he was followed by other teachers (as St. Apollos’).
- The people in Corinth, went in parties, and each party preferred a certain apostle... Some people say we are in Paul's, some people say we are in Peter's, some people say we are in Apollos... And each group talks badly about the other teams (exactly like the political parties).

“For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ”
(1 Corinthians 1:11&12)

+ *Response:* O congregation, no kidding!:

- The Church is not a contest: who is the best and the most beloved!
- The Church is a group of people assembled by their faith in our Lord Jesus... And all the leaders and teachers in it they are servants of our Lord Jesus... It is normal for one to like one over the other, but it is not normal for the church to be divided into parties that speak badly of each other! Where is our Lord Jesus here?!

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. (1 Corinthians 3:5-8)



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2: Porn (Chapters 5 - 7)

+ The Problem: Someone in the church made a mistake with his father's wife:

- And people, after they have become going to the church, still go to the pagan temples with the pornographic practices that are in them.
- And people say: what is the problem? Aren't we are free in Christ?

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife!
(1 Corinthians 5:1)

+ Response:

- Our Lord died to save us from these sins... How can we go to them and return to them again after we have believed?!
- Our bodies dwelt in it the Holy Spirit, and we became temples of God, and our bodies became God's, not our own... How can we defile God's temple with wrong relationships and actions?!

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
(1 Corinthians 6:19,20)

- And as for the principle of freedom in our Lord Jesus, this means that I can now choose good and do it and reject evil... not to return to it again and be enslaved to it! You say all things are permissible for me, but you understand wrong!

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. (1 Corinthians 6:12)

- As for leniency with sin, this is useless, because with time it will ruin the whole church!

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore, purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. (1 Corinthians 5:6,7)



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3: Eating (Chapters 8 - 10)

+ The Problem:

- Is it right to eat the meat of animals that have been slaughtered as an offering in the temples of idols?
- It is similar to the problem of partisanship, Christians of Jewish origin say: No, of course it cannot, and they say that whoever does this is a great sin... While Christians from the Gentiles say: There is no problem, no meaningless complications.

Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge.
Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. (1 Corinthians 8:1)

+ Response: We don't have forbidden and not forbidden... but no for stumbling!

- St. Paul's response: There is no such thing as idols, and we know that and we worship our Lord Jesus... and food is neither forbidden nor permissible...
- But! Much more important than food is your love for your brother... and that you don't stumble him.
- **Scenario 1:** If someone tells you: By the way, this food was sacrificed to idols...and he is waiting for you to see whether you will eat or not (and of course if you eat, he will have a stumble because he will think that it is normal to worship our Lord Jesus with idols) ...
- At that time: Of course, don't eat! Don't prefer your joy by a meal over stumbling your siblings!
- You must love your siblings and prefer them over yourself, even if you feel that this is ignorance from them and that their conscience is weak.
- **Scenario 2:** If there is no one around you who will stumble while you are hungry and your conscience is good (you worship God and know that there is no such thing as idols and that everything is goodness from God): Then eat and thank God for His grace

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

(1 Corinthians 10:23,24)



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4: Meeting system (Chapters 11 - 14)

+ The Problem:

- who speaks in meetings? And how does he speak?
- There were people who spoke in tongues... I mean, they had a kind of spiritual talent and a strong spiritual degree, but people in the end heard incomprehensible words... and therefore there was no edification for the people who listened.
- And other people used to like to interrupt the speaker, and they also talked a lot about other topics and interrupted each other, so the arrangement and focus of the speaker and the original situation goes away, and the situation turns into a rush, and also people come out without benefiting at all.

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.
(1 Corinthians 14:4)

+ Response: Our God, the author of system

- The church the body of our Lord Jesus (He is her head), and the church has one spirit led by the Holy Spirit, and the church has many members, each one has his gift (preaching, service, management, or any other gift) and each one must use his talent to serve and build up the whole.
- The key here is also love (to which Saint Paul assigned the chapter of love, chapter 13)... Each one of us must have love so that he knows how to deny himself and exploit his talent to build up the church, not for his personal glory, according to our Lord will which place he wants him to serve in the church.
- And for meetings, it's a must that not every time I like to talk to talk, disturb, and confuse people... Everything must be in order and for the structure.

"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints... And let all things be done decently and in order . (1 Corinthians 14:33&40)

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5: Questioning the Resurrection (Chapter 15)

+ The Problem:

- There are people who say that the resurrection is impossible ... I don't have to believe it in order to be a Christian

“Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (1 Corinthians 15:12)

+ Response: There is no gospel without a resurrection!

- St. Paul responded with the first creed in Christianity... And the resurrection has many witnesses who lived and saw our Lord.
- And it will be completed that without resurrection, there is no redemption or salvation... and therefore there is no Christianity.
- And he explains that the resurrection is God's victory over death ... the resurrection is the source of strength for us in our lives ... and the source of our hope in eternity.
- The resurrection is what solves all the problems that have mentioned:
 - + The unity of the Church.
 - + Gives us the motivation to live a pure life and resist sin.
 - + Gives us a power to love each other more than we love ourselves.
 - + Gives us victory over death.

“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20&22)

- And St. Paul concludes the letter in chapter 16 with a closing greeting to the Corinthians.



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