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## 1 Corinthians

The First Letter to the Corinthians, also known as 1 Corinthians, is one of the letters of the Apostle Paul in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. The letter is addressed to the church in Corinth, a Greek city-state where Paul had preached and established a Christian community.

The letter is divided into sixteen chapters, covering a wide range of topics. Paul addresses issues such as division within the church, sexual immorality, marriage, spiritual gifts, the resurrection, and the Lord's Supper. He offers practical advice on how to live as a Christian, and encourages the Corinthians to strive for unity and to love one another. Throughout the letter, Paul emphasizes the importance of Christ as the foundation of the Christian faith. He explains that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who do not believe, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God. He also stresses the importance of the resurrection of Jesus, which is the basis of the Christian hope for eternal life.

Overall, the letter to the Corinthians is a pastoral letter that addresses the issues and challenges facing a particular Christian community in the first century. However, the themes and teachings in the letter continue to be relevant to Christians today, as they seek to live out their faith in a divided and often hostile world.

Here is a brief description of each chapter of 1 Corinthians:

Chapter 1: Paul introduces himself and reminds the Corinthians of their identity as followers of Christ. He addresses the problem of division within the church, calling for unity in the name of Jesus.

Chapter 2: Paul explains his preaching style and emphasizes the importance of the Holy Spirit in understanding God's wisdom.

Chapter 3: Paul addresses the issue of factions within the church, warning against jealousy and promoting humility.

Chapter 4: Paul defends his apostleship and urges the Corinthians to follow his example of self-sacrifice.

Chapter 5: Paul confronts the issue of sexual immorality within the church, calling for discipline and purity.

Chapter 6: Paul addresses lawsuits among Christians and the importance of sexual purity.

Chapter 7: Paul discusses marriage and singleness, offering advice for those in different situations.

Chapter 8: Paul addresses the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols and the importance of considering others' consciences.

Chapter 9: Paul defends his right to receive support from the church and explains his approach to evangelism.

Chapter 10: Paul warns against idolatry and disobedience to God, using the example of the Israelites in the wilderness.

Chapter 11: Paul discusses the roles of men and women in worship and addresses issues surrounding the Lord's Supper.

Chapter 12: Paul discusses spiritual gifts and their use in the church, emphasizing the importance of unity.

Chapter 13: Paul speaks of the importance of love in the church, describing it as the most important spiritual gift.

Chapter 14: Paul encourages the use of spiritual gifts, but emphasizes the need for order in worship.

Chapter 15: Paul discusses the resurrection of Christ and its importance to the Christian faith.

Chapter 16: Paul gives practical instructions for collecting an offering for the church in Jerusalem and sends greetings to various individuals in Corinth.

## 1 Corinthians 1

New International Version

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the

day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### A Church Divided Over Leaders

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,[a] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas[b]"; still another, "I follow Christ."

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

#### Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom

18 For 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. 19 For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."[c]

20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."[d]

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 1:10 The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family; also in verses 11 and 26; and in 2:1; 3:1; 4:6; 6:8; 7:24, 29; 10:1; 11:33; 12:1; 14:6, 20, 26, 39; 15:1, 6, 50, 58; 16:15, 20.  
1 Corinthians 1:12 That is, Peter  
1 Corinthians 1:19 Isaiah 29:14  
1 Corinthians 1:31 Jer. 9:24

#### Chapter 1 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul begins his letter to the Corinthians by greeting them and expressing his gratitude for their faith in Jesus Christ. He then addresses some of the issues that have arisen in the Corinthian church, particularly the problem of division among the believers.

Paul notes that some of the Corinthians have been boasting about following certain leaders or teachers, which has created factions and disunity within the church. He reminds them that they were all baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and that they should not be divided but rather united in their faith.

Paul also emphasizes the importance of the message of the cross, which he says is foolishness to those who are perishing but the power of God to those who are being saved. He emphasizes that it is not the wisdom of human beings that saves, but the power of God.

Finally, Paul acknowledges that the Corinthians are a gifted and talented people, but warns them not to become too proud or self-sufficient in their own abilities. He reminds them that it is through God that they have been called and chosen to follow Christ, and that their ultimate goal should be to glorify God in everything they do.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 1, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 18: "For 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." This verse highlights the paradoxical nature of the Gospel: what seems foolish or weak to the world is actually the power of God for those who believe.
2. Verse 23: "But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles." This verse underscores the scandalous nature of the Gospel message, which was offensive to both Jews and Gentiles in the ancient world.
3. Verse 26-29: "Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him." These verses remind us that God often works through the weak and lowly things of this world to accomplish his purposes, in order to demonstrate his power and glory.
4. Verse 31: "Therefore, as it is written: 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.'" This verse echoes a theme found throughout the Bible: that we should not boast in

ourselves or our own accomplishments, but rather in the Lord and what he has done for us.

The New Testament book of 1 Corinthians, specifically in chapter 1, contains several important theological thoughts and influences that have had a significant impact on Christian theology and doctrine. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 1:

**Unity in Christ:** One of the central theological thoughts in this chapter is the emphasis on unity among believers in Christ. The Apostle Paul encourages the Corinthian Christians to be of the same mind and judgment, to avoid divisions, and to be united in their faith in Christ. This concept of unity in Christ has been influential in shaping the understanding of the Church as the body of Christ and the importance of maintaining unity among believers.

**The Foolishness of the Cross:** In verses 18-25, Paul discusses the idea that the message of the cross is considered foolishness to the world but is the power of God for those who believe. This theological thought underscores the central importance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in Christian faith and highlights the paradoxical nature of the Gospel message. It has influenced Christian soteriology (the study of salvation) and the understanding of the significance of Christ's atoning sacrifice.

**Boasting in the Lord:** Paul emphasizes that Christians should not boast in their own wisdom, strength, or social status but should boast in the Lord. This theological thought encourages humility and reliance on God's grace rather than human achievements. It has had a profound influence on Christian ethics and the understanding of Christian virtue.

**God's Choice of the Weak:** Paul highlights that God often chooses the weak and foolish things of the world to shame the wise and strong. This theological thought has contributed to discussions about God's sovereignty and the idea that God's ways are not always understood by human wisdom. It has also influenced discussions on the nature of divine election and predestination in Christian theology.

**The Wisdom of God:** Paul contrasts the wisdom of the world with the wisdom of God. This theological theme has led to reflections on the nature of divine wisdom and the limitations of human wisdom. It has influenced discussions on the relationship between faith and reason in Christian thought.

**The Call to Holiness:** Throughout the chapter, Paul calls believers to live holy lives and to avoid the moral pitfalls that were present in Corinth. This call to holiness has had a lasting impact on Christian ethics and the understanding of the Christian's responsibility to live in accordance with God's standards.

**The Role of the Holy Spirit:** While not explicitly stated in this chapter, the broader context of 1 Corinthians includes teachings on the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts. These

teachings have been influential in discussions about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and in the church.

Overall, 1 Corinthians chapter 1 contains theological thoughts that have shaped Christian theology, ethics, and practice. It underscores the importance of unity in Christ, the centrality of the cross, the contrast between divine and human wisdom, and the call to holy living in light of God's grace. These theological influences continue to resonate within the Christian tradition.

## 1 Corinthians 2

### New International Version

2 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.[a] 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

### God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,  
what no ear has heard,  
and what no human mind has conceived”[b]—  
the things God has prepared for those who love him—

10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.[c] 14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. 15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16 for,

“Who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”[d]

But we have the mind of Christ.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 2:1 Some manuscripts proclaimed to you God's mystery

1 Corinthians 2:9 Isaiah 64:4

1 Corinthians 2:13 Or Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual

1 Corinthians 2:16 Isaiah 40:13

#### Chapter 2 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul continues his letter to the Corinthians by emphasizing the importance of relying on the wisdom and power of God, rather than on human wisdom and eloquence.

He begins by explaining that when he first came to the Corinthians, he did not come with fancy words or persuasive arguments, but rather with a simple message of the cross. He did this intentionally so that their faith would not rest on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

Paul then contrasts the wisdom of God with the wisdom of the world. He explains that the wisdom of the world is ultimately futile and powerless, while the wisdom of God is revealed through the Holy Spirit and leads to true understanding and salvation.

