

Daily Reading **Notes**

1 Corinthians 1-7

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God's church learning to boast in Jesus

Baranduda Community
Church



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Outline

Week	Theme	Sunday Passage
1	<i>Intro-No GG Study</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</i>
2	Division in God's church	1 Corinthians 1:1-17
3	Power in God's church	1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5
4	Wisdom in God's church	1 Corinthians 2:6-16
5	Leadership in God's church	1 Corinthians 3
6	Faithfulness in God's church	1 Corinthians 4
7	Judgement in God's church	1 Corinthians 5:1-6:8
8	Purity in God's church	1 Corinthians 6:9-20
9	Godliness in God's church	1 Corinthians 7

Welcome to 1 Corinthians ...

Think of a church which is big and successful, impressive, contemporary and dynamic? Now think of a church which is full of divisions, where the members are fairly bored with the gospel (they want a lot more) and aren't too happy with the minister who wants to keep preaching long and 'boring' gospel messages. What's more this is a church where some think it's OK to sleep around a bit, and where others are involved in legal disputes with each other. Furthermore some are saying that now they're Christian they can live anyway they like, they can do whatever they want, they can go and see whatever they feel like. Some of the members go to church to show off their talents and the more 'up front' and the more 'spectacular' the talent the more important they think they are.

You might have thought of a number of *different* churches. Are you surprised to know that the Church that had some of these features is the Corinthian Church?

The Church in Corinth was a tremendously impressive church. It was alive with activity; it would have been an exciting place to take your friends to. Perhaps the modern equivalent would be a church with a great band and attractive lead singer, excellent (and funny) drama, dynamic preaching as well as the latest media presentations. But contrary to appearances the Corinthian Church had tremendous problems. It was a Church where looking & sounding good was more important than being good, where some came to church to serve themselves rather than to serve others, where passion & gifting was more important than character, where personal freedom was more important than responsibilities or obligations, and where being a Christian was a ticket to self satisfaction. This outward success and inner corruption were actually two sides of the same coin. They were symptoms of the same underlying disease which was expressing itself in different ways. The disease they were suffering from was a failure to understand the gospel.

Paul frames the letter with the message of the gospel (1:18-2:5 and ch 15). Here we see that three things are characteristic of the gospel;

1. The gospel looks to be a weak and foolish message - but it is the power and wisdom of God and nothing else is,

2. it comes to those who are not impressive in the sight of the world - this way none can boast in their own abilities, and
3. it is not preached by fancy methods or by manipulative techniques - so that faith might be in God's power who by his Spirit will bring true conviction. Once the gospel is properly understood the life that is lived in the light of the gospel message is therefore not a triumphalistic life, full of outward displays of greatness and 'power', but it is one of following the message of Christ.

Thus, The Corinthians, whose lives should have been characterised by humility, love for others, other-person-centredness (versus self-centredness), self control, patience and so on, seemed to think that the life that results from Christ's death was a 'triumphalistic' one. Therefore they questioned Paul's authority as he appeared weak compared with the other more eloquent teachers (chs 1-4). Furthermore they were self-centred in the way they treat their weaker brothers in private (chs 8-10) and in church (chs 11-14). In both situations they had failed to see the priority of love over knowledge, over freedom, and over the use of gifts. (While ch 13 is the classic passage on love, chs 8-14 are all about the priority of love in relationships). Love for others is the true outworking of the gospel, and love for others should have governed the way the Corinthians used their knowledge, their freedom, and their gifts.

There are sober warnings here for us! Whilst we might confess Jesus as our Lord we could easily be attracted to a way of Church and private life which is contrary to the gospel we proclaim. Much of modern (and ancient!) Christianity is governed by a desire above all else to find self-fulfilment, self-expression and success. Paul reminds us that the Christians life is to be governed above all else by the living out of the gospel.

This is a tremendously exciting book, full of life, drama and challenge. Read it as many times as you can. Read it and be prepared to do and believe whatever it says - it is God's very word to us!

How to Use These Studies

Bible reading requires effort and concentration to understand properly what God has written. However we must not approach our Bible reading with a merely 'academic' attitude. In reading we are confronted by God himself. As we read we need to allow his word to mould us to be more like Christ.

This moulding will not always mean that we have some new command to act on or some sin to root out. Some days God may simply speak of a need to appreciate the enormity of his plan, or the strength of his love, or the depth of his humility and compassion. These notes will reflect something of this variety. Some days do not have what you might call 'application' questions. Hopefully the questions included will help to reflect on what God is saying and so draw a new appreciation of what God has revealed of himself.

Before you begin your reading time - pray. Pray that God would enable you to sit humbly under his word, that he might graciously speak to you, and that he would mould you to his character by his word. Read the section for the day. Use the questions to aid your reflection on each passage. Take notes if it is helpful.

Finally spend some time considering the impact of your reading and then pray about those things.

