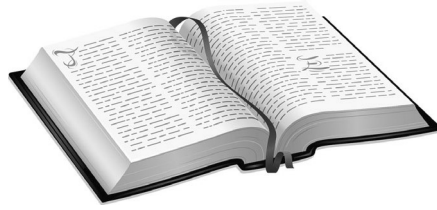


# Answer Sheet for English Standard Version (ESV) *Bible Correspondence Fellowship*



## *1 Corinthians - Lesson 1 of 5*

The book of First Corinthians is one of the most important in the Bible. It covers a wide variety of doctrinal and practical issues. As you study the book of First Corinthians you will learn much about God's will in the areas of sexual morality, marriage and divorce, lawsuits between believers, church discipline and many other topics. Likewise Paul discusses such important doctrinal issues as speaking in tongues and spiritual gifts, the resurrection, the rapture, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Communion. In this letter Paul goes into great detail describing the nature of the Church as a body of believers with different parts but all working together for the benefit of one another.

Before beginning this study you should take time to read through First Corinthians from beginning to end. This will help you better understand each section in the context of the entire book. While doing the study read each question carefully using the given Scripture reference to find your answer. May the Lord bless you as you study the book of First Corinthians.

### **INTRODUCTION**

**AUTHOR:** The apostle Paul

**PLACE OF WRITING:** Written from Ephesus.

**DATE OF WRITING:** First Corinthians was probably written sometime between 54 and 58 A.D. while Paul was on his third missionary journey.

**PURPOSE, THEME AND SUBJECT MATTER OF THE LETTER:** Corinth was the seat of government for Southern Greece or Achaia. It was noted for its wealth, and for the luxurious, immoral and vicious habits of the people. It had a large mixed population of Romans, Greeks, and Jews. Paul visited Corinth for the first time around the year 51 A.D.

1 Corinthians was written in response to a variety of problems that existed in the Corinthian church. Paul learned of these problems through reports that reached him from some members of the church (1 Corinthians 1:11; 5:1) and through letters that were sent to him (1 Corinthians 7:1). The majority of the specific issues discussed in the letter are of a very practical nature regarding Christian behavior. Some doctrinal issues are also discussed in detail as well, particularly the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead (Chapter 15).

Please read the entire book of 1 Corinthians. \_\_\_\_\_ Check.

## Chapter 1

Please memorize the following verse and be prepared to write it out at the end of this lesson.

*For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 – NASB.*

### GREETING AND THANKSGIVING

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

1. (v. 1:1) In what way was Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ?  
Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God
2. (v. 1:2) How does Paul describe the believers in the Corinthian church?  
those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,
3. The word “sanctified” means to be holy. As we read through 1 Corinthians we learn that there was a great deal of sin in the Corinthian church. Why do you think God could call the Corinthian believers “sanctified” when there was such sinful behavior in the church? (answers vary) to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints
4. (v. 1:4) What is Paul’s response to God because of the Corinthian believers?  
I thank my God always concerning you
5. (v. 1:8) What will be the condition of the believers on the day of the Lord Jesus Christ?  
you may be guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
6. (v. 1:9) How is God described in this verse? God is faithful,

### APPEAL FOR UNITY

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 and answer the following questions.

7. (v. 1:10) What was Paul’s plea to the Corinthian believers?  
you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
8. (v. 1:11) How did Paul learn about the divisions in the Corinthian church?  
It has been declared to me concerning you, by those of Chloe’s household,

9. The Corinthian church was divided into factions that followed the teachers of various Christian leaders.

List the four leaders that various Corinthians claimed to follow (v. 1:12).

Paul      Appolos      Cephas (aka Peter)      Christ

10. Paul responds to these factions with three rhetorical questions (questions with obvious answers). What do you think is the point Paul is trying to make with these three questions (v. 1:13)?

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?

Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

11. (vss. 1:14-16) Did Paul baptize everyone in the Corinthian church? no

Did he wish that he had baptized more? no

12. (v. 1:17) What did Christ not send Paul to do? to baptize

What did Christ send Paul to do? but to preach the gospel,

**Note:** Compare 1 Corinthians 1:17 with Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15-16. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded the twelve apostles to preach the gospel and baptize. This verse is strong evidence that the Apostle Paul was working under a different commission than the one given to the twelve apostles.

## **MAN'S WISDOM vs. GOD'S WISDOM**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_ Check**

13. (v. 1:18) How does Paul describe the preaching of the cross to two different groups?

foolishness to those who are perishing,

but to us who are being saved it is the power of God

14. (v. 1:21) Did the world find God through its own wisdom? no

Through what means was salvation revealed? folly of what we preached

15. (v. 1:22) What is the difference between the Jews and the Gentiles (Greeks) in the way in which they expected to find God? \_\_\_\_\_

For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

16. (vs. 1:23) What is the central focus of the preaching of Paul? Christ crucified,

17. Write the point of verse 25 in your own words. (answers vary) Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

18. (v. 1:26–28) Describe the type of people that God can use to preach the gospel.  
not many wise, mighty, or noble, God has chosen the foolish things and the weak  
and the base things of the world and the things which are despised
19. (v.1:31) In whom should a Christian boast? He who glories, let him glory in the Lord

## *Chapter 2*

1. (v. 2:1-5) How does Paul describe the way he preached to the Corinthians?  
not with lofty speech or wisdom, I was with you in weakness and much trembling,  
not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
2. (v. 2:2) Describe the similarity between this verse and what Paul says in chapter 1 verse 23.  
I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

**Note:** The term “princes of this world” (KJV) or “rulers of this age” (NIV) can refer to Satan and his demons (John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:11; Ephesians 2:2).