He also explains that this wisdom is not something that can be attained through human knowledge or intelligence, but only through the revelation of the Spirit. He emphasizes that those who do not have the Spirit cannot understand the things of God, because they are spiritually discerned.

Finally, Paul encourages the Corinthians to embrace the mind of Christ, which is characterized by humility and obedience to God. He reminds them that they have received the Spirit of God, which enables them to understand the things that God has freely given them. And he encourages them to continue to grow in their faith and knowledge of God, so that they may be fully equipped to live according to his will.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 2, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 2: "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." This verse underscores the centrality of the Gospel message in Paul's teaching and preaching.
2. Verse 5: "so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power." This verse reminds us that true faith is not based on human wisdom or eloquence, but on the power of God.
3. Verse 9: "However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived'— the things God has prepared for those who love him." This verse emphasizes the incomprehensible nature of God's wisdom and the future glory that awaits those who love him.
4. Verse 12: "What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us." This verse highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in helping us understand the deep things of God.

5. Verse 14: "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit." This verse explains why some people cannot understand or accept the Gospel message: they do not have the Spirit of God to help them discern it.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 2, the Apostle Paul continues to address important theological thoughts and influences that have had a significant impact on Christian theology and doctrine. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 2:

**The Preaching of Christ Crucified:** Paul begins the chapter by emphasizing that he did not come to the Corinthians with lofty speech or wisdom but with a determination to know nothing among them except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. This theological thought underscores the central importance of Christ's crucifixion and its role in the Christian message. It continues to shape Christian preaching and evangelism, emphasizing the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross.

**The Wisdom of God Revealed by the Spirit:** Paul discusses the role of the Holy Spirit in revealing God's wisdom to believers. He contrasts worldly wisdom with the wisdom that comes from God through the Spirit. This theological idea has had a profound influence on Christian pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit) and the understanding of how the Spirit empowers believers to comprehend and apply divine wisdom.

**Spiritual Discernment:** Paul speaks about how the natural person does not understand the things of the Spirit of God, but those who are spiritual discern spiritual truths. This concept has been influential in discussions about the necessity of spiritual discernment and the role of the Holy Spirit in helping believers understand and apply Scripture and God's will.

**The Mind of Christ:** Paul asserts that believers have the mind of Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit. This theological thought has contributed to discussions on the transformation of the believer's thinking and character to align with the values and priorities of Christ. It has also influenced Christian anthropology (the study of human nature) by highlighting the renewing work of the Spirit in the believer's mind.

**Rejection of Worldly Wisdom:** Paul emphasizes that the wisdom of the world is insufficient in understanding the things of God. This teaching has influenced Christian apologetics and the recognition that human wisdom alone cannot grasp the mysteries of faith. It encourages Christians to rely on divine revelation and the work of the Spirit.

**Dependence on God's Power:** Paul stresses that his preaching was not based on human persuasive words but on the power of God. This theological thought has had a lasting impact on Christian ministry, emphasizing the importance of reliance on God's power rather than human methods or eloquence.



Spiritual Milk vs. Solid Food: While not explicitly stated in this chapter, the broader context of 1 Corinthians includes the concept of spiritual maturity and growth, which has influenced discussions on the progression of a believer's faith and understanding.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 2, Paul continues to explore themes related to the wisdom of God, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the centrality of Christ's crucifixion. These theological thoughts have had a profound influence on various aspects of Christian theology, including soteriology, pneumatology, and the understanding of divine wisdom. They continue to shape the beliefs and practices of Christians today.

### 1 Corinthians 3

New International Version

The Church and Its Leaders

3 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? 4 For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?

5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”[a]; 20 and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”[b]

21 So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas[c] or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 3:19 Job 5:13

1 Corinthians 3:20 Psalm 94:11

1 Corinthians 3:22 That is, Peter

#### Chapter 3 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul continues his discussion of wisdom and spiritual growth, but now focuses specifically on the issue of division within the Corinthian church. He begins by chastising the Corinthians for their immaturity and lack of spiritual discernment, noting that they are still living according to the ways of the world rather than in accordance with the wisdom of God.

Paul then addresses the problem of division, noting that some of the Corinthians are claiming to follow certain leaders or teachers, rather than recognizing that they are all one in Christ. He explains that such divisions are evidence of spiritual immaturity and demonstrate a lack of understanding of the true nature of the church.

He goes on to use the analogy of a building to explain the importance of building on a strong foundation. He notes that the foundation of the church is Jesus Christ, and that those who build upon that foundation with good works will receive a reward, while those who build with inferior materials will suffer loss.

Paul then reminds the Corinthians that they are temples of the Holy Spirit, and that they should honor God with their bodies and lives. He notes that those who defile the temple of God will be punished, and that the wisdom of the world is ultimately foolishness in God's eyes.

Finally, Paul encourages the Corinthians to be wise and discerning, recognizing that all things are theirs in Christ, and that they should not be controlled by the wisdom and ways of the world. Instead, they should embrace the wisdom of God and seek to build up the church in unity and love.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 3, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 3: "You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?" This verse is a rebuke to the Corinthian church for their divisive behavior and lack of spiritual maturity.
2. Verse 6: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." This verse emphasizes the importance of teamwork in ministry, and recognizes that ultimately it is God who brings about spiritual growth.
3. Verse 9: "For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building." This verse further underscores the idea that Paul and Apollos are not the ones doing the work of ministry, but rather they are co-workers with God.

4. Verse 16-17: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple." This verse reminds us that as believers, we are the temple of God and should treat our bodies and the bodies of others with respect and honor.
5. Verse 23: "and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God." This verse affirms that believers are united with Christ, who in turn is united with God the Father.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 3, the Apostle Paul addresses several theological thoughts and influences that have had a significant impact on Christian theology and doctrine. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 3:

**Spiritual Immaturity vs. Maturity:** Paul begins by addressing the Corinthians as infants in Christ who are still characterized by jealousy and strife. He contrasts this spiritual immaturity with the idea of growing in Christ to become mature believers. This concept of spiritual growth and maturity has had a lasting influence on Christian discipleship and the understanding that believers should progress in their faith, moving from spiritual infancy to maturity.

**Foundation and Building:** Paul uses the metaphor of a building to describe the Church, with Jesus Christ as the foundation. He emphasizes that believers should be careful about how they build on this foundation and that their works will be tested by fire. This metaphor has influenced discussions about the Church's foundation, the importance of building upon Christ, and the evaluation of one's life and ministry in light of eternity.

**Judgment and Reward:** Paul speaks of a day when every person's work will be revealed by fire, and those whose work endures will receive a reward. This theological thought has contributed to discussions on the final judgment and the idea of rewards for faithful service in the Kingdom of God.

**Temple of God:** Paul refers to believers as the temple of God, with the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. This concept of believers collectively as the temple of God has influenced Christian ecclesiology (the study of the Church) and the understanding of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the Christian community.

**Foolishness of Human Wisdom:** Paul reminds the Corinthians that the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God. This theme continues to highlight the contrast between divine wisdom and human wisdom, which has had a lasting impact on Christian apologetics and the recognition that God's ways often differ from worldly perspectives.

**Ownership and Stewardship:** Paul emphasizes that everything belongs to God, and believers are stewards of God's resources. This concept of stewardship has influenced Christian ethics and the understanding that believers are responsible for how they use the resources and gifts entrusted to them by God.

Unity in Christ: Although not the primary focus of this chapter, the broader context of 1 Corinthians highlights the theme of unity in Christ and the importance of avoiding divisions within the Church. This emphasis on unity has influenced discussions on the nature of the Church and the need for Christians to work together despite differences.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 3, Paul addresses issues of spiritual growth, the foundation of the Church, judgment, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the contrast between divine and human wisdom. These theological thoughts continue to shape Christian beliefs and practices related to discipleship, ecclesiology, eschatology, and ethics.