Use the blanks space at the end of each week to take notes during the week and on Sunday when we gather as **God's Church in Baranduda**

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Week 1: Acts 18-19 Introduction & Context

Day 1

Read Acts 18:1-11

This week we read about the beginning of Paul's relationship with the Corinthians, during his 2nd missionary journey, and some helpful context.

1. What led to Paul meeting Aquilla and Priscilla? (v2 - Claudius is the Roman Emperor)
2. What did he do with them for a while? (v3)
3. Then what did Paul devote himself to? (v4-5)
4. What was the response? (v6)

PRAY

- Thank God for 'chance' meetings that lead to discipleship and the spread of the gospel ... thank him for how you now know about Jesus.
- Thank God for your work (employed, home, volunteer), or for the opportunity to work.
- Pray specifically for one or two work-mates or friends. Pray that you might be able to share Jesus with them

Day 2

Read Acts 18:5-11

1. Where did Paul start his mission to Corinth? Then where did it move to? (v5-7)
2. Titius Justus (Gentile) and Crispus (Jewish) seem to be the first two Christians in Corinth v7. The church begins in the house of Titius Justus, with Crispus' whole household (wife, kids, servants). What do imagine are some of the joys and challenges of this new church?
3. What does v9 tell us that Paul felt during this time? Why might he feel this way?
4. How long did Paul stay in Corinth this time? What did he spend his time doing? (v11). Spend some time imagining what that might have looked like, who would have heard the gospel, how much things might change...

PRAY

- Thank God for new churches! Thank him for the joy of seeing him gather people across social boundaries and class to worship Jesus.
- Repent of things that might stop you wanting to see very different people gathered into your church
- Pray that God might gather more people, and more different people, to hear the good news. Pray that new churches who teach the word of God might start.

Day 3

Read Acts 18:12-22

This week we see the end of Paul's 3rd missionary, and what happens to some of the people he has mentored and taught in Corinth.

1. The Jews continue their attack on the gospel - they claim that worshipping God as a follower of Jesus was not legal (v13). Do you see similar complaints today? Which?
2. Gallio sees this as a religious dispute and doesn't want to get involved (v15). What happens in v16-17, and what do you think about it?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1 - who helped Paul write the letter?
4. Before heading back to Jerusalem, Paul drops off Priscilla and Aquilla in Ephesus which is a new frontier for the gospel (v18-19). What does this tell you has happened to them whilst making tents with Paul (v3)? [Optional extra: what does the change in order of names possibly signify?]

PRAY

- Thank God for people who have risked or paid much to see the gospel protected and proclaimed - think of someone in particular who you want to thank God for.
- Seek forgiveness for times when you seek to protect yourself rather than accept that when you identify with Jesus, you will cop flack.
- Pray for "workers to go out into the harvest" (Lk 10:2) - pray for new Priscilla's and Aquillas ... pray for your own growth in helping others grow.

Day 4

Read Acts 18:23–19:1

This week Paul begins his 3rd missionary journey after a brief visit to Jerusalem (v22). He goes back through churches that have recently been planted (v23) - skips Corinth (19:1) and ends up in Ephesus. Meanwhile we are introduced to a new character important in the letter of 1 Corinthians.

1. What do you learn about Apollos? (v24-26)
2. What do Priscilla and Aquilla do for him? (v26)

3. In v27-28 Apollos wants to go to 'Achaia' - where do you think he ended up? (see 18:12)
4. What did Apollos do that was helpful? What was 'tool'? (v28)

PRAY

- Thank God for people who have acted like Priscilla and Aquilla to Apollos in your life.
- Pray for who you can gently encourage and mentor ... who you can "invite into your home to explain the way of God more adequately".

Day 5

This week we are going to chase down where some of the people we have met turn up in books of the NT.

For each jot down something you notice that either encourages or challenges you...

1. Priscilla & Aquilla
 - a. Romans 16:3-4
 - b. 1 Corinthians 16:19 (Paul writing from Ephesus)
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:19 (Paul writing to Timothy in Ephesus)
2. Apollos
 - a. 1 Corinthians 3:5-6
 - b. Titus 3:13

PRAY

- Thank God for the faithful work of men and women serving Jesus to see the gospel taught and disciples made
- Confess any sin or attitudes that need changing that God has brought to light
- Pray that God would see you and many others weather the many storms of life and be a consistent servant of Jesus over time to see his church grow.

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Week 2: 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

Division in God's church

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

1. Who is the letter written from / to?
2. "This book applies only to those in Corinth and not to us. The situations it deals with are historically and culturally specific and do not apply to us."
Agree/Disagree, why?
(In working out an answer it may be helpful to look up the following verses:
1:2; 4:7; 4:17; 7:10, 17; 11:2, 16, 23; 14:33, 37)
3. Read v3 again. Imagine Paul writing this to you. Better still, recognise that this is God himself addressing you! Where do you need hear these words said to you in your life right now?