3. (v. 2:7) How does Paul describe God’s wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_  
But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the  
ages for our glory.
4. (v. 2:8) What reason does Paul give in this verse as to why God kept His plan hidden?  
None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had,  
they would not have crucified the Lord of glory

**Note:** Paul is not speaking of the fact that the death of Jesus Christ would bring salvation to the world in these verses. The Old Testament speaks of the substitutionary death of Christ in many places (e.g. Isaiah 53). Paul is referring to the special message revealed to him by God, which he called a “mystery” or secret, that the Jews and Gentiles could be saved and be made part of one Body of believers through faith in Jesus Christ. This message was kept hidden in God’s mind “since the world began” and was not revealed in the Old Testament or the writings of any other author in the Bible. Compare Ephesians 3:4-6; Romans 16:25-26; Colossians 1:25-27.

5. (vss. 2:9-10) How did God reveal His wisdom to us? through the Spirit.

6. (vss. 2:10-12) Explain these verses in your own words. (answers vary)  
No one knows thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. the Spirit who is from God,  
helps us understand the things freely given us by God.
7. (v. 2:14) Can the man without the Spirit of God accept the truth of God's word?  
 (Also read 2 Corinthians 4:4-6) no

## *Chapter 3*

### **DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH**

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:1 - 9** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check**

1. (vss. 3:1-3) How does Paul describe the Corinthian believers? people of flesh, infants  
 Why does he describe them this way? jealousy and strife, behaving in a human way
2. (v. 3:5) Does Paul teach that individual preachers should be given credit for the spiritual growth of the believers? no
3. (vss. 3:6-9) Describe in your own words the point that Paul is trying to make in these verses.  
(answers vary) different people pour into others, but only God gives the growth.  
Each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers.  
You are God's field, God's building.

### **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:10 – 15** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check**

4. (v. 3:10) What does Paul call himself?  
a skilled master builder

**Note:** The “foundation” which Paul laid is what he calls “the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery” (Romans 16:25). It was the unique message he was given as the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11).

5. (v. 3:11) What is the only true foundation that any minister can build upon?  
no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ

6. (V. 3:12) What metaphors (word pictures) does Paul use to describe the valuable and worthless deeds that a person does? gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
- 
7. (v. 3:13) What will be made known at the time Paul calls “the Day.”  
each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it
- 
8. (vs. 3:14-15) Describe what will happen on that day to those whose works were done for the glory of God and those whose works were useless.  
If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.  
If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss;
- 
9. (v. 3:15) Will the person whose works are burned be lost or saved? saved
- 

Note: The Bible teaches of two great days of judgment. The one mentioned in these verses is found only in writings of Paul and it is called the Judgment Seat of Christ (compare Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10). This judgment takes place after the Church, the Body of Christ, has been taken from the earth in the rapture. It only involves believers and it is a judgment for rewards based on the works done as a believer. It is not a judgment to determine a person's salvation. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ today, this is the judgment you will face.

The other great judgment is called the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11). This judgment will take place after the seven years of tribulation and after the second return of Christ to the earth. This judgment will involve unbelievers from all other dispensations other than the present Dispensation of Grace. It will be to determine if their names were recorded in the Book of Life. Those whose names are not found in the Book will be sent to eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:11-14)

10. (v. 3:16) Why are we called the temple of God? God's Spirit dwells in you
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11. (v.3:18) Describe the similarity between this verse and 1 Corinthians 1:23  
we stumble over differences between people instead of focusing on Christ
- 

## *Chapter 4*

### **PAUL DEFENDS HIS MINISTRY**

**Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-21 \_\_\_\_\_ Check**

1. (v. 4:1) How does Paul describe himself and Apollos?  
servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God
- 
- 

In verse 4:2–4 Paul is talking about judging the validity of his ministry.

2. (v. 4:4) Who alone has the right to judge the validity of Paul's ministry?  
It is the Lord who judges me
  3. (v. 4:5) What will happen when the Lord comes for the Body of Christ?  
who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose  
the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.
- 

**Note:** Apparently there were some in Corinth that were questioning Paul's authority as an apostle. In verses 8 – 10 Paul is using sarcasm to make his point that they were in fact not qualified to judge his apostleship.

4. (vss. 4:11–13) How does Paul describe the way he has acted and responded as an apostle of Jesus Christ?  
we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed. and buffeted and homeless  
And we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless;  
when persecuted, we endure. when slandered, we entreat.  
We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.
- 

5. (v. 4:15) How does he describe himself to the Corinthians?  
For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- 

6. (Compare v. 4:16, 11:1) What does Paul instruct the Corinthian believers to do?  
I urge you, then, be imitators of me.
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**Note:** Paul instructs believers to follow or imitate him in several places in his epistles (1 Corinthians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9). He said these things because as the Apostle to the Gentiles he established a pattern of doctrine and behavior that was meant to be an example for all members of the Body of Christ.

7. (v. 4:17) Whom did Paul send to instruct the Corinthians in how they should behave?  
That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord
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8. (v. 4:19) What does Paul promise he will do soon?  
But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills
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Write 1 Corinthians 1:18 from memory on the lines below.

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God

What Bible Version/Translation did you use for this lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

This is the Version/Translation we will use to grade this Lesson.

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