

# Introduction to First Corinthians

## Course Description

This course provides a home-based Bible Study Course with Commentary. Students will learn what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians regarding certain topics which had arisen in their church. He teaches them what God has given mankind to believe regarding Himself and His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, plus he shows how adversely the people who did not believe God's Word in Corinth were affecting their behavior.

This course corrects erroneous teachings and concepts, and covers many topics such as:

- Spirit
- Belief
- Hope
- Love
- Judgment
- Rewards
- Death
- Resurrection

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Have an accurate understanding of the Book of First Corinthians
2. Teach others about how Christians should behave themselves
3. Teach others about spiritual-things
4. Be knowledgeable about the present time and about the future for mankind

## Course Reading Material

This course follows the True Bible Study reading material (<http://www.TrueBibleStudy.com/Products.htm>):

- First Corinthians – Word Translation and Study Guide

## Course Outline

### Introduction to the Book of First Corinthians

The following is a short summary of the 16 chapters included in this course:

·       **Verses 1-31**                               **Chapter 1**

Paul was called and he was an apostle of Christ Jesus by means of the intention of God. He addresses this letter to the church of God in Corinth which consisted of people who had been made holy in Christ Jesus.

The holy-people did not lack in any gracious-gift while they were eagerly-awaiting the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather them all together with him. However, there were strifes among them and Paul writes about these problems which led to divisions whereby some were claiming to follow various people.

Paul writes that Christ did not apostle him to baptize but to good-message (to preach the gospel, the evangel), which includes details about the cross of Christ. Christ is the ability of God and the wisdom of God, and he was caused to become wisdom to all holy-people from God, including righteousness and holiness and full-redemption.

·       **Verses 1-16**                               **Chapter 2**

Paul reminds the Corinthian holy-people that when he came to their location previously, he did not come according to superiority of word or of wisdom, messaging to them the mystery of God, because he only taught them regarding Jesus Christ who was crucified. He was pointing out spirit and ability in order that their belief would not be in men's wisdom but in God's ability.

If the rulers of this age had known God's wisdom in a mystery, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Also, mankind did not know the things that God prepared for the people loving<sup>1</sup> Him - but Paul writes that God revealed them to us by means of the spirit, for the spirit searches all-things, even the deep-things of God.

·       **Verses 1-23**                               **Chapter 3**

When Paul visited the Corinthian holy-people previously, he gave them milk to drink - in the figurative sense - because they were still fleshly regarding their behavior which included jealousy and strife and dissensions.

Paul and Apollos were ministers by means of whom they believed regarding God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul planted, Apollos gave to drink - but God caused the increase.

Each person will receive his own compensation according to his own labor. However, another foundation not one person or spirit is able to put against the foundation being laid - who is Jesus Christ. But if someone builds on the foundation gold and silver, honorable stones, wood, grass, straw - the work of each one will become manifest because it will be revealed in fire and the fire will prove what kind the work of each one is:

- if the work of someone will remain which he built on the foundation he will receive a compensation
- if the work of someone will be burned-down he will be caused to receive loss but the holy-person himself will be saved.

All holy-people are the interior temple of God because the spirit of God dwells in us.

· **Verses 1-21**                      **Chapter 4**

The Corinthian holy-people were to reckon Paul and Apollos as assistants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Also, they were not to be puffed-up one against another.

Paul writes that if-ever they would have ten-thousand training instructors in Christ - he encourages them to become imitators of himself, and includes the truth that the kingdom of God is not in word but in ability.

· **Verses 1-13**                      **Chapter 5**

Paul addresses another problem among the Corinthian holy-people regarding the topic of fornication. They had become puffed-up about this wrong behavior instead of mourning it and lifting out the wrong-doer from their church. Paul gives them instruction to give this man over to satan into destruction of the flesh in order that the spirit would be saved in the day of the Lord.

He also instructs them not to be mixed-up together with fornicators - not altogether referring to the fornicators of this world or the covetous-people or catching-people or idolaters, since in that case they would owe-it consequently to go-out from the world! - but he writes to them not to be mixed-up together if-ever someone being named "brother" would be a fornicator or a covetous-person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or a catching-person - with such a person not even to eat-together!

· **Verses 1-20**                      **Chapter 6**

Paul asks: does someone dare, having a matter towards the different-person, to be judged on the unrighteous-people and not on the holy-people?

He clarifies that unrighteous-people will not inherit God's kingdom. Don't be caused to wander because unbelievers who are:

- fornicators
- idolaters
- adulterers
- soft-people
- homosexuals
- thieves
- covetous-people
- drunkards
- revilers
- catching-people,

...will NOT inherit the kingdom of God.

All holy-people (true Christians) are limbs of Christ – therefore, we must flee fornication. We were bought of price; indeed we must glorify God in our body.

· **Verses 1-40**                      **Chapter 7**

This chapter includes many details about marriage and about being single.

To avoid fornications each grown-man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband - if they want to have intimate sexual relations. Married people should be careful in order that satan would not tempt them away from the truth of God's Word. Paul also discusses the marriage of believers and unbelievers.

Paul repeats the truth that all holy-people were bought of price and he intends the holy-people to be without-anxiety.

· **Verses 1-13**                      **Chapter 8**

Paul writes about idol sacrifices - but knowledge of them puffs-up - however, Godly-love edifies.

For holy-people - there is one God, the Father, out-from Whom are all-things and we are into Him, and there is one Lord Jesus Christ by means of whom are all-things and we are by means of him.

