

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 2

16 June 2017

First Corinthians: 437 verses, 9,489 words, written by Paul and Sosthenes (vss. 1:1, 16:21), but they are God's inspired written Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Troubleshooting Manual: The troubles discussed in 1 Corinthians are common to all believers in the New Testament Church (1 Cor. 10:13), and therefore are profitable to us even today. When we experience problems within the body of Christ, we can look to this book for a solution to that particular problem.

Theme: (1 Cor. 5:6-8):

- 1) Sin is not good. When sin is discovered, don't entertain it, don't glory in it, don't continue in it, don't tolerate it, do preach against it, don't let any ungodliness abide in the local church.
- 2) Sin begins small and spreads until it defiles the whole life. Don't delay: do whatever it takes to purge it out for your spiritual wellbeing. You'll be glad you did.

THE PROBLEMS, CHAPTER BY CHAPTER:

1:12 A PARTY (affiliation) SPIRIT. Loyalty for a particular person or group; taking sides against other brethren; severing ourselves from the other parts of the Body of Christ to follow an individual or a sect or denomination. The Body can't function properly if it's not united with all its parts.

2:13 THE PROBLEM OF INTELLECT. Elevating intelligent or influential men and women above the word of God. Example: "The Bible forbids intimate relationships with anyone but your spouse." "Yeah, but Dr. Phil counsels unmarried couples all the time and encourages them to be intimate." You have placed a worldly counsellor above God's word.

3:4 FOLLOWING MEN.

1. Extreme views of pastoral authority (allowing the pastor to dictate every aspect of your personal life and service to God).
 2. Exalting one believer over another (clergy over laity). We are instructed to "honor all men" (1 Pet. 2:17)
 3. Mimicking the speech and actions of a famous minister. Be yourself. Preach from your heart.
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4:16 NOT FOLLOWING MEN. —A evident failure on the part of believers to respect those who minister truth to them (1 Tim. 5:17). When you have a desire to be praised and honored yourself, you'll disrespect those who have devoted their lives to ministering the gospel to others. If you dishonor the man that preaches God's word, in effect you are teaching others to dishonor the word of God.

5:1 SEXUAL IMMORALITY: The church at Corinth was welcoming people into the fellowship who were known to be fornicators (involved in physical relationships outside the bonds of marriage).

6:1 UNRESOLVED CONTROVERSY. Christians were going outside the church and hiring unsaved lawyers to try and resolve their disputes with one another. This happens when believers don't want to do what they know the Bible says concerning their situation.

7:3 MARITAL INFIDELITY. Disloyalty, betrayal, unfaithfulness, abandonment. These are things that can happen in a marriage. Chapter seven was written to give you guidance towards a happy marriage or a content single life.

8:11 CARELESSNESS. You've got to consider how your actions will affect others. It may be lawful for you, as a Christian, to do something, but if it will harm another person, you ought to avoid doing it.

9:11 CHEATING THE MINISTERS. People want to get as much as they can out of the pastor, but they're not willing to compensate him for his labor.

10:24 SELFISHNESS. Honoring people who are rich, snubbing people who are poor (James 2:3), concerned for your own welfare and your own belly while having no concern for others (Philippians 2:3-4, Rom. 12:10)

11:4-7 REBELLION CONCERNING THE HAIR. "I'll do what I want to do."

11:17-34 ABUSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. Not discerning the Lord's body (believers)

12-14 MISUSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS. Using the gifts of the Spirit to glorify man instead of God.

15 MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE RESURRECTION.

16 A CHALLENGE TO TAKE ACTION. Show that you've learned the teachings of chapters 1-15.

Paul ends this letter expressing his love for these brethren. He doesn't just judge them, he loves them.