## 1 Corinthians 4

### New International Version

#### The Nature of True Apostleship

4 This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

6 Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. 7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

8 Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign—and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you! 9 For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. 10 We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! 11 To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. 12 We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; 13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment.

#### Paul’s Appeal and Warning

14 I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. 15 Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me. 17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the

Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

18 Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. 20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 21 What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?

#### Chapter 4 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul continues his discussion of spiritual maturity and leadership in the church. He begins by reminding the Corinthians that he and the other apostles are merely servants of Christ, entrusted with the stewardship of the mysteries of God.

He goes on to explain that it is not important what others think of him or his fellow workers, but rather what God thinks. He notes that he is not even qualified to judge himself, but that he leaves that task to God.

Paul then warns the Corinthians not to become arrogant or prideful, thinking that they are superior to others in the church. He notes that such attitudes are contrary to the spirit of Christ, and that they are evidence of spiritual immaturity.

He also challenges the Corinthians to imitate his own example of self-sacrifice and service to others, rather than seeking their own glory and honor. He notes that he is sending Timothy to them, who will remind them of his ways in Christ and help to establish them in the truth.

Paul concludes the chapter by warning the Corinthians that he may need to come to them in person, and that he will not be lenient with those who persist in sin or disobedience. He notes that he has the authority to discipline and judge, but that his goal is always to restore and build up the church in love and unity.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 4, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 1: "This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed." This verse establishes Paul's role as a servant of Christ and a steward of God's mysteries.
2. Verse 5: "Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God." This verse cautions us against premature judgment, reminding us that only God knows the true motives of the heart.
3. Verse 7: "For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?" This verse reminds us that everything we have comes from God, and that we should not boast as though we have earned it ourselves.
4. Verse 13: "when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment." This verse

- highlights the persecution and hardship that Paul and his fellow workers have endured for the sake of the Gospel.
5. Verse 20: "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power." This verse emphasizes that the Gospel is not just a set of ideas or beliefs, but a transformative power that can change lives.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 4, the Apostle Paul continues to discuss theological thoughts and principles that have had a significant influence on Christian theology and doctrine. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 4:

**Servants of Christ and Stewards of Mysteries:** Paul begins by describing himself and Apollos as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. This theological concept underscores the idea that Christian leaders are not owners but stewards of the message and ministry of Christ. It has influenced discussions on pastoral leadership, accountability, and the responsibility of leaders to faithfully convey the truths of the Gospel.

**Judgment and Evaluation:** Paul speaks of a time of judgment when the Lord will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of the heart. This concept has contributed to discussions on the final judgment and the idea that God examines not only our outward actions but also the intentions behind them.

**Boasting in the Lord:** Paul advises the Corinthians not to boast in human leaders but to boast in the Lord. This theological thought emphasizes the centrality of Christ in the Christian faith and encourages humility and reliance on God rather than on human wisdom or leadership. It has influenced Christian ethics and the understanding of where true glory and boasting should lie.

**Suffering and Persecution:** Paul and his fellow apostles are depicted as enduring suffering, hunger, and persecution for the sake of the Gospel. This theme has had an enduring influence on Christian discussions about the cost of discipleship, the reality of suffering for the faith, and the willingness to endure hardships for the sake of Christ.

**Imitating Christ:** Paul encourages the Corinthians to imitate him as he imitates Christ. This theological thought has influenced Christian ethics and the concept of modeling one's life and conduct after the example of Christ and faithful leaders.

**Irony and Paradox:** Throughout this chapter, Paul uses irony and paradoxical language to contrast the Corinthians' arrogant attitudes with the reality of the apostles' suffering and lowly circumstances. This style of communication highlights the counter-cultural nature of Christian values and has influenced discussions on the Christian life's paradoxes and challenges.

**Humility and Servanthood:** The overall tone of this chapter emphasizes humility, servanthood, and the idea that Christian leaders are not to exalt themselves but to serve

others for the sake of Christ. This emphasis has shaped Christian leadership principles and the understanding of leadership as a form of humble service.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 4, Paul addresses issues related to leadership, humility, judgment, and the centrality of Christ. These theological thoughts continue to be relevant to discussions within the Christian tradition, particularly in areas such as pastoral ministry, ethics, and the nature of Christian discipleship.

## 1 Corinthians 5

### New International Version

#### Dealing With a Case of Incest

5 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? 3 For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. 4 So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, 5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh,<sup>[a]</sup><sup>[b]</sup> so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister<sup>[c]</sup> but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”<sup>[d]</sup>

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 5:5 In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 5:5 Or of his body

1 Corinthians 5:11 The Greek word for brother or sister (*adelphos*) refers here to a believer, whether man or woman, as part of God's family; also in 8:11, 13.

1 Corinthians 5:13 Deut. 13:5; 17:7; 19:19; 21:21; 22:21,24; 24:7

## Chapter 5 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul addresses a specific issue of sexual immorality within the Corinthian church. He begins by expressing his shock and dismay that the church is tolerating a man who is engaged in an incestuous relationship with his stepmother. Paul notes that such behavior is not even tolerated among the Gentiles, and that the church should have expelled the man from their community. He argues that the church has a responsibility to uphold moral standards and to maintain the purity of the body of Christ.

He goes on to explain that although he is not physically present with them, he is with them in spirit, and has already passed judgment on the man in question. He urges the Corinthians to take action and to remove the immoral person from their midst, so that the church may be purified and the sinner may be brought to repentance.

Paul concludes the chapter by reminding the Corinthians that they are called to live as a new creation in Christ, and to put away the old leaven of sin and corruption. He urges them to celebrate the feast of unleavened bread with sincerity and truth, symbolizing their commitment to live in purity and righteousness before God.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 5, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 1: "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife." This verse refers to a specific case of sexual immorality within the Corinthian church and demonstrates the need for discipline and correction.
2. Verse 5: "hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord." This verse outlines the disciplinary action that Paul recommends for the man involved in the sexual immorality, with the hope that he will repent and be saved.
3. Verse 7: "Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." This verse uses the metaphor of yeast to remind us that we should strive to remove sin and corruption from our lives, just as the Israelites were instructed to remove all leaven from their homes during the feast of Passover.
4. Verse 9: "I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people." This verse refers to a previous letter that Paul had sent to the Corinthians, in which he had instructed them not to associate with those who were actively engaging in sexual immorality.
5. Verse 13: "God will judge those outside. 'Expel the wicked person from among you.'" This verse emphasizes the importance of maintaining the purity and integrity of the church community by disciplining those who persist in unrepentant sin.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 5, the Apostle Paul addresses specific issues related to immorality within the Corinthian church. While this chapter primarily deals with disciplinary actions for a specific case of sexual immorality, it also contains theological



thoughts and principles that have implications for Christian ethics and ecclesiology (the study of the Church). Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 5:

**Church Discipline:** One of the central theological thoughts in this chapter is the necessity of church discipline. Paul rebukes the Corinthian church for tolerating sexual immorality among its members and instructs them to remove the immoral person from their fellowship. This concept of church discipline has had a lasting influence on Christian practice, emphasizing the responsibility of the church to maintain moral and doctrinal purity within its community.

**Purity and Holiness:** Paul underscores the importance of moral purity and holiness among believers. He uses the metaphor of leaven to illustrate how a little sin can corrupt the entire church. This theme has had an enduring influence on Christian ethics, emphasizing the need for believers to live lives characterized by righteousness and moral integrity.

**Judgment and Accountability:** Paul mentions that God will judge those outside the church, but the church is responsible for judging those within it. This concept has influenced discussions on accountability within the Christian community and the idea that believers are accountable to one another for their behavior.

**The Role of the Church:** Paul's instructions regarding the handling of the immoral person reflect the role of the church in maintaining its moral and doctrinal standards. This theological thought has influenced discussions on the responsibility of the church to uphold its values and teachings, even if it requires disciplinary actions.

**Purge the Evil:** Paul uses strong language, instructing the Corinthians to "purge the evil person from among you." This theological thought emphasizes the seriousness of sin within the Christian community and the need for decisive action to protect the church's witness and integrity.