PRAY

- Thank God for this letter written to you, as one of "those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".
- Thank God for the 'church of God in Baranduda'.
- Pray for the reality of God's grace and peace in your life, and in our church, today.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1. How does Paul address the believers in v 1-3?
2. Answer true or false:
 - a. Believers are spotless, blameless and without sin in God's sight
 - b. Believers can be completely confident of their salvation
 - c. Believers are completely holy
 - d. Believers need to grow in their holiness
3. What does it mean (here in v1-3):
 - a. to be "sanctified in Christ Jesus"
 - b. to be "called to be holy" (see also Phil 3:12-16)

How can both of these be true at the same time?

PRAY

- Thank God that he sees you sanctified, set apart from sin, HIS.
- Read v8-9 as part of your prayer, thanking God.
- Pray that you might 'eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus' (v7)

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

1. In your own words explain the problem Paul is dealing with in these verses.
2. What things in these verses are important to Paul and which things of minor significance?
3. What does Paul mean in verse 17 when he writes "not with words of human wisdom lest the cross of Christ be emptied of it's power"? (see v18 for help)

- Are you never/ rarely/sometimes/ often more impressed by HOW things are said or WHO is saying them than by WHAT is said? What do you think lies behind the tendency?

PRAY

- Find two things from the passage to thank God for
- Confess & Repent of things that God has revealed to from this passage
- Pray for our church, and your heart, that we would united by our love and faith in Jesus, and our love for one another.

Day 4

- Corinth was certainly a church with problems! Have a very brief look at the passages below (the NIV headings are a good guide). What were some of the issues causing concern to them (just in chapters 1-7!) ?

Passage	Issue of Concern
1:11-15	
1:31	
4:18	
5:1	
6:1	
7:1	

- Despite all these problems, re-read 1:2 and 1:4 - what does that make you think?

PRAY

- Thank God that despite all our mess, individually and as a church, he has given us his grace, and calls us his
- Confess anything that God has brought up that needs to be repented of
- Pray that as we walk through 1 Corinthians he will show us how the cross addresses these issues.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 through again

1. Yesterday we saw a range of issues and concerns for the Corinthian church. Take some time to write down the things that concern you - for our church and for you yourself.

2. Re-read 1:8-9. Read 1:17. How does the assurance of God, and the power of the cross help?

3. Are there any of the things above that you need to do something about? Can you talk to your GG leader about it?

PRAY

- Thank God for his assurance, and the power and humility of the cross
- Talk to him about the things that concern you
- Pray that you might hear from his word how these things have been / will be addressed.

Notes from Church on Sunday

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Week 3: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:6

The Weak, Boring and Foolish Cross

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

To understand the significance of Paul's words in verse 18 we need to cross a cultural bridge between our world and Paul's. Today the cross is an adornment, something to be worn around the neck or placed atop a building or as a logo on a uniform or letterhead. Not so in the 1st century. For them it was associated with horror! Apart from the Emperor's explicit sanction, no Roman citizen could be put to death by this means. It was offensive to even speak of the cross in polite conversation. Instead it was a death reserved for the lowest of criminals- aliens, slaves, and barbarians. Those crucified were regarded as utterly evil and corrupt. Imagine then the effect of Paul's words on the readers of this letter: "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" (v 18)

1. According to the passage, into what categories does the cross divide all humanity? (v18)
2. What was the "wisdom and strength" that was so attractive to the Corinthians (v20-25)? How does this help to understand what was beneath the problem in 1:12?
3. Read v22-24 again. How are you tempted to commit the either error?
4. Read 1:17-19. How does the cross correct this?

PRAY

- Thank God for the humility, simplicity, and power of the cross
- Confess anything shown to you by God in this passage
- Pray that as a church we would embrace the true 'power of God' (v18) which is in the 'message of the cross'.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

1. Read Deuteronomy 21:22-23. Why is the cross a stumbling block to Jews?
2. Read 1 Cor 1:21. What does this say that God, in His wisdom, has ordained wouldn't happen? (see also v19)
3. How would it happen?
4. Is this encouraging? How does it show both the *foolishness* (v18) and the *power* (v17,18) of the message about Jesus' death and resurrection?

PRAY

- Reflect on the simplicity of the message of Jesus. Thank God for him, his life, teaching, death and resurrection.
- Pray for the foolishness of God (v25) to reshape your human wisdom.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1. "At our next Evangelistic event it would be good to get a Christian Olympic athlete to give her testimony." Agree/Disagree. Why?
2. List the things in verses 26-31 which the Corinthians were impressed by. Why is hero worship foolish?

3. Consider the situation where one who is considered great or famous among the world is converted. A talented musician, a learned scientist, a famous T.V. personality or a brilliant sportsman or woman. How would the Christian community be tempted to use such a person? What does this indicate about us?
4. How does 1:28-29 encourage or challenge you?

PRAY

- Thank God for his wisdom and love, that he has limited the boundaries of our wisdom, and chosen the foolish things to shame the wise.
- Thank God that he has called us (v26)
- Confess anything which God has revealed to you
- Pray v31

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–2:5

1. What do you think it means to "boast in the Lord"? (see Jer 9:23-24)
2. As a Christian in the world, you will be aware that what you know to be true about Jesus is being downgraded as irrelevant, boring or foolish. How did Paul feel in the face of a similar threat? (2:3)
3. When we feel this way, the temptation is to water the message down, or dress it up. But what happens when we do this according to 1:17?
4. How is 2:1-2:5 a challenge and an encouragement to you?

