



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

New Testament Survey

Lesson 26 – First Corinthians – Problems, Problems, Problems

The Problems in Corinth

In the previous lesson, Lesson 25, we listed the problems in Corinth that faced Paul. Some of these problems were reported by Chloe's family. Others were reported through a letter written by members of the congregation and sent to Paul through Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, who also added their own oral report. Paul's letter consists of his answer to these problems, as given to him by the Holy Spirit. We can use God's Word in this letter to help us resolve similar problems that arise in our congregations today.

Read the listed passages as you study each of the sections below. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

Introduction (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

Paul and Sosthenes – to the Corinthian saints (Christians) – grace and peace from God.

Paul thanks God for having given them the Gospel of Christ.

The Four Divisions in the Congregation (1:10-16; 3:1-23; 4:1-21)

"I plead with you ... that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions"

(v. 1:___)

"Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?" (v. 1:___)

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (v. 3:___)

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ"

(v. 3:___)

"Let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come – all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's" (vv. 3:___)

"It is required in stewards that one be found faithful" (v. 4:___)

"What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?"

(v. 4:___ In other words, should I come to you with the Law, or with the Gospel?)

The Foolishness and the Weakness of the Gospel (1:17-31; 2:1-16)

"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing" (v. 1:___)

"It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe"

(v. 1:___)

"We preach CHRIST CRUCIFIED, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the POWER of God and the WISDOM of God" (vv. 1:23-24).

"The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God" (v. 2:___ Yet through the Gospel, taught by the Holy Spirit, God gives us Jesus as our Savior and Life.

"You are in Christ Jesus, wisdom from God – righteousness, sanctification, redemption"

(v. 1:___)

"not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches" (v. 2:___)

The Case of Adultery in the Congregation (5:1-13)

"There is sexual immorality among you ... that a man has his father's wife" (v. ___)

"You are puffed up, and have not rather mourned" (v. ___)

"A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (v. ___)

Therefore, God's Word is this: **"Put away from yourselves the evil person"** (v. ___)

Note: This is an example of excommunication: the members were no longer to associate with the impenitent sinner. The purpose: **"that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus"** (v. ___)

The members could still have dealings with non-members guilty of the same sins.

The Case of Lawsuits among Members (6:1-8)

"Brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!" (v. ___)

"Why do you not rather accept wrong?" (v. ___)

Sexual Immorality and Other Gross Sins (6:9-20)

"Neither fornicators, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites ... will inherit the kingdom of God" (vv. _____)

"Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. ... You were bought at a price" (vv. _____)

"Flee sexual immorality" (v. 18) as Joseph fled from adultery with Potiphar's wife.

Marriage Questions (7:1-40)

"Let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband" (v. ___)

"If they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry" (v. ___. This is for the unmarried.

"A wife is not to depart from her husband. ... A husband is not to divorce his wife" (vv. _____)

In a mixed marriage, **“if the unbeliever departs, let him depart”** (v. ____ But the believer should not.

There are times and situations when it is better not to marry.

“If her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes” (v. ____

Eating Meat That Has Been Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-13; 10:1-33)

Eating this meat may be allowed, but not if it involves idolatry or leads a weak member to eat it, contrary to what his conscience tells him. It is never right to sin against conscience.

“Flee from idolatry. ... Give no offense ... to the church of God” (vv. 10:_____

Giving Up Rights for the Sake of the Gospel (9:1-27)

“The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel”

(v. ____

“Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel”

(v. ____

“I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (v. ____

Note: Paul and Barnabas could have married and been paid for their work, but they chose not to.

The Proper Celebration of the Lord’s Supper (10:16-22; 11:17-34)

“Is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? ... Is it not the communion of the body?”

(v. 10:_____

Paul condemns their practice because they were divided, some were hungry, and some drunk.

Paul repeats the words by which Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper.

He says those who partake unworthily are **“guilty of the body and blood of the Lord”** (v. 11:_____

Therefore **“let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup”**

(v. 11:_____

“He who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself”
(v. 11:_____

The Role of Women in the Church Services (11:1-16; 14:33-36)

“The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, the head of Christ is God” (v. 11:___

“Man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman”
(vv. 11:___

The woman should dress and behave in a way that shows agreement with this arrangement.

The women **“are not permitted to speak”** (v. 14:34). Women therefore should not be preachers.

The Various Kinds and Proper Use of Special Spiritual Gifts (12:1-31; 13:1-13; 14:1-40)

All believers have the Holy Spirit: **“No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit”**
(v. 12:___

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit” (v. 12:4). Compare the body with its members.

Paul’s list: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. These gifts are given **“for the profit of all”** (v. 12:___

The use of these gifts should be guided by love, as described in Chapter 13.

“Love ... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (v. 13:___

The best gifts are those that the believer can use for the benefit of others.

“Let all things be done for edification” (v. 14:___

There is little purpose in speaking a language that no one can understand.

“Let all things be done decently and in order” (v. 14:___

The Importance of Christ’s Resurrection and the Final Resurrection of the Dead (15:1-58)

The Gospel: **“Christ died for our sins. ... He was buried. ... He rose again the third day”**
(vv. ___

“If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ... But now CHRIST IS RISEN.” (vv. _____

Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption. Sown in dishonor, raised in glory. Sown in weakness, raised in power. Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. (Like planting)

“The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ... Death is swallowed up in victory. ... O death, where is your sting?” (vv. ____

The Collection for the Poor Believers in Jerusalem (16:1-12)

“Let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as He may prosper” (v. ____

Closing Remarks (16:13-24) “Let all that you do be done with love” (v. ____

Questions

1. What difference was there between the ministries of Paul and Apollos in Corinth?
2. Why was it wrong for the congregation at Corinth to split up into factions?
3. Why does Paul call the Gospel the foolishness of preaching?
4. How does the Holy Spirit impart God’s wisdom to us?
5. For what purpose was the adulterer in Corinth excommunicated?
6. What is the only way to deal with sexual immorality?
7. Prove that polygamy and homosexual behavior are unacceptable to God.
8. What right did Paul give up for the sake of the Gospel?
9. How were the Corinthians misusing the spiritual gifts God gave them?
10. What changes needed to be made in their way of worship?
11. Why is the physical resurrection of the dead important?
12. What are the differences between the body after death and the body after resurrection?
13. What evidence is there that Jesus rose from the dead bodily?