



1 CORINTHIANS: WEEK 3

Writer: Kate Roache
Project Supervisor: Nick Diliberto & Becky Forkel
Artwork: Ever Graphics
Editor: Angela Ivey

Created by Ministry to Youth
www.MinistrytoYouth.com

1 CORINTHIANS – SMALL GROUP SERIES

WEEK 3: God is Always Faithful

Bible: *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.* **1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)**

Bottom Line: No matter what, God is faithful, and you can trust Him.

Summary of Weeks 1 and 2.

In week one, we learned about the church of Corinth.

They struggled with division among the church members and are very much influenced by the world around them, which is causing many of them to fall into sin.

In week two, Paul addressed the church members about how to interact with the world around them.

It is okay to not live under the law because as believers of Christ we are not under the law. We can, however, live within the law to help a person come to Christ and not to cause them to stumble.

TEACH

Read 1 Corinthians 10: Do everything for the glory of God.

1 I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground.

2 In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses.

3 All of them ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ.

5 Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did, 7 or worship idols as some of them did. As the Scriptures say, "The people celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry."

8 *And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day.*

9 *Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites.*

10 *And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death.*

11 *These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.*

12 *If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.*

13 *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

14 *So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols.*

15 *You are reasonable people. Decide for yourselves if what I am saying is true.*

16 *When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ?*

17 *And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.*

18 *Think about the people of Israel. Weren't they united by eating the sacrifices at the altar?*

19 *What am I trying to say? Am I saying that food offered to idols has some significance, or that idols are real gods?*

20 *No, not at all. I am saying that these sacrifices are offered to demons, not to God. And I don't want you to participate with demons.*

21 *You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and from the cup of demons, too. You cannot eat at the Lord's Table and at the table of demons, too.*

22 *What? Do we dare to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Do you think we are stronger than he is?*

23 *You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is beneficial.*

24 *Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.*

25 *So you may eat any meat that is sold in the marketplace without raising questions of conscience.*

26 *For “the earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it.”*

27 *If someone who isn’t a believer asks you home for dinner, accept the invitation if you want to. Eat whatever is offered to you without raising questions of conscience.*

28 *(But suppose someone tells you, “This meat was offered to an idol.” Don’t eat it, out of consideration for the conscience of the one who told you.*

29 *It might not be a matter of conscience for you, but it is for the other person.) For why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks? **30** *If I can thank God for the food and enjoy it, why should I be condemned for eating it?**

31 *So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

32 *Don’t give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God.*

33 *I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don’t just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved.*

TEACH

In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul reminds the church how Moses and his people wandered around the wilderness for 40 years.

Paul tells them that this story teaches the church what not to do.

While they were wandering around the wilderness, God was taking care of them.

God never left His people to go hungry or to struggle.

Even though God was so good to them, they still chose to worship idols and commit other sins.

Many of them died due to their sins and never made it to the Promised Land.

Paul wants the church to remember this and to not make the same mistake of worshipping Idols.

Paul writes about the goodness of God and how He will never tempt us more than we can handle. When we are tempted into sin, He will help us find a way out.

Paul's writings help us see how God loves His children and knows their struggles, but He is a forgiving father who will help lead His children on the right path.

Read 1 Corinthians 11: Instructions for Worship.

1 And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

2 I am so glad that you always keep me in your thoughts, and that you are following the teachings I passed on to you.

3 But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

4 A man dishonors his head if he covers his head while praying or prophesying.

5 But a woman dishonors her head if she prays or prophesies without a covering on her head, for this is the same as shaving her head.

6 Yes, if she refuses to wear a head covering, she should cut off all her hair! But since it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or her head shaved, she should wear a covering.

7 A man should not wear anything on his head when worshiping, for man is made in God's image and reflects God's glory. And woman reflects man's glory.

8 For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came from man.

9 And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man.

10 For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority.

11 But among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women.

12 For although the first woman came from man, every other man was born from a woman, and everything comes from God.

13 Judge for yourselves. Is it right for a woman to pray to God in public without covering her head?

14 Isn't it obvious that it's disgraceful for a man to have long hair?

15 And isn't long hair a woman's pride and joy? For it has been given to her as a covering.

16 But if anyone wants to argue about this, I simply say that we have no other custom than this, and neither do God's other churches.

17 But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together.

18 *First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it.*

19 *But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized!*

20 *When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper.*

21 *For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk.*

22 *What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly will not praise you for this!*

23 *For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread **24** and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

25 *In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it."*

26 *For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.*

27 *So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*

28 *That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup.*

29 *For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself.*

30 *That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.*

31 *But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way.*

32 *Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.*

33 *So, my dear brothers and sisters, when you gather for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other.*

34 *If you are really hungry, eat at home so you won't bring judgment upon yourselves when you meet together. I'll give you instructions about the other matters after I arrive.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between partaking of the Lord's supper and having a meal at home?
2. How does Paul honor women in these passages?
3. In verses 27-30, Paul speaks about examining ourselves before taking communion.

How can we examine ourselves and make sure we are taking communion that is pleasing to God?

Read 1 Corinthians 12: Spiritual gifts are given so we can help each other.

1 Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this.

2 You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols.

3 So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.

5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.

6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice¹; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge.

9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing.

10 He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said.

11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

12 *The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So, it is with the body of Christ.*

13 *Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.*

14 *Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.*

15 *If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body.*

16 *And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?*

17 *If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?*

18 *But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.*

19 *How strange a body would be if it had only one part!*

20 *Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.*

21 *The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."*

22 *In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.*

23 *And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So, we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, **24** while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So, God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.*

25 *This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.*

26 *If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.*

27 *All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.*

28 *Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.*

29 *Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles?*

30 *Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!*

31 *So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.*

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul explained that there is a wide variety of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the Holy Spirit.

They are from God and given only as He determines to give them to His children.

The Corinthians church was focused on a few of the gifts that were more “showy,” and they looked down on believers who didn’t display these greater gifts.

Paul goes on to stress the importance of unity within the Church.

He compares a healthy church to a healthy body.

Every part has value and contributes to the functioning of the whole body.

So, how do we become part of the Body of Christ?

Paul says it does not matter where you’re from (your origin, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free).

The Church is made up of people who belong to the same Lord and are given gifts that will help them function together to change the world by the life of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul describes the church (Christians) as one body with many parts.

Can you describe people in your church, small group, or circle of believers and what parts they each play?

2. Paul mentions spiritual gifts but does not list them all. What are some of the spiritual gifts that he did not list?
3. What are some spiritual gifts you might already have or are praying for?