**A Call to Repentance:** While not explicitly stated in this chapter, the broader context of Paul's writings in Corinthians highlights the importance of repentance and reconciliation. The goal of church discipline is ultimately restoration and the salvation of the erring member.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 5, Paul addresses a specific case of sexual immorality within the church but also provides theological principles related to church discipline, purity, accountability, and the role of the church in upholding moral standards. These principles continue to influence discussions and practices related to church discipline, ethical standards, and the Church's responsibility in addressing moral issues within its community.

1 Corinthians 6  
New International Version  
Lawsuits Among Believers

6 If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? 2 Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!

7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. 9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men[a] 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

#### Sexual Immorality

12 "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." [b] 17 But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. [c]

18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 6:9 The words men who have sex with men translate two Greek words that refer to the passive and active participants in homosexual acts.

1 Corinthians 6:16 Gen. 2:24

1 Corinthians 6:17 Or in the Spirit

Chapter 6 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul addresses another issue of immorality within the Corinthian church, specifically related to lawsuits among believers. He begins by expressing his disappointment that believers are taking legal disputes before secular courts, rather than resolving them within the church.

Paul notes that believers are called to judge angels and to exercise spiritual discernment, so they should be able to resolve their own disputes. He argues that taking such matters before unbelievers is a sign of weakness and defeat, and that it damages the reputation of the church.

He then goes on to address sexual immorality, urging believers to flee from all forms of sexual sin. He notes that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and that believers have been bought with a price, so they should honor God with their bodies.

Paul also specifically addresses the issue of prostitution, noting that those who engage in such behavior cannot inherit the kingdom of God. He reminds the Corinthians that they have been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and that they should not return to their former way of life.

Finally, Paul reminds the Corinthians that their bodies are members of Christ, and that they should not unite themselves with prostitutes or with any other person in a way that dishonors God. He urges them to flee from all forms of sexual immorality and to glorify God in their bodies and in their spirits, which belong to Him.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 6, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 9-10: "Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." This verse provides a list of sins that can keep a person from inheriting the kingdom of God and serves as a warning to avoid such behaviors.
2. Verse 11: "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." This verse offers hope and reassurance that through faith in Jesus Christ, even those who have committed grave sins can be forgiven and made new.
3. Verse 15: "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!" This verse emphasizes the sacredness of our bodies, which are members of Christ, and the need to avoid sexual immorality.
4. Verse 19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." This verse reinforces the idea that our bodies are sacred and should be used to honor God, rather than for our own selfish desires.
5. Verse 20: "You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." This verse reminds us that we have been bought with a price, the blood of Jesus Christ, and that we should therefore use our bodies to glorify God.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 6, the Apostle Paul addresses several theological thoughts and principles related to disputes among believers and sexual immorality. These thoughts and principles have had a significant influence on Christian ethics, sexual morality, and the understanding of the role of the body in the life of a believer. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 6:

**Resolving Disputes among Believers:** Paul begins the chapter by addressing the issue of believers taking legal disputes with one another before secular courts. He emphasizes that believers should be able to settle such matters within the church. This concept has influenced discussions about conflict resolution within the Christian community and the importance of maintaining unity and accountability among believers.

**Holiness of the Body:** Paul asserts that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs to God. This theological thought underscores the sanctity of the human body and has had a profound influence on Christian teachings about sexual purity, the importance of honoring the body, and abstaining from sexual immorality.

**Fleeing Sexual Immorality:** Paul strongly condemns sexual immorality and instructs believers to flee from it. This concept has been influential in shaping Christian sexual ethics and the understanding that sexual purity is a fundamental aspect of Christian living.

**Union with Christ:** Paul mentions that sexual immorality is a sin against one's own body, which is a temple of the Holy Spirit. This thought has implications for the Christian understanding of the union between believers and Christ. It highlights the intimate relationship between Christ and the believer and the need for believers to honor God in their bodies.

**Purchased with a Price:** Paul reminds believers that they were bought with a price, the blood of Christ. This theological thought emphasizes the concept of redemption and has influenced discussions about the believer's identity as one who has been purchased by Christ's sacrifice.

**Sexual Morality and the Kingdom of God:** Paul mentions that those who practice sexual immorality will not inherit the Kingdom of God. This concept has had a significant influence on discussions about the relationship between one's behavior and one's standing in God's Kingdom. It underscores the importance of living in accordance with God's moral standards.

**The Role of the Holy Spirit:** While not explicitly stated in this chapter, the broader context of 1 Corinthians includes teachings about the role of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life, including the empowerment to live a holy and pure life.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 6, Paul addresses issues related to disputes among believers, the sanctity of the body, sexual morality, and the believer's union with Christ. These

theological thoughts continue to shape Christian ethics, sexual morality, and the understanding of the believer's identity and responsibility within the context of the Church and God's Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 7

New International Version

Concerning Married Life

7 Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." 2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7 I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

8 Now to the unmarried[a] and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. 11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Concerning Change of Status

17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's

commands is what counts. 20 Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings. 24 Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

#### Concerning the Unmarried

25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

29 What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

36 If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong<sup>[b]</sup> and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. 37 But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. 38 So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.<sup>[c]</sup>

39 A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. 40 In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 7:8 Or widowers

1 Corinthians 7:36 Or if she is getting beyond the usual age for marriage

1 Corinthians 7:38 Or 36 If anyone thinks he is not treating his daughter properly, and if she is getting along in years (or if her passions are too strong), and he feels she ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. He should let her get married. 37 But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind to keep the virgin unmarried—this man also does the right thing. 38 So then, he who gives his virgin in marriage does right, but he who does not give her in marriage does better.

#### Chapter 7 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul addresses various questions and concerns that the Corinthians have raised regarding marriage, singleness, and divorce. He begins by affirming that it is good for people to remain single, but acknowledges that some may have the gift of marriage and should pursue it.

Paul then addresses the issue of sexual relations within marriage, noting that each spouse has a responsibility to fulfill the needs of the other. He warns against using sexual abstinence as a form of punishment or manipulation within marriage, and encourages couples to find a balance between sexual intimacy and spiritual devotion.

He goes on to address the issue of divorce, noting that while Jesus forbade divorce except in cases of adultery, there may be other situations where divorce is necessary for the well-being of the individuals involved. He encourages believers to seek reconciliation whenever possible, but acknowledges that divorce may be a necessary step in certain circumstances.

Paul also addresses the issue of believers being married to non-believers, noting that while it is not ideal, such marriages should be maintained if possible. He encourages believers to strive to live in peace with their spouses, and to be a positive influence on them through their own faith and behavior.

Finally, Paul addresses the issue of singleness, noting that it can be a gift from God and an opportunity for greater devotion to the Lord. He encourages single people to use their singleness as a time to serve God and others, and reminds them that they are not alone but are part of the larger body of Christ.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 7, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 1: "Now for the matters you wrote about: 'It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.'" This verse refers to a question that the Corinthians had asked Paul about marriage and sexual relationships, and serves as a starting point for the discussion that follows.
2. Verse 7: "I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." This verse acknowledges that not everyone is called to celibacy, but that each person has their own unique gift from God.

3. Verse 9: "But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion." This verse advises those who are struggling with sexual temptation to get married, rather than to give in to their desires.
4. Verse 15: "But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace." This verse addresses the issue of marriages between believers and unbelievers, and advises that if the unbelieving spouse chooses to leave, the believer is free to let them go.
5. Verse 39: "A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord." This verse emphasizes the sanctity of marriage and the importance of marrying someone who shares your faith.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 7, the Apostle Paul addresses various issues related to marriage, singleness, and Christian living. This chapter contains several theological thoughts and principles that have had a significant influence on Christian theology and practice, particularly in the areas of marriage, celibacy, and Christian ethics. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 7:

**Marriage and Celibacy as Vocations:** Paul presents the idea that both marriage and celibacy are valid callings or vocations. He emphasizes that each person has their own gift from God, and one's marital status should be viewed in light of their unique calling and circumstances. This theological thought has influenced discussions about the value of both marriage and singleness in the Christian life and the recognition that God may call individuals to different paths.