PRAY

- Thank God for men and women who faithfully taught the gospel to you and others
- Confess times when you have sought to obscure the gospel with what seems wise to you
- Pray for our church that we might see a 'demonstration of the Spirit's power' (2:5) - which comes through the simple faith in the message of the cross (1:18).

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 – 2:5

1. Corinth was a church characterised by cliques. Why do you think cliques formed around Paul, Apollos and Cephas (Peter)? (1:11-12)
2. What particular ungodly attitudes may have characterised the "Christ" faction?
3. What truths do you think this whole chapter teaches to help deal with the problem of divisions in church?
4. How can genuine humility borne of "boasting in the Lord" promote unity in your church family?

PRAY

- Thank God for the grace and peace he has brought to our life as members of Baranduda Community Church
- Confess any ungodly attitudes which threaten our unity in our faith
- Pray that we might boast rightly in the Lord Jesus – particularly his death and resurrection.

Notes from Church on Sunday

1 Corinthians 1-7

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Week 4: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 God's Secret Wisdom

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

1. A preacher needs to be:
 - a. funny
 - b. entertaining
 - c. relevant
 - d. good looking
 - e. none of the above
2. Cleverness, wit and rhetoric are tempting ways to win a crowd yet Paul on coming to Corinth made a choice. What was it?
3. What things do you value in good preaching or bible teaching?
4. In what ways can you now pray for those who bring the word to you and for those who hear (you included!) – that neither will be seduced by the values of the world.

PRAY

- Thank God for people who have taught you the bible in accordance with this passage
- Pray about the things from question 4.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-10a

1. In what ways do you see Paul defending his methods in this passage? Why do you think it was important that he do so?
2. In what ways is he challenging his readers to become 'mature' (v6-7)?
3. What do we learn about God's wisdom from v7-9?
4. If this wisdom of God is hidden, why do you understand it? (see v10 and read Rom 16:25-27)

PRAY

- Thank God that he has revealed his wisdom (all that he has achieved in Jesus) to you
- Pray for our church, that God might use us to make himself known to others.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-13

1. In these verses (v10-16) how is the Spirit involved in fulfilling God's good purposes for us?
2. In v12-13, what things are true of all Christians and what things unique to Paul?
3. Today when a person reads or hears the phrase "Spirit-taught words" - what might they think is happening? How is this like the Jews in 1:22?
4. What are the Spirit-taught words that Paul was referring to? (hint: go back and re-read 1:17-18, 2:4-5)
5. What does God's Spirit in us do with these Spirit-taught words? (v12)?

PRAY

- Thank God for his Spirit, that we are united to him by his grace, that he reveals himself to us through the words of the gospel, that these words are brought to life in our hearts by his Spirit.
- Before God in prayer reflect on how you have demanded he reveal himself to you compared to how he, in his wisdom, has.
- Pray that God, by his Spirit, through his Word, might continue to make himself known to us as a church.

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16

In v 6-10a, Paul has contrasted those who receive God's wisdom and those who don't. In 10b-13 he contrasted the Spirit of God with the spirit of the world. Now (v14-16) he deals with the natural person and the spiritual person.

1. What are 3 things Paul says about the person without the Spirit of God?
2. If non-Christians cannot understand the things of the Spirit, how can we talk to them at all about Jesus?
3. Christians in contemporary western society are frequently ridiculed as being narrow, sheltered, naive and incapable of understanding the real world.
 - a. How does v15-16 bear on this statement?
 - b. What false conclusions could be drawn from this verses?
4. Have a sneaky-peak at 3:1. How is 2:10-16 setting up what Paul wants to encourage in the Corinthians?

PRAY

- Thank God for the richness of the work of his Spirit in us
- Pray for humility that we would not overestimate ourselves in light of this

- Pray for a friend who doesn't know Jesus, that he would use the gospel and His Spirit to bring them into eternal life with him.

Day 5

Read John 16:7-15

1. List what you learn in v8-11 of the Spirit's ministry to the world.

2. Along with the Holy Spirit, Christians too are to testify about Jesus (see John 15:26-27). Combining what you have been learning in 1 Corinthians, what is our role in evangelism?

3. Knowing His agenda, what practical steps can we take to 'keep in step with the Spirit'?

PRAY

- Thank God for the Advocate, his Spirit. Thank him for each of the things you listed in Q1.
- Ask God how you can join in with his agenda.

