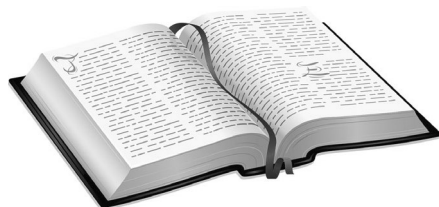


Answer Sheet for New Living Translation (NLT)

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?
chosen by the will of God
2. (v. 1:2) How does Paul describe the believers in the Corinthian church?
to you who have been called by God to be his own 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? Because they were sanctified in Christ Jesus.
(this will probably be hard for some of the students to answer)
4. (v. 1:4) What is Paul’s response to God because of the Corinthian believers?
I 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 free from all blame
6. (v. 1:9) How is God described in this verse? he is faithful to do what he says,

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?
to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church.
be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.
8. (v. 1:11) How did Paul learn about the divisions in the Corinthian church?
some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels,

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 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)?

The questions: "Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? W

Possible answers: The Body of Christ cannot be divided. Jesus is the savior and head of

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 the Good News

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 foolish to those who are headed for destruction!

But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

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

Through what means was salvation revealed? our foolish preaching

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? the Jews ask for signs from heaven.

the Greeks seek human wisdom.

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

17. Write the point of verse 25 in your own words. _____

God is wiser than man and He is far more powerful than man's greatest might.

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

"few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you."

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

Chapter 2

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

without lofty words and impressive wisdom. I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. My message and my preaching were very plain. I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Paul's focus is always on Jesus and the crucifixion

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? wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory

4. (v. 2:8) What reason does Paul give in this verse as to why God kept His plan hidden?

But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord

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? by His Spirit.

6. (vss. 2:10-12) Explain these verses in your own words. The Spirit of God makes it possible for man to understand and accept the truth of God's word.
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? belonging to this world. ☒
Why does he describe them this way? you are still controlled by your sinful nature.
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.
He and Apollos planted and watered, but God made the seeds grow.
For we are both God's workers.
you are God's field. You are God's building. (God is responsible for results, not men)

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10 – 15 _____ Check

4. (v. 3:10) What does Paul call himself?
an expert 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?
Jesus Christ

6. (V. 3:12) What metaphors (word pictures) does Paul use to describe the valuable and worthless deeds that a person does? a variety of materials
gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw.
7. (v. 3:13) What will be made known at the time Paul calls “the Day.”
The fire will show if a person's work has any value.
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 survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up
The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of 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? the Spirit of God lives in us
11. (v.3:18) Describe the similarity between this verse and 1 Corinthians 1:23
Both verses compare the wisdom of God to the wisdom of man

Chapter 4

PAUL DEFENDS HIS MINISTRY

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-21 _____ Check

1. (v. 4:1) How does Paul describe himself and Apollos?

as mere servants of Christ who have been
put in charge of explaining God's mysteries

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?

the Lord himself

3. (v. 4:5) What will happen when the Lord comes for the Body of Christ?

he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives.
Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.

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 go hungry and thirsty, and we don't have enough clothes to keep warm.

We are often beaten and have no home.

We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living.

We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us.

We appeal gently when evil things are said about us.

5. (v. 4:15) How does he describe himself to the Corinthians?

"For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you.

(Spiritual father)

6. (Compare v. 4:16, 11:1) What does Paul instruct the Corinthian believers to do?

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?

Timothy

8. (v. 4:19) What does Paul promise he will do soon?

I will come visit the Corinthians

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

18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction!



But we who are being saved know it is the very 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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