**Marriage as a Solution to Sexual Temptation:** Paul acknowledges that marriage can be a way to address and avoid sexual immorality. This idea has had a lasting influence on Christian teachings regarding the purposes of marriage, including the importance of sexual purity within the marriage relationship.

**Mutual Rights and Responsibilities in Marriage:** Paul emphasizes the mutual rights and responsibilities of husbands and wives within the marriage relationship. He encourages couples to fulfill their marital duties to one another. This theological thought has influenced discussions on the nature of Christian marriage and the importance of mutual love and respect between spouses.

**Remain as You Are:** Paul advises believers to remain in the state they were in when they became Christians, whether married or single, unless they believe they have a specific calling to change their status. This principle has influenced Christian discussions on contentment, discerning God's will, and the acceptance of one's circumstances.

**Concern for the Unmarried and Widows:** Paul expresses concern for the unmarried and widows and offers guidance on how they should live. This theological thought has influenced discussions on the care and support of individuals who are not married or who have experienced loss.



Freedom in Christ: Paul emphasizes that believers have freedom in Christ and should not be enslaved to their circumstances or cultural norms. This thought has influenced Christian discussions on liberty in Christ and the recognition that faith in Christ should shape one's choices and actions.

The Present Distress: Paul acknowledges that the Corinthian church was facing some form of present distress or persecution. While the nature of this distress is not specified, Paul's advice to remain as they are and not seek to change their circumstances reflects a theological principle of endurance in the face of challenges.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 7, Paul provides practical guidance on issues related to marriage, singleness, and Christian living. These theological thoughts and principles continue to shape Christian teachings on these topics and contribute to discussions about the role of marriage and celibacy in the Christian life, the mutual responsibilities of spouses, and the importance of discerning God's calling and exercising freedom in Christ.

1 Corinthians 8

New International Version

Concerning Food Sacrificed to Idols

8 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. 2 Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. 3 But whoever loves God is known by God.[a]

4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

7 But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

Footnotes

1 Corinthians 8:3 An early manuscript and another ancient witness think they have knowledge do not yet know as they ought to know. 3 But whoever loves truly knows.

#### Chapter 8 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul addresses the issue of food sacrificed to idols. He begins by acknowledging that there is only one true God and that idols have no real existence. However, he notes that some believers may struggle with the idea of eating food that has been offered to idols, because they may see it as participating in idol worship. Paul emphasizes that knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. He notes that while knowledge may enable believers to understand that idols have no real power, love is what should guide their behavior towards those who do not have that knowledge. He encourages believers to consider how their actions may impact others, and to prioritize the well-being of others over their own freedom. Paul notes that if eating food sacrificed to idols causes a weaker believer to stumble or fall into sin, then it is better to abstain from such food. He emphasizes that believers are called to love and serve one another, and that their behavior should always reflect that. Paul concludes the chapter by reminding believers that their ultimate goal should be to glorify God in all that they do. He encourages them to seek to build up one another and to prioritize the welfare of others over their own personal freedoms, so that they may be effective witnesses to the love and grace of God.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 8, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 1: "Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that 'We all possess knowledge.' But knowledge puffs up while love builds up." This verse introduces the topic of food sacrificed to idols and emphasizes the importance of love over knowledge.
2. Verse 4: "So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that 'An idol is nothing at all in the world' and that 'There is no God but one.'" This verse explains that idols have no real power or significance, as there is only one true God.
3. Verse 6: "Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live." This verse affirms the belief in one God, the Father, and one Lord, Jesus Christ.
4. Verse 9: "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak." This verse reminds us to be considerate of others and not to let our freedom and knowledge lead us to cause harm or offense to those who are weaker in faith.
5. Verse 13: "Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall." This verse emphasizes the importance of putting the needs and well-being of others before our own desires and preferences.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 8, the Apostle Paul addresses the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols within the Corinthian church. This chapter contains theological thoughts and principles that have had implications for Christian ethics, unity, and the understanding of Christian freedom. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 8:

**The Knowledge and Love Dilemma:** Paul begins by discussing the Corinthians' knowledge that "an idol has no real existence" and that "there is no God but one" (1 Corinthians 8:4). This knowledge has led some Corinthians to eat meat sacrificed to idols without hesitation. However, Paul emphasizes that knowledge alone can lead to pride and a lack of love for others. This theological thought highlights the importance of balancing knowledge with love and consideration for weaker believers.

**The Conscience of the Weak:** Paul introduces the idea that some believers, often referred to as "weaker" in faith, might have a sensitive conscience and believe that eating such food is a form of idol worship. He cautions against causing them to stumble by exercising one's freedom in a way that offends their conscience. This concept has influenced discussions on Christian liberty and the responsibility of mature believers to consider the impact of their actions on the conscience of others.

**Building Up vs. Destroying:** Paul emphasizes that love builds up the Christian community, while knowledge can lead to pride and divisiveness. This theological thought has influenced discussions on the importance of edifying and maintaining unity within the body of believers.

**The Concern for Weaker Brothers and Sisters:** Throughout the chapter, Paul underscores the importance of considering the well-being of weaker believers. He advises believers to abstain from eating meat sacrificed to idols if it causes offense or stumbling to others. This emphasis on sensitivity to the needs and concerns of fellow believers has had a lasting influence on Christian ethics and community life.

**Christian Freedom:** Paul acknowledges that believers have freedom in Christ and that "all things are lawful." However, he qualifies this statement by emphasizing that not all things are helpful or edifying. This concept has influenced discussions on Christian freedom and the responsible exercise of liberty in Christ.

**The Exclusivity of God:** Paul reiterates the foundational Christian belief in the exclusivity of God, stating, "there is no God but one" (1 Corinthians 8:4). This theological thought reaffirms the monotheistic nature of Christian faith and has influenced discussions on the uniqueness of the Christian God.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 8, Paul addresses a specific issue related to food sacrificed to idols but also provides broader theological principles related to Christian love, freedom, and unity within the Christian community. These principles continue to shape Christian discussions about ethics, conscience, and the responsible exercise of liberty in Christ.

## 1 Corinthians 9

### New International Version

#### Paul's Rights as an Apostle

9 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? 2 Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

3 This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. 4 Don't we have the right to food and drink? 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas[a]? 6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? 8 Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."<sup>[b]</sup> Is it about oxen that God is concerned? 10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. 11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? 12 If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

15 But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me, for I would rather die than allow anyone to deprive me of this boast. 16 For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

#### Paul's Use of His Freedom

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have

become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

#### The Need for Self-Discipline

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 9:5 That is, Peter

1 Corinthians 9:9 Deut. 25:4

#### Chapter 9 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul defends his apostleship and his right to receive support from the Corinthians. He begins by pointing out that as an apostle of Christ, he has the right to eat and drink, to be married, and to receive financial support from those to whom he ministers.

However, Paul notes that he has chosen not to exercise his rights, but to work hard and support himself so that he may not be a burden to the Corinthians. He notes that this is an example that they should follow, as they too have been called to work diligently and to use their gifts and resources for the sake of the Gospel.

Paul then uses the example of an athlete to illustrate the importance of discipline and self-control in the Christian life. He notes that just as an athlete must train and discipline himself in order to compete effectively, so too must believers discipline themselves and put forth effort in order to run the race of faith well.

Paul emphasizes that his ultimate goal is to win souls for Christ, and that he is willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish that goal. He notes that while he is free and has the right to do as he pleases, he chooses to submit himself to the needs and desires of others so that he may be an effective witness to the love and grace of God.

Paul concludes the chapter by encouraging believers to follow his example of discipline and self-control, and to use their lives and resources to further the Gospel and win souls for Christ. He reminds them that their ultimate reward is the imperishable crown of eternal life, and encourages them to press on towards that goal with all diligence and effort.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 9, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 1: "Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?" This verse establishes Paul's authority as an apostle and reminds the Corinthians of the role he played in bringing them to faith.