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1 Corinthians 1-7

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Church



Week 5: 1 Corinthians 3

Baby-food, Agriculture, Building and the Cross

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1. How does Paul describe the Corinthian Christians? What evidence does he point to as proof of his point?
2. Based on what you have seen so far in the letter, what things for you would define spiritual maturity? (see also Eph 4:14-16)
3. In what areas do you think you currently lack spiritual maturity?
4. *Optional. Re-read 1 Cor 1:4-7. How do you reconcile those verses with what Paul is saying to the Corinthians in 3:1-4?*

PRAY

- Thank God that he does not rest or become impatient, but calls us to be holy (1:2), and grow in maturity every day.
- Confess any areas of your life where you have been spiritually immature
- Pray that God will keep you growing and maturing as a work of his grace.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

1. What is the point of Paul's farming metaphor in verses 5-9?
2. What is the common goal of the 'one who plants and the one who waters'?
3. What are some results you can think that arise from inappropriately exalting one of God's "servants" (v 5) over another?

In Corinth there was clearly an attitude to christian leaders that is quite inappropriate. Hero worship and faction fighting are two examples we can see so far.

4. How should we treat those whom the Lord has provided to serve as ministers (servants) among us?

PRAY

- Thank God for godly leaders and servants who have worked among us to see us grow in spiritual maturity
- Confess times where you seek to bignote yourself or others
- Pray for the right attitude amongst us all at Baranduda Community Church.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-15

1. In what ways is God's church likened here to a building under construction?
2. What specific warnings are suggested by what Paul says in v10-15?
3. Given all that has been said in the letter so far - what is going to build with quality and care?
4. Write down something from all this that encourages you / thankful for, and something that challenges you.

PRAY

- Thank God for those who build with care, using the gospel and God's word with humility and in the power of his Spirit
- Thank or pray for those things in Q4.

To Stretch You:

The concept mentioned in this passage of "rewards" for service (3:8, 14) is one over which godly Christians differ.

Some see the notion of reward as being contrary to the gospel that constantly asserts God's grace from beginning to end. For example it is the grace of God (3:10; 15:10) that enables any servant of the gospel to perform the work which God has entrusted to him/her (Gal 2:7) and prepared that work in advance for them to do (Eph 2:10).

Others argue that Jesus Himself promised rewards to those who follow Him (Matt 6:4,6,18). Some consider that the reward may be the approval of the master for making good use of that which was entrusted (Matt 24: 21-23) while others consider it to be something material (Mark 10:29-31).

What do you think? How can you hold either perspective and not diminish the gospel?

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

Note that when the bible speaks of the 'church' it almost always has in mind the 'local gathering' of believers at a particular locality. On rare occasions it speaks of the 'heavenly assembly' that will come together when Christ returns. This is useful to know as we think practically about this chapter.

1. What things in this passage demonstrate the precious place that the church holds in God's affections?
2. What clues does this whole section (chapter 3) give as to how one might destroy God's temple?
3. Considering that God yearns with deep affection over the affairs and progress of each local church, how does this chapter affect the way you think about your part in the building of God's temple here at Baranduda? Are there things to repent of? People to encourage? Work to take part in?

PRAY

- Thank God for his church in Baranduda, and that he dwells with us.
- Ask God how you might participate in his plans for our church
- Pray for your church in light of this passage.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

In the light of what Paul has just said - the fact that God loves His church and will hold to account those who destroy it - God concludes in 3:18: "Don't deceive yourselves!". Don't imagine that you can flirt with the world, adopting it's values, it's love of power, prestige and "foolish wisdom" without these things having an impact on my church!

1. What are the specific things Paul says the Corinthian church should do to apply what he has told them?
2. What does Paul say in v21b-23? How would that help the Corinthian church to do the things Paul is encouraging them to do?
3. How does the world think about our church? Now compare that with v21b-23. How does that encourage you or challenge your thinking? (optional: read Eph 3:10-11)

PRAY

- Thank God for the incredible value He places on the gathering of his people.
- Pray that we might not be deceived by the world's standards
- Pray that we might become 'fools', and embrace the wisdom and power of God.

Notes from Church on Sunday

1 Corinthians 1-7

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Week 6: 1 Corinthians 4:1-21

The Crisis in Leadership

Day 1

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

These verses might seem to imply that only those who lead are called to be "servants." Not so! Since the Corinthians were so prone to hero worship of christian leaders, Paul will first show them the true nature of christian leadership before applying these things to all Christians (v6).

1. List the things in v1-5 that Paul teaches here about christian leadership.
2. What do we learn about the function and limits of conscience (v4)?
3. Why does Paul "not even judge myself" (v3)?
4. What matters more to Paul as a leader? (v5)

PRAY

- Thank God for showing us what matters most
- Thank God for leaders who have been given trust and who prove faithful
- Pray that we might have motives in our heart that are right and godly.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-7

It's hard to be really sure what the 'beyond what is written' bit means – but two options stand out. Either Paul means that the Corinthians should not add worldly wisdom to the message of the gospel that was given to them by Paul and Apollos. Or, it could refer to the Scriptures - and that the Corinthians were prone to adding 'their wisdom' on top of that.

1. With either of the debated options above, what is the message being communicated to the church?
2. How does Paul 'applying these things' (from 1-4) serve as an example of the thing being communicated to the church (from q1)?
3. Consider these words in v7: *"What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"*
 - a. What did they receive? (see 1:17, 2:1, 15:1-3)
 - b. What situation might have lead to Paul saying these words?
4. What might a church look like (in terms of ministry, teaching, it's gatherings etc.) that boasts in things beyond what they have merely received?

