

The Book of I Corinthians—Study Guide (Chapters 10-13)

The Bible always takes precedence in our study of God's Word. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21) This guide, therefore, is just a "help" and is compiled from Ambassador Class notes, commentaries & personal study.

Chapter 10: We are to learn from ancient Israel. Flee idolatry.

1-2: Paul discusses the experiences of Israel. He reminds the Corinthians that Israel had been under the cloud of God's protection (Ex. 14:19-22). They experienced a type of total immersion baptism in the cloud and sea. This was symbolic of their coming out of Egypt and burying the past.

3-4: Israel ate of the same spiritual drink and food as the Corinthians. Notice John 6:51-58. Israel had received God's words, which are spiritual. The Rock that went with them was actually Jesus Christ. This is found in a song that Moses taught Israel to sing. Notice Deuteronomy 31:30-32:4.

5-6: God was not pleased with many of them, and they died in the wilderness (Nums. 14:29). Israel is an example for us in that we are not to lust after idolatry. Paul then delineates other evils we need to avoid.

7-10: Neither are we to be idolaters, (Exodus 32:6); fornicators, (Nums.25:1, 6-9); tempters, (Exodus 17:7, Nums.21:4-6); nor should we murmur, (Nums. 14:29, Nums.16:1-3).

11: These examples were written for our admonition. Notice Romans 15:4.

12: Beware lest we fall. Notice II Peter 3:17, Galatians 6:3, Proverbs 29:23. God can keep us from falling. Notice Jude 24.

13: God is faithful in that He won't allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear. He will make a way of escape so that we can bear it. Notice II Peter 2:9.

14: Wherefore, flee idolatry in whatever we do.

15-16: Paul discusses the meaning of the Passover bread and wine. He speaks to the wise. The symbols are directly related to our communication and relationship with Christ.

17: We are many, yet one and we all partake of the one bread (John 6:48, 1 Cor.12:27).

18: Those in Israel ate of the sacrifices that were presented on the altar. We participate in the sacrifice of Christ by eating of the bread and wine.

19-20: The idols are nothing, and what is offered to them is nothing, but we should sacrifice to God and not to have fellowship with demons.

21-22: We can't serve God and also serve demons. We shouldn't provoke God to jealousy.

23-24: Eating meats offered to idols may have been lawful to Paul, but it may not have been expedient. We should look to our neighbor's advantage and not to our own desires. Seeking the well-being of others is not a natural human trait, but we must show love to others which comes from God's Spirit in us.

25-26: Whatever is sold in the marketplace, one should feel free to eat, for the earth is the Lord's. This is referring to meats offered to idols. It is not referring to eating unclean meats.

27-29: Again, the reference is to meats that were offered to idols. Feel free to eat, but if someone says that the meats were offered, don't eat of it so as to not offend the other.

30-31: Whatever we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we must do all to the glory of God.

32-33: Give no offense to the Jew, Gentile or to those in the Church. We are to try to please all men, not seeking our own profit, so that they may be saved.

Chapter 11: Hair length. Passover instructions.

1: We are to be followers or imitators of Christ first, and of those over us in the Lord, only as that person follows Christ. Notice Philippians 3:17. (Ephesians 5:1 tells us to be imitators of God).

2: Paul praised the brethren that they remembered him, and that they kept the ordinances or traditions that they had been taught—which were also kept in the other congregations. Notice I Thessalonians 2:14.

3: The authority structure intended by God is that Christ is the head of every man. The man is the head of the wife, and that God is the Head of Christ.

4-5: A man praying with his head covered is a dishonor. A woman praying with her head uncovered is a dishonoring her own head. It would be as if she was shaven which was shameful. This section refers to hair as the covering. Notice V. 15.

6: Hair lengths are being discussed. “Covered” is proper length; “Uncovered” is too short; “Shorn” is closely cut; “Shaven” is baldness. Since the state of being shorn or shaven is shameful, let her be covered with hair.

7: A man ought not cover his head with long hair as he is the glory of God. The woman is to have longer hair as she is the glory of the man.

8-9: The woman is of the man. The man was not created for the woman, but the woman for the man. Notice Genesis 2:20.

10: A woman ought to have a covering—longer hair, which is symbolic of coming under authority, and is needful for her angelic protection.

11-12: A husband and wife are to rely on each other, but both are of God. The husband and wife were to be dependant upon one another.

13-15: Just as it is uncomely for a woman to pray being uncovered—having short hair, so it is a shame for a man to have long hair. The woman’s covering is her hair.

16: Contentiousness was not to be tolerated in the Church of God. The custom of the Church was that women should wear long hair and not be shorn or shaven.

17-19: Paul was correcting the Corinthians in that there were still divisions when they came together. These divisions or sects actually help to reveal who and which doctrines were to be approved and accepted.