2. Verse 7: "Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk?" This verse highlights the idea that those who do the work should be able to benefit from it.
3. Verse 14: "In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." This verse affirms the right of those who preach the gospel to receive support from those they are serving.
4. Verse 19: "Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible." This verse emphasizes Paul's willingness to humble himself and serve others in order to share the gospel with them.
5. Verse 27: "No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." This verse speaks to the idea of self-discipline and perseverance in the face of temptation and challenge.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 9, the Apostle Paul addresses the topic of his own rights and privileges as an apostle and the importance of financial support for ministers of the Gospel. This chapter contains several theological thoughts and principles that have had a significant influence on Christian understanding of ministry, leadership, and the financial support of those who serve in the church. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 9:

**The Rights of Apostles:** Paul begins by asserting his apostolic authority and emphasizing that as an apostle, he has certain rights and privileges, including the right to financial support for his ministry. This theological thought has influenced discussions about the role and authority of apostles and leaders within the early Christian community.

**Foregoing Rights for the Sake of the Gospel:** Paul goes on to explain that although he has the right to receive financial support, he has chosen to forego this right in the Corinthian context. He does this to avoid hindering the Gospel and to make himself more accessible to a wider range of people. This concept has influenced discussions on Christian leadership, self-sacrifice, and the idea that leaders should prioritize the spread of the Gospel above personal comfort.

**Becoming All Things to All People:** Paul introduces the idea that he is willing to become all things to all people in order to win some to Christ. This theological thought underscores the importance of adaptability and cultural sensitivity in ministry and has had an enduring influence on discussions about cross-cultural missions and effective evangelism.

**The Need for Financial Support:** While Paul voluntarily foregoes his right to financial support in the Corinthian context, he also makes a theological argument for the support of ministers of the Gospel. He cites the example of the Old Testament priests and argues that those who preach the Gospel should earn their living from the Gospel. This thought

has influenced discussions on the financial support of clergy and the recognition that those who labor in full-time ministry have a legitimate need for material support.

**The Reward of Faithful Service:** Paul highlights the idea that those who serve faithfully in the Gospel ministry will receive a reward from God. This theological thought has contributed to discussions on the concept of rewards in the afterlife and the idea that God acknowledges and rewards faithful service.

**Running the Race:** Paul uses the metaphor of an athlete running a race to describe the Christian life and ministry. He encourages believers to run in such a way as to win the prize. This metaphor has influenced discussions on the Christian journey, perseverance, and the pursuit of spiritual goals.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 9, Paul addresses issues related to leadership, financial support for ministers, the spread of the Gospel, and the Christian life as a race. These theological thoughts continue to shape Christian discussions about ministry, leadership, sacrifice, and the financial support of those who serve in the church.

## 1 Corinthians 10

### New International Version

#### Warnings From Israel's History

10 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry."<sup>[a]</sup> 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9 We should not test Christ,<sup>[b]</sup> as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 13 No temptation<sup>[c]</sup> has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted<sup>[d]</sup> beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,<sup>[e]</sup> he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

#### Idol Feasts and the Lord's Supper

14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in

the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

18 Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? 19 Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. 22 Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

#### The Believer's Freedom

23 "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. 24 No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

25 Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, 26 for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." [f]

27 If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. 28 But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. 29 I am referring to the other person's conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience? 30 If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— 33 even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 10:7 Exodus 32:6

1 Corinthians 10:9 Some manuscripts test the Lord

1 Corinthians 10:13 The Greek for temptation and tempted can also mean testing and tested.

1 Corinthians 10:13 The Greek for temptation and tempted can also mean testing and tested.

1 Corinthians 10:13 The Greek for temptation and tempted can also mean testing and tested.

1 Corinthians 10:26 Psalm 24:1

#### Chapter 10 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul continues his discussion on the topic of food sacrificed to idols. He reminds the Corinthians of the experiences of the Israelites in the wilderness,



noting that they were all baptized into Moses and ate the same spiritual food and drink, yet many of them still fell into sin and were destroyed.

Paul warns the Corinthians that they should not be overconfident in their knowledge or spiritual maturity, but should instead be vigilant and avoid any temptation to participate in idol worship. He notes that idol worship is not simply a matter of eating or drinking, but involves participation in the demonic realm.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to flee from idolatry and to instead partake in the Lord's Supper, which is a sharing in the body and blood of Christ. He notes that the Lord's Supper is a powerful symbol of the unity of the body of Christ and reminds believers of the sacrifice that Christ made for them.

Paul also addresses the issue of eating meat that has been sold in the marketplace, which may or may not have been offered to idols. He notes that believers should not ask questions about the origin of the meat, but should simply eat it without worrying about whether it has been offered to idols. However, if someone tells them that the meat has been offered to idols, then they should refrain from eating it for the sake of that person's conscience.

Paul concludes the chapter by reminding the Corinthians that everything they do should be done for the glory of God and the good of others. He encourages them to imitate him, as he imitates Christ, and to avoid any behavior that might cause others to stumble or fall into sin.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 10, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 12: "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" This verse serves as a warning to those who are confident in their own faith to remain humble and aware of their own vulnerabilities.
2. Verse 13: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." This verse provides comfort to believers in the face of temptation, reminding them that God will always provide a way out.
3. Verse 16: "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?" This verse speaks to the idea of the Eucharist, or communion, as a means of participating in the sacrifice of Christ.
4. Verse 23: "I have the right to do anything," you say--but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"--but not everything is constructive." This verse reminds believers that while they have freedom in Christ, not everything they do is beneficial or constructive for themselves or others.
5. Verse 31: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." This verse emphasizes the importance of living one's life in a way that honors and glorifies God in all things.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 10, the Apostle Paul addresses various theological thoughts and principles related to the Israelites' experiences in the wilderness and their spiritual

significance for the Corinthians. This chapter contains important theological ideas that have influenced Christian understandings of the Old Testament, God's faithfulness, and the relationship between faith and temptation. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 10:

**Warnings from Israel's History:** Paul begins by recounting the experiences of the Israelites in the wilderness, highlighting their blessings and failures. He uses these historical examples as warnings for the Corinthians, emphasizing the importance of learning from the mistakes of the past. This theological thought has influenced Christian exhortations to heed the lessons of the Old Testament and apply them to contemporary faith and living.

**Baptism and Spiritual Food:** Paul draws parallels between the Corinthians' experiences of baptism and the Israelites' passage through the Red Sea and their sharing in spiritual food and drink (the manna and water from the rock). This theological thought emphasizes the spiritual significance of baptism and the nourishment provided by God in the Christian journey.

**Warning Against Idolatry:** Paul warns the Corinthians against idolatry and participation in pagan feasts, particularly those involving food sacrificed to idols. He emphasizes that believers cannot participate in the Lord's table and the table of demons simultaneously. This thought has influenced Christian discussions on the incompatibility of Christian worship and practices with idolatry.

**Freedom and Stumbling Blocks:** Paul discusses the concept of Christian freedom and the idea that believers have the right to eat any food sold in the marketplace without asking questions. However, he cautions that if eating such food would cause a weaker brother or sister to stumble, it is better to abstain for the sake of their conscience. This concept has influenced discussions on the responsible exercise of Christian liberty and the consideration of the impact of one's actions on others.

**God's Faithfulness and Escape from Temptation:** Paul assures the Corinthians that God is faithful and will not allow them to be tempted beyond what they can bear. He emphasizes that God always provides a way of escape so that they can endure temptation. This theological thought has influenced Christian teachings on God's faithfulness, the concept of divine providence, and the believer's reliance on God's help in times of trial.

**Glorifying God in All Things:** Paul concludes the chapter by emphasizing the overarching principle of glorifying God in all things, whether in eating or drinking or any other aspect of life. This theological thought has influenced discussions on the believer's purpose and the idea that all of life should be lived for the glory of God.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 10, Paul provides theological reflections on the Israelites' experiences, Christian freedom, temptation, and the importance of glorifying God in all aspects of life. These theological thoughts continue to shape Christian teachings on

ethics, spiritual growth, and the faithful response to trials and challenges in the Christian journey.

1 Corinthians 11

New International Version

11 1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

On Covering the Head in Worship

2 I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you. 3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man,<sup>[a]</sup> and the head of Christ is God. 4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved. 6 For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.

