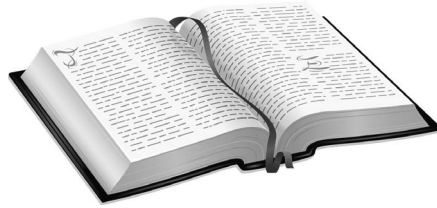


Answer Sheet for New International Version (NIV) *Bible Correspondence Fellowship*



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?
by the will of God,
2. (v. 1:2) How does Paul describe the believers in the Corinthian church?
sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people,
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? Everyone who has believed in Jesus is sanctified
4. (v. 1:4) What is Paul’s response to God because of the Corinthian believers?
always thank my God for you
5. (v. 1:8) What will be the condition of the believers on the day of the Lord Jesus Christ?
you will be blameless on 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?
that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.
8. (v. 1:11) How did Paul learn about the divisions in the Corinthian church?
some from Chloe’s household have informed me

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 Apollos Cephas 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?

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? to preach

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?

the message of the cross is 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? the foolishness of what was 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? Jews demand signs and Greeks look for 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. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

18. (v. 1:26–28) Describe the type of people that God can use to preach the gospel.

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;

God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong

19. (v.1:31) In whom should a Christian boast? boast in the Lord.

Chapter 2

1. (v. 2:1-5) How does Paul describe the way he preached to the Corinthians?

not with eloquence or human wisdom, nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

in weakness with great fear and trembling. with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

2. (v. 2:2) Describe the similarity between this verse and what Paul says in chapter 1 verse 23.

I resolved to know nothing while I was with 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? a mystery that has been hidden
and that God destined for our glory before time began

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 it, 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? revealed to us by his Spirit.

6. (vss. 2:10-12) Explain these verses in your own words. _____

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? Worldly
Why does he describe them this way? since there is jealousy and quarreling
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.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10 – 15 _____ **Check**

4. (v. 3:10) What does Paul call himself?
a wise 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?
For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already 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? If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,
7. (v. 3:13) What will be made known at the time Paul calls “the Day.”
their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.
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 what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but will be saved, as one escaping through the flames.
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 your midst?
11. (v.3:18) Describe the similarity between this verse and 1 Corinthians 1:23
you should become fools so that you may become wise.

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 as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed

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?
He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart
. At that time each will receive their praise 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?
To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated,
we are homeless. We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless;
when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly.
We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world
right up to this moment.
5. (v. 4:15) How does he describe himself to the Corinthians?
in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
6. (Compare v. 4:16, 11:1) What does Paul instruct the Corinthian believers to do?
herefore I urge you to imitate me.

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?
I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord.
8. (v. 4:19) What does Paul promise he will do soon?
But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing,

Write 1 Corinthians 1:18 from memory on the lines below.

For the message of the cross is foolishness 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.

Your questions or Comments:

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