Food will not present us to God, but we should not become a stumbling-block to the weak-people.

· **Verses 1-27**                      **Chapter 9**

The Corinthian holy-people were the seal of Paul's apostleship in the Lord. He writes his defense to the people who were judging him regarding this.

He also reminds them of the truth that the Lord throughly-arranged for the people messaging the good-message to live from the good-message - but Paul himself did not use these availabilities. He says that it is woe to him if-ever he would not good-message because he was trusted with a stewardship. He does all-things because of the good-message in order that he would become a sharer-in-common together of it.

All holy-people are to run, contest, and exercise self-control during the everyday living of our lives in order that we would take-hold of our prize - an incorruptible crown.

· **Verses 1-33**                      **Chapter 10**

Paul refers to the spiritual drink, the spiritual rock - the Christ.

The people of Israel during the time of Moses became types of us with-a-view-for us not to be intense-yearners of bad-things according as those people intensely yearned.

- Neither must we become idolaters according as some of them, wholly as it was written, "The people sat-down to eat and to drink and stood-up to play";
- neither let us fornicate according as some of them fornicated and they fell one day twenty-three thousands;
- neither let us tempt-out the Christ according as some of them tempted-out and they destroyed-themselves by the snakes;
- neither must we murmur fully as some of them murmured and they destroyed-themselves by the destroyer.

A temptation has not taken any holy-person (Christian) except a manly temptation – but God is believable Who will not let us to be tempted over that-which we are able, but God will make together with the temptation even the way-out for us to be able to bear-up.

Paul also discusses the cup of blessing which we bless - it is a sharing-in-common of the blood of Christ; also the bread which we break - it is a sharing-in-common of the body of Christ.

All holy-people together are one bread, one body. All of the things that we do must be into the glory of God.

· **Verses 1-34**                      **Chapter 11**

Paul tells the Corinthian holy-people that they must become imitators of himself according as he also is an imitator of Christ. He continues by teaching about the relationship between Christ, the adult-male, and the woman - but God is the head of Christ. He also refers to people loving contention regarding the matter of husband and wife, and their interaction in the behavior category.

Paul includes information on how all believers should treat one-another during church meetings, and eating and drinking together in celebration of all that the death of Jesus

Christ accomplished. Paul received details from the Lord about the time before his death when he had his last supper giving those with him bread and wine and referring to his body and blood.

He told them also that many of the Corinthian holy-people were weak and sickly and enough of them had fallen sleep (died) because they were behaving badly in regards to the body and blood of Jesus Christ the Lord.

· **Verses 1-31**                      **Chapter 12**

In chapter 12 Paul specifically points out that he is writing concerning the spiritual-things. He teaches about the gracious-gifts, ministries, and in-workings (energizing). He also includes information about the manifestation of the spirit which has 9 contributions available:

- word of wisdom, word of knowledge
- belief, gracious-gifts of healings, in-workings of ability, prophecy, through-judgments of spirits,
- genera of tongues, interpretation of tongues.

· **Verses 1-13**                      **Chapter 13**

This chapter provides the details on God's kind of love (Greek: *agape*). Godly-love is:

- patient,
- benevolent.

Godly-love:

- is not jealous,
- it does not vaunt itself,
- it does not puff itself up,
- it is not indecorous,
- it does not seek-after the-thing of itself,
- it is not sharpened,
- it does not calculate the bad-thing,
- it does not joy on the unrighteousness –

Godly-love:

- joys-together with the truth,
- it protectively-covers all-things,
- it believes all-things,
- it hopes all-things,
- it patiently-endures all-things.

· **Verses 1-40**                      **Chapter 14**

We must pursue Godly-love and be zealous towards the spiritual-things. In the church more and more we should prophesy. Paul continues to detail how holy-people are to speak with tongues, and when in the church tongues spoken out loud must be accompanied with the contribution of interpretation of tongues.

We should seek to exceed towards the edification of the church.

Paul teaches further about prophets and the women who attend the church meetings. All-things must come-to-pass decorously and according to arrangement.

· **Verses 1-58**                      **Chapter 15**

Paul reminds the Corinthian holy-people of what he had previously taught them concerning the death of Christ on behalf of our sins, that he was buried, and that he was raised-up on the third day according to the writings. The resurrected Christ was seen by many people including the apostles - and Paul writes that he himself was the latest person of all of them to see the resurrected Christ.

If Christ had not been resurrected then all people are still dead in their sins. But - Christ was resurrected by God and he made salvation available to mankind. Christ was raised-up out-from dead-people, a first-fruits-offering of the people who have died. In the Christ all-people will be made-alive, but each-person in his own arrangement:

- the first-fruits offering is Christ,
- next the people of Christ in his presence,
- then the completion, whenever he may give-over the kingdom to the God and Father.

God will be supreme.

Paul also writes about a mystery pertaining to death, resurrection, and new spiritual bodies.

· **Verses 1-24**                      **Chapter 16**

In this final chapter, Paul writes about the collection for the holy-people, and about his planned travel arrangements.

He also refers to the fact that Timothy may visit them, and about the house of Stephanas also working in the ministry.

Paul put his personal signature with his handwriting at the end of this letter to prove that it was genuine.

Some of the last words were written as a translation from Aramaic or Hebrew words in some translations as: Anathema Maranatha - but the words in verse 22 mean: If someone does not love the Lord he must be a cursed-offering. Lord – come!

**Lord – come!**