7 A man ought not to cover his head,<sup>[b]</sup> since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own<sup>[c]</sup> head, because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? 14 Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, 15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. 16 If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

17 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19 No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. 20 So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, 21 for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. 22 Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way,

after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. 32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. 34 Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.

And when I come I will give further directions.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 11:3 Or of the wife is her husband

1 Corinthians 11:7 Or 4 Every man who prays or prophesies with long hair dishonors his head. 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with no covering of hair dishonors her head—she is just like one of the “shorn women.” 6 If a woman has no covering, let her be for now with short hair; but since it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair shorn or shaved, she should grow it again. 7 A man ought not to have long hair

1 Corinthians 11:10 Or have a sign of authority on her

#### Chapter 11 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul addresses several issues related to worship practices and decorum in the church. He begins by praising the Corinthians for maintaining the traditions that he had passed down to them, but notes that there are some issues that need to be corrected.

Paul first addresses the issue of head coverings for men and women during worship. He notes that men should not cover their heads, as they are the image and glory of God, but that women should cover their heads as a sign of submission to their husbands and to God. He also notes that long hair is a natural covering for women and that it is a glory to them.

Paul then discusses the Lord's Supper, noting that it is a sacred meal that should be taken with reverence and respect. He warns against taking it in an unworthy manner, which could result in judgment from God.

Next, Paul addresses the issue of social divisions and class distinctions in the church. He notes that there should be no divisions among believers, as they are all one in Christ. He rebukes those who come to the Lord's table and eat without regard for their brothers and sisters in Christ, noting that this is not a true sharing of the Lord's Supper.

Finally, Paul addresses the issue of spiritual gifts and their proper use in worship. He notes that all gifts come from the same Spirit and are given for the common good. He encourages the Corinthians to use their gifts in a way that builds up the church and honors God, and warns against using them to seek personal gain or attention. Paul concludes the chapter by urging the Corinthians to imitate him as he imitates Christ, and to maintain the traditions that he has passed down to them. He emphasizes the importance of order and decency in worship, and encourages them to use their spiritual gifts to build up the church and glorify God.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 11, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 3: "But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." This verse speaks to the idea of hierarchy and order within the church and home, with Christ being the head of every man and God being the head of Christ.
2. Verse 11-12: "In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God." This verse emphasizes the interdependence of men and women and the importance of recognizing that all things come from God.
3. Verse 17: "In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good." This verse criticizes the behavior of the Corinthians during their meetings, emphasizing the importance of conducting themselves in an orderly and respectful manner.
4. Verse 23-24: "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.'" This verse speaks to the importance of the Eucharist or communion as a way of remembering the sacrifice of Christ.
5. Verse 28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." This verse emphasizes the importance of self-examination and introspection before partaking in the Eucharist or communion.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 11, the Apostle Paul addresses several theological thoughts and principles related to worship practices, head coverings, and the Lord's Supper. This chapter has had a significant influence on Christian understanding of worship, gender roles, and the celebration of the Eucharist. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 11:

**Headship and Authority:** Paul introduces the concept of headship, stating that "the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3). This theological thought has influenced discussions on gender roles and the understanding of authority and submission within Christian marriage.

**Head Coverings:** Paul discusses the practice of head coverings for women during worship. He argues that women should cover their heads as a symbol of submission and

respect for the authority of their husbands and for the angels. This teaching has had an impact on discussions about cultural expressions of modesty and submission in worship.

**Equality in Christ:** While Paul emphasizes distinctions in roles and practices, he also underscores the theological truth that in Christ, there is no distinction or hierarchy based on gender or ethnicity. All believers, regardless of gender, have equal access to God's grace and salvation. This theological thought has influenced discussions on gender equality within the Christian faith.

**The Lord's Supper:** Paul provides instructions regarding the celebration of the Lord's Supper, emphasizing its significance as a memorial of Christ's sacrifice and the need for self-examination before partaking. This teaching has influenced Christian liturgical practices and the understanding of the Eucharist as a central act of Christian worship.

**Discerning the Body:** Paul warns against partaking of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner, without proper reverence and understanding of its significance. He emphasizes the need to discern the body of Christ. This concept has influenced discussions on the importance of approaching the Eucharist with a reverent and repentant heart.

**Examination and Judgment:** Paul teaches that failure to discern the body and partaking in an unworthy manner can lead to judgment and discipline from the Lord. This theological thought has contributed to discussions about the seriousness of the Lord's Supper and the need for self-examination and repentance before participating.

**Remembering Christ's Sacrifice:** Throughout the chapter, Paul emphasizes the importance of remembering Christ's sacrificial death during the celebration of the Lord's Supper. This theological thought has shaped Christian worship practices, emphasizing the centrality of Christ's atonement in the life of the Church.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 11, Paul addresses issues related to worship practices, head coverings, gender roles, and the Lord's Supper. These theological thoughts continue to influence discussions within the Christian tradition regarding worship, gender, and the practice of the Eucharist, emphasizing the importance of reverence, self-examination, and the remembrance of Christ's sacrifice.

## 1 Corinthians 12

New International Version

Concerning Spiritual Gifts

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[b] 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

#### Unity and Diversity in the Body

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues[d]? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

#### Love Is Indispensable

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

## Footnotes

1 Corinthians 12:10 Or languages; also in verse 28

1 Corinthians 12:10 Or languages; also in verse 28

1 Corinthians 12:13 Or with; or in

1 Corinthians 12:30 Or other languages

## Chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul discusses the spiritual gifts that have been given to believers by the Holy Spirit. He notes that there are different kinds of gifts, but they are all given by the same Spirit for the common good.

Paul emphasizes the importance of unity in the body of Christ, noting that each believer has a unique role to play in the functioning of the body. He uses the analogy of the human body to illustrate this point, noting that each part has a specific function and is essential to the overall health and well-being of the body.

Paul then provides a list of spiritual gifts, including wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. He notes that each gift is given for a specific purpose and should be used in a way that benefits the entire body of Christ.

Paul also addresses the issue of jealousy and competition among believers over their spiritual gifts. He notes that all gifts come from the same Spirit and that there should be no division or hierarchy in the body of Christ. Instead, each member should use their gift to serve and edify others.

Paul concludes the chapter by emphasizing the importance of love in the exercise of spiritual gifts. He notes that even the most powerful gifts are worthless without love, and encourages the Corinthians to pursue love above all else. He notes that love is patient, kind, not envious or boastful, not arrogant or rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs.

Overall, Chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians emphasizes the importance of unity, diversity, and love in the exercise of spiritual gifts within the body of Christ.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 12, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 4: "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them."  
This verse highlights the diversity of spiritual gifts and emphasizes that they come from the same Spirit.
2. Verse 12-13: "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." This verse uses the metaphor of a body to emphasize the unity of believers in Christ and the idea that we all have a role to play in the larger body of Christ.
3. Verse 22-23: "On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty."



- This verse emphasizes the importance of valuing and honoring every member of the body of Christ, regardless of their perceived importance or status.
4. Verse 27: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." This verse reinforces the idea that believers are all part of the larger body of Christ, with each person playing a unique role.
  5. Verse 31: "Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way." This verse encourages believers to pursue spiritual gifts and abilities, while also hinting at the importance of love, which is explored more fully in the next chapter.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, the Apostle Paul addresses the topic of spiritual gifts and the unity and diversity of the body of Christ. This chapter contains several theological thoughts and principles that have had a profound influence on Christian understanding of the Church, spiritual gifts, and the importance of unity in diversity. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 12:

**The Diversity of Spiritual Gifts:** Paul emphasizes that there are various spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to believers. These gifts serve different functions within the body of Christ. This theological thought underscores the belief that every believer has been uniquely gifted by God for service within the Church.

**Unity in the Body:** Paul compares the Church to a human body, with many members serving different functions but forming one unified body. This theological concept has had a lasting influence on Christian ecclesiology (the study of the Church) and the understanding of the Church as a diverse but interconnected community.

**Dependence on Christ as the Head:** Paul underscores the importance of Christ as the head of the Church, and believers as individual members of His body. This thought has influenced discussions on the primacy of Christ in the Church and the idea that believers are to rely on Him for guidance and direction.