20-22: The Corinthians were coming before the Passover and eating a meal. Some were neglected and some were getting drunk. The purpose of the Passover was not to come and eat a supper. They were to eat their supper at home first, and then they were to come together to partake of the bread and wine.

23: This is the key verse as to purpose and when we are to partake of the Passover. It was to be held at the beginning of the 14th day, just after sunset on the 13th. This is when Christ observed it, which was on the night prior to His betrayal and arrest.

24-26: The reason we come to the Passover is not to eat a meal, but to partake of the bread and wine. These symbols are to be consumed in remembrance of Christ. This annual ceremony was observed as a memorial of Christ's death. The Passover proclaims the Lord's death until He returns.

27-28: One must partake of the Passover in a solemn manner. We need to examine ourselves, and so eat of the bread and drink of the wine.

29-30: We must discern the Lord's body, especially what He did for us. People were sick and dying because they didn't discern the Lord's body.

31-32: We need to judge ourselves. We need to examine ourselves. When God judges us, we are chastened by God for our benefit so that we aren't condemned with the world.

33-34: When the members came together to eat the Passover, they were to wait for each other. The Passover service did not include eating an evening meal. The evening meal was to be eaten at home prior to coming to the Passover. Paul told the members that there were a few more items that he would set in order later.

Chapter 12: Spiritual gifts and what it means to be in the body of Christ.

1: Paul begins a discussion on spiritual gifts. We are to use the gifts that come from God's Spirit for the benefit of others. Notice I Corinthians 14:12 and I Peter 4:10.

2-3: The Corinthians were Gentiles who had been led by dumb idols. Now they are able to call Christ their Lord because of the Holy Spirit within them. Nobody who has the Holy Spirit calls Christ accursed.

4: There are different gifts (Gr: charisma: a graciousness from God), but they come by the same Spirit.

5: There are different ministries (Gr: diakonia: the office and work of the ministers), but the same Lord.

6: There are different operations (Gr: energema: what is wrought from God's power), but it is the same God who works in every one of us.

7: The gifts which are manifested by the Holy Spirit, are given so that all may profit, not just the one who receives the particular gift. Paul then lists the various gifts given to us by God's Spirit.

8-10: The first gift is wisdom and the next is the word of knowledge. Following are the gifts of healings, which include the ability to care for and comfort those in sicknesses. Another is given the working of miracles, and another is given inspired preaching which can include an insight into prophecy. To another is given the ability to discern spirits or attitudes. Another is given the ability to speak in different languages, while another is given the ability to interpret those languages.

11: But the only one and same Spirit works in us and distributes all these gifts, and those gifts are given to the members according to God's will.

12: The human body is now being compared to the body of Christ which is the Church. We are His members.

13: By one Spirit we are all baptized into one body. It doesn't matter who we are, Jew, Gentile, bond, or free, we are all part of one Body and drink into one Spirit.

14-17: The foot and the hand are involved in action. The ear and the eye are the senses. People tend to compare themselves with others within similar areas. All are needed in the body for it to function.

18-20: God sets the members in the Body as it pleases Him. If there was but just one member—like the hand, the body would be incomplete.

21-22: Neither can one member tell others that they are not needed or not necessary within the Body.

23-25: Even the less honorable parts of the body are needed. God gives to all members great honor. God doesn't want any schism in the body. We should all have the same care one for another.

26-27: So that if one member suffers, (such as when a little toe is injured), the whole body is affected. If one member is honored, we all rejoice before God. We are the body of Christ and members in particular.

28: God sets some in the Church in various positions. He places apostles first, then the prophets, then the pastors or teachers. After that come the gifts of miracles, healings, helps, administrators, and languages.

29-31: Not all are apostles or prophets or teachers. Not all are workers of miracles or speak with different languages, but we are to covet the best gifts—which were wisdom and the word of knowledge. But Paul was going to show a more excellent way—love.

Chapter 13: The Love Chapter.

1-3: Even if we speak special languages, or have total understanding, and have all faith—without love, we are nothing. Even if we give to the poor and sacrifice for others, if we don't have love, those acts are unprofitable and are empty.

4-5: Love is patient, it is kind, and it doesn't exalt itself. Love doesn't parade itself for show. It is not selfish, nor is it easily provoked. It doesn't take offense easily, nor does it display rudeness.

6-7: Love bears all things, and it hopes and endures.

8: Love never fails. Prophecies cease to exist when they finally come to pass. Languages and knowledge pass away, but love always remains.

9-10: We know and prophecy only in part. When the fullness comes, the partial knowledge will not be needed.

11: When we were children, we thought as a child. When we became adults, we put away those childish things.

12: We see only a fraction of the future. We will eventually know all, just as God now knows us. When we become spirit with Christ at the resurrection, we'll be as Christ. Notice 1 John 3:2.

13: What abides or remains is to have faith and hope and love. Of these three, love is the greatest. Notice Colossians. 3:14.