PRAY

- Thank God for all that we have received in Christ (remember 3:21-23).
- Ask God to show you times you boast in things inappropriately. Confess and seek his forgiveness and transformation.
- Pray that our church would be warm, healthy, alive, loving, but only boasts in Jesus Christ.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

1. What would you say is Paul's tone in verses 8-13?
2. Have a sneak-peak at v16. What is the point Paul is making in 8-13?
3. There is no doubt that the Corinthians were quite disparaging in their opinion of Paul (see 2 Cor 10:10, 11:6-9). Reading v8, what was the Corinthians' opinion of themselves? And how did that contrast with what they saw of Paul and the other apostles?
4. So what do you think was the error of the Corinthians? How does this error show itself today? Does it show itself in your thinking?

PRAY

- Thank God for the costly example of the Apostles, and other Christian leaders who sacrifice much.
- Confess any opinion of yourself that is higher than it ought to be
- Pray that we might learn to imitate the example of joyful but costly Christian leadership

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

1. How does Paul demonstrate in this passage the love that comes from a true pastor's heart for these people whom God has entrusted to his care?
2. In verse 14 Paul says that he is writing to warn them. How would you sum up what the warning is about? (see v18)
3. How do you feel about Paul's words in v19-21? Does this shape our understanding of the role Christian leadership?

PRAY

- Thank God for leaders who love
- Ask God to reveal in your own heart any arrogance that needs transformation by his grace
- Pray for our church that we might work together in love

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-18

1. Reading the whole chapter again, what are 2 things that stand out to you?
2. Is there something you see that you are being encouraged to do?
3. Is there a leader or fellow believer (eg. someone in your Growth Group) who you can encourage today? Perhaps you see a good quality in them from this passage. Tell them!

PRAY

- Thank God that he has entrusted us with the mysteries of God revealed in Jesus
- Pray that as a church we might function in a way where God can use us to grow disciples!

Notes from Church on Sunday

1 Corinthians 1-7

God's church learning to boast in Jesus

Baranduda Community
Church



WEEK 7: 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:8

Thou shalt not judge?

Paul now turns from the issues of the first 4 chapters, to deal with questions of moral laxity in the church at Corinth.

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

1. How does Paul's view of this situation differ from that of the Corinthians?
2. Why should grief ('mourning' NIV) be part of the godly response to this situation?
3. Those present at Corinth really should have taken action. Why didn't they?
4. Should we take action with fellow members of Baranduda Community Church who live in sin unrepentantly? What sort of action? (see 3:16-17, 5:2)

PRAY

- Thank God for godly examples of church discipline where members have repented and been restored
- Ask God for him to shape your wisdom about these matters, rather than imbibing the world's wisdom
- Pray for godly examples of church discipline where members have repented and been restored

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-8

Paul tells us something extraordinary about the O.T. Passover feast (Exodus 12). At the annual Passover feast the Jews called to mind the way God had rescued them from bondage in Egypt. At the time of Jesus the feast was preceded by a search for and destruction of all yeast. For one week before the festival began, only unleavened bread (no yeast) could be eaten.

1. What point is Paul making about the church in v6-8 with his 'cooking illustration'? What is symbolised by:
 - a. the little yeast (v6)
 - b. the whole batch of dough (v6)
 - c. old yeast (v7)
 - d. new unleavened batch (v7)
 - e. Passover lamb (v7)

2. Paul says in v7 *"that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are"*. He teaches like this often ... Live as you are. You are sinners saved by grace into a new life, so live as you are. See if you can pick it in v7->v8.

3. How do you live in the ways of the old yeast?

4. The passover lamb has been sacrificed! You are washed, justified and sanctified! Live as you are! How will you live today?

PRAY

- Thank God for Christ our passover lamb!
- Confess and repent of any 'old-yeast'
- Pray that you might live in sincerity and truth.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

1. "We should kick all sinners out of the church." Agree/Disagree. Why?
2. What type of "non-association" is Paul encouraging in this passage?
3. Is it wrong for Christians to judge?
4. How do you reconcile Paul's teaching here with that in 4:3-5? What is the point of each?
5. What questions does Paul's teaching raise for you? List them here.

PRAY

- Thank God for his love in calling us to be part of his church where we are called to love and speak the truth to each other.
- Ask God for wisdom in these matters - for you, and for our church
- Pray that you can encourage healthy accountability in our church

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8

1. The 'Christian way' to solve conflict or disagreements with other Christians is:
 - a. Take it to the courts
 - b. To leave the church
 - c. Never talk about it
 - d. Yell at them
 - e. Pretend everything is ok and smile lots
 - f. Other (what would this involve?)
2. What is it that Paul is condemning in this passage?