**Mutual Interdependence:** Paul emphasizes the mutual dependence of the different members of the body. He highlights that every member is necessary and that there should be no division or rivalry within the Church. This concept has influenced discussions on the importance of cooperation, love, and unity among believers.

**The Role of the Holy Spirit:** Paul emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is the source of spiritual gifts and that these gifts are given according to His will. This thought has contributed to the development of Christian pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit) and discussions on the active role of the Spirit in equipping and empowering believers.

**The Priority of Love:** While not explicitly stated in this chapter, the broader context of 1 Corinthians includes Paul's famous discourse on love in chapter 13. This theological thought reinforces the idea that love should be the motivating factor behind the use of spiritual gifts and the interactions within the body of Christ.

Edification of the Church: Paul emphasizes that the purpose of spiritual gifts is for the edification and building up of the Church. This concept has influenced discussions on the role of spiritual gifts in the life of the Church and the importance of using them for the common good.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul addresses issues related to spiritual gifts, unity in the body of Christ, and the importance of mutual dependence. These theological thoughts continue to shape Christian understanding of the Church, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the practical application of spiritual gifts for the growth and edification of the body of Christ.

### 1 Corinthians 13

New International Version

13 If I speak in the tongues<sup>[a]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[b]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 13:1 Or languages

1 Corinthians 13:3 Some manuscripts body to the flames

#### Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul provides a beautiful exposition on the nature and importance of love. He begins by noting that even if he were to speak in the tongues of angels or have great knowledge, without love, he would be nothing.

Paul then provides a list of characteristics of love, noting that it is patient, kind, not envious or boastful, not arrogant or rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs. He notes that love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth, and that it always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

Paul emphasizes the eternal nature of love, noting that it will never fail, while spiritual gifts such as prophecy, tongues, and knowledge will pass away. He notes that these gifts are only partial and imperfect, while love is complete and perfect.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to pursue love above all else, noting that it is the greatest of the virtues and the foundation of all good works. He notes that even faith and hope are sustained by love.

Overall, Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians provides a powerful reminder of the centrality and importance of love in the Christian life. It encourages believers to seek love above all else and to recognize its eternal value and significance.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, along with brief explanations and the corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 1: "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." This verse emphasizes the importance of love over spiritual gifts or abilities, suggesting that without love, these things are meaningless.
2. Verse 4-7: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." These verses provide a description of what love looks like in action, and serve as a guide for how believers should treat one another.
3. Verse 11: "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me." This verse suggests that love is a sign of spiritual maturity, and encourages believers to leave behind childish ways of thinking and acting.
4. Verse 13: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." This verse highlights the importance of love as the most important aspect of Christian living, even above faith and hope.

1 Corinthians chapter 13 is often referred to as the "Love Chapter" because it provides a profound theological exploration of the nature and significance of love within the Christian faith. This chapter has had a profound and enduring influence on Christian theology, ethics, and practice. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians 13:

**The Primacy of Love:** The central theological thought of this chapter is the primacy of love in the Christian life. Paul begins by affirming that even if someone possesses great spiritual gifts, knowledge, or faith but lacks love, they are nothing. Love is presented as the preeminent virtue and the defining characteristic of the Christian life.

**Love's Characteristics:** Paul provides a detailed description of love's characteristics, which include patience, kindness, lack of envy or boasting, humility, selflessness, and the absence of rudeness or resentment. This theological thought has had a profound influence on Christian ethics and the understanding of love as the foundation for moral behavior and relationships.

**The Abiding Nature of Love:** Paul emphasizes that love never fails or ends. It surpasses spiritual gifts and knowledge, which are temporary. This thought has influenced discussions on the enduring nature of love and its eternal significance in contrast to temporal gifts and achievements.

**Maturity and Perfection:** Paul alludes to the idea that love is a mark of maturity and spiritual perfection. It represents the highest expression of Christian character. This concept has influenced Christian teachings on spiritual growth and the goal of becoming more Christlike.

**Love's Role in Christian Relationships:** Paul's description of love in this chapter has deeply influenced Christian teachings on interpersonal relationships, marriage, family life, and community. It emphasizes the importance of love in shaping healthy and harmonious connections with others.

**Theological Influence on Christian Virtues:** 1 Corinthians 13 has played a significant role in shaping Christian discussions on virtues, character development, and the fruit of the Spirit. It underscores the idea that all Christian virtues find their fullest expression in love.

**Love and God's Nature:** While not explicitly stated, the chapter's emphasis on love resonates with the core theological concept that God is love (1 John 4:8). This understanding has influenced Christian theology on the nature of God and His relationship with humanity.

**Love's Role in Worship and Ministry:** Love's prominence in this chapter has influenced Christian worship, ministry, and service. It emphasizes the importance of love as the motivation for all acts of service and worship within the Christian community.

**Love's Influence Beyond Christianity:** The teachings of 1 Corinthians 13 on the nature of love have also resonated beyond Christianity and have influenced discussions on love, ethics, and morality in broader philosophical and ethical contexts.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul provides a profound theological exploration of love's nature and significance within the Christian faith. This chapter's enduring influence can be seen in Christian ethics, theology, and the understanding of love as the defining characteristic of the Christian life.

New International Version

### Intelligibility in Worship

14 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue[a] does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. 3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. 4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues,[b] but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues,[c] unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

6 Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? 7 Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? 8 Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? 9 So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. 10 Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 11 If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. 12 So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. 16 Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer,[d] say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? 17 You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.

18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

20 Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. 21 In the Law it is written:

“With other tongues  
and through the lips of foreigners  
I will speak to this people,  
but even then they will not listen to me,  
says the Lord.”[e]

22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. 23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that

you are out of your mind? 24 But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, 25 as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

#### Good Order in Worship

26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. 28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. 31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.

34 Women<sup>[f]</sup> should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. 35 If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.<sup>[g]</sup>

36 Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? 37 If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord’s command. 38 But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored.<sup>[h]</sup>

39 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 14:2 Or in another language; also in verses 4, 13, 14, 19, 26 and 27

1 Corinthians 14:5 Or in other languages; also in verses 6, 18, 22, 23 and 39

1 Corinthians 14:5 Or in other languages; also in verses 6, 18, 22, 23 and 39

1 Corinthians 14:16 The Greek word for inquirer is a technical term for someone not fully initiated into a religion; also in verses 23 and 24.

1 Corinthians 14:21 Isaiah 28:11,12

1 Corinthians 14:34 Or peace. As in all the congregations of the Lord’s people, 34 women

1 Corinthians 14:35 In a few manuscripts these verses come after verse 40.

1 Corinthians 14:38 Some manuscripts But anyone who is ignorant of this will be ignorant

Chapter 14 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul continues his discussion of spiritual gifts, focusing on the gift of speaking in tongues and its place in the church. He notes that speaking in tongues can be a valuable gift, but it is not as useful for edifying the church as prophecy, which involves speaking in a language that can be understood by everyone.

Paul emphasizes the importance of using spiritual gifts for the common good of the church, noting that speaking in tongues without interpretation can confuse and discourage others. He encourages the Corinthians to use their gifts in a way that builds up the church and promotes understanding and unity.

Paul also addresses the issue of disorder in the church, noting that everyone should speak in an orderly way so that the church can be edified. He encourages the Corinthians to use their spiritual gifts in a way that promotes peace and harmony, rather than division and confusion.

Paul concludes the chapter by emphasizing the importance of love in the exercise of spiritual gifts. He notes that all gifts should be used in a way that promotes love and unity within the church, and that love is the most important characteristic of a healthy church. Overall, Chapter 14 of 1 Corinthians provides practical guidance for the use of spiritual gifts in the church. It emphasizes the importance of using these gifts in a way that promotes understanding, unity, and love, and encourages believers to seek the common good of the church in all things.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 14, along with brief explanations and corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 1: "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy." This verse highlights the importance of love and encourages believers to eagerly desire spiritual gifts, particularly the gift of prophecy.
2. Verse 2: "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit." This verse explains that speaking in tongues is