3. What is the reason he gives for not doing that? (v2, 3)
4. What alternate options does he suggest, rather than settling a dispute in court? (v7)

PRAY

- Thank God for the staggering position we have in his new creation
- Ask God for courage and compassion in dealing with our brothers and sisters
- Pray for our church, that we would be marked by love and forgiveness, rather than division and hostility.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-6:8

1. Consider the last time you were in conflict with a christian brother or sister. How did you deal with the situation?
2. Do you tend to take the initiative in resolving such issues or do you hope it will simply "blow over"?
3. What clues do the following passages give about resolving conflict between Christians?
 - a. Matt 5:23-24
 - b. Matt 18:15-17
 - c. Rom 12:17-18

PRAY

- Thank God that he resolved the conflict between us and Him!
- Pray that we might seek peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and be known as peacemakers.

Notes from Church on Sunday

1 Corinthians 1-7

God's church learning to boast in Jesus

Baranduda Community
Church 

Week 8: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

What I want, when I want it, and it don't matter

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

1. These are hard words to read, hey!?! Scan back to pick up the context (even just v7-8).
2. In the context of lawsuits how might Paul's words:
 - a. Be encouraging them to trust that God's justice will prevail?
 - b. Be warning them not to cheat and swindle each other?
3. Nevertheless it is made clear what God's standards are for life in the Kingdom. List the things here (v9-10), and note any that you know are present in your life - ask God to reveal to true state of your heart.
4. Now read v11! Drink in God's grace. Let the truth of your status before God sink in - despite your sin.

PRAY

- Thank God that with Jesus as your saviour, you have been WASHED, sanctified, and justified.
- Confess your sin, and ask for repentance
- Pray that you will not follow "what you were", but that you will live as you are.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-17

1. What seems to be the Corinthians' mantra (saying) in v12?
2. What is their mantra in v13?
3. What do they seem to be saying?
4. How does Paul answer this in v12 (x2) and in v13?

PRAY

- Thank God that through Jesus we are told the truth about our bodily life - that it matters, and we are not slaves to it's desires and passions.
- Confess times when you think like the Corinthians - ask God to show you.
- Pray that you will understand and live according to the words in v13 - that your body is for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-17

1. v14 is easy to skip over, but Paul is making a point about the importance of the body - what is it? (read last part of v13 too)
2. Now combine v14-15. Does your conclusion in the previous question fit?
3. Ignoring the specific issue of sex outside of marriage, what is the point Paul seems to be making about our physical bodies?
4. We can think of Christianity in purely 'spiritual' terms, ignoring what it says about our bodily life. Paul raises the place our bodies play in our spirituality very high. What implications does this have for how you think about your body, and the things you do with your body?

PRAY

- Thank God for the incredible value he places on all areas of our life
- Ask God for wisdom in how you think about your body
- Seek God's forgiveness for the ways that you think less of your bodily life (and others') than what you are seeing in this passage.

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-18

1. "Sex is just sex ... just people enjoying a physical experience". Carefully read v15-18 and list anything that says that this saying (whilst containing truth) does not tell the full story.
2. So according to this passage, what is wrong with sex outside marriage?
3. Many of us have committed adultery, and we are told in 1 Cor 6 that we have been united to another in a way that is deeper than just physical. And that can leave us confused about what to do with the past, and what hold it has on us. We either pretend it never happened, or live with ongoing guilt.
 - a. Read *1 Corinthians 6:11* again.
Read *1 Corinthians 1:2* again.
Turn right and read *Colossians 2:13-15*.
 - b. What has the Lord Jesus Christ ... (use the words of the bible)
 - i. Done for you: _____
 - ii. Done to your sin: _____

PRAY

- Thank God for his truth and grace – the sometimes hard truth he speaks about all areas of our life, and the grace he offers us through Jesus
- Thank God for Jesus' triumph over sin and the powers of darkness
- Pray that you might live in the light of his truth and grace

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

1. There is repeated reason / theme in this section which Paul reminds his readers of, so that they will not continue to live in sin. What is it?
(If you need a hint, check out v11, 13b, v15, v17, v19, v20)
2. It's a strong theme when you see it across the whole section! So what is Paul's conclusion regarding sexual immorality? (v18)

[Bonus Points: Paul only tells the Corinthians to 'flee' twice. When is the other time? What might that tell you?]

[NOTE: The word translated 'immorality' is the Greek word 'porneia'. In N.T. usage the word came to mean any sexual behaviour which transgresses God's design - premarital, extramarital and unnatural sexual intercourse. "Flee from sexual immorality" (v 18). In Greek this is a present imperative which suggests "an ongoing habit of fleeing." Less drastic measures are not considered adequate!]

3. Spend some time meditating (prayerfully thinking before God and his word!) on v19-20. To do this, get 2 pieces of paper and write out the verses, prayerfully thinking about them as you write.
 - a. What parts spoke to you?
 - b. What do you need to do in response?

PRAY

- Thank God that we no longer belong to the world, to sin, to the enemy, or even to our own self! ... that we belong to him!
- Thank Jesus that he was willing to buy you at such a great price.
- Confess and seek repentance of anything that he has shown you this week.
- Pray asking God to show and help you what it means to "honour him with your body".

Notes from Church on Sunday

1 Corinthians 1-7

God's church learning to boast in Jesus

Baranduda Community
Church



Week 9: 1 Corinthians 7:1-40 God, Sex and Marriage

Chapter Seven begins a new section in this letter to the Corinthians. As can be seen from the first verse Paul is now responding to specific issues the church has raised with him.

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-6

1. Rephrasing v1, some Corinthians are suggesting that spiritual maturity means less sex. How does Paul answer this? (v2)
2. According to Paul there is only one good reason not to have sex with your spouse.
 - a. What is it? (v5)
 - b. What does it show for Paul to say what he says in v6?
3. Read v2-4. What do you notice about the responsibilities in marriage when you compare men and women? (Imagine how revolutionary that was at the time! Now!?)
4. **If you are married** consider and discuss these points with your partner:
 - a. You have a marital duty to your spouse - what does this mean?
 - b. You are to yield yourself to your marriage partner - how can you do this?
 - c. You are not to deprive each other except by mutual consent.

- d. To care for your spouses sexual satisfaction will help keep them from temptation.
- e. This all ought to happen in a mutual and reciprocal way - how can I encourage this.

[NOTE: Beware using God's word for your own vain (selfish) purposes! Reflect on yourself only, and discuss this with your marriage partner, seeking to love them positively and actively. If this raises issues, consider seeking help and support]

PRAY

- Thank God for his design of healthy sexual relationships!
- Praise him that he gives us clear instruction on such matters
- Pray for sexual purity and faithfulness for you, and if married, for your marriage partner
- If married, pray how you might take steps to actively love and create a healthy sexual climate in marriage.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 7:8-16

1. Why does God hate divorce? (Read Malachi 2:15-16)
2. Summarise (short!) the advice given to the various situations:
 - a. To the unmarried (v7-9) _____
 - b. To the married (v10-11) _____
 - c. To a Christian man with an unbelieving wife (v12) _____
 - d. To a Christian woman with unbelieving husband (v13) _____
 - e. If the unbelieving partner leaves (v15-16) _____

3. Take a sneak-peak at v17 & 24. What is the summary of the advice given above?

PRAY

- Thank God for his gift and design and plan for singleness and marriage, and for the recognition of the various situations we find ourselves in
- Pray for those who are single you know, for wisdom and purity
- Pray for married couples in church, for love and faithfulness

Day 3

Matthew 19:1-9; Matthew 5:31-32

1. Yesterday we read in 1 Cor that if you are divorced you should not remarry (eg. 1 Cor 7:11). But Matthew records for us some important exclusions by Jesus. If you divorce are you free to remarry?
2. Is divorce, or remarriage following divorce, sin? (If yes, when, if no, when not?)
3. Is divorce or remarriage the unforgivable sin? (Read Matthew 26:28, Acts 10:43, 1 John 1:9).

PRAY

- Thank God for the staggering depths of his grace.
- Pray for those who have experienced divorce that they might know the healing and grace of Jesus
- Pray for those who remain unmarried to be faithful to Jesus. Pray for their joy and encouragement.

Day 4

1 Corinthians 7:12-24

1. What does vs. 14 mean?

In this context it cannot mean the unbelieving husband or wife is saved since in v16 Paul suggests that one reason to stay together is the possibility the unbelieving partner might be converted.

It does however mean the partner of a Christian and their children enjoy a unique status. They are sanctified and holy - which means 'set apart'.

It's possible that this language has as its background the cleansing regulations of Leviticus. In that book there is a pattern of cleansing that takes profane, unclean things and transforms them into that which is fit for the presence of God - sanctified and holy. Unless the people of God were cleansed in this way the holy God could not dwell among them. Unless the partner of a believer is sanctified it would be impossible for a vessel of God (the believer) to be united to an unbeliever.

2. The gospel brings profound changes, but it also leaves many things unchanged.
 - a. List the things that will change.

- b. What should stay unchanged?

3. Paul is urging contentment with circumstances no matter how uncomfortable and difficult. Do you know contentment?

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

Good, Better, Best. We tend to only think only in good and bad categories. If something is better than another than the other must be bad. Paul doesn't think like that.

1. A few of things are to form the framework for our thinking. What are they?

- a. String together v26a, v29a, v31b
 - b. String together v2, v9, v19b
 - c. String together v32, v35
2. Godly wisdom is borne out of us seeking to balance these various factors. See if you can summarise Paul's teaching on marriage in a short sentence!
 3. Paul thinks very differently about life and priorities. How does his thinking challenge your priorities (not just about marriage)? (Read Matthew 6:33)
 4. Think back over the chapters we have covered. Write down a few things God has shown you.

PRAY

- Thank God for this letter written to Corinth and also to us (remember 1:2!)
- Thank God for calling us to live for him in these days which are short
- Pray that we might not be caught up in the things of this world, but live wholeheartedly for him!

Notes from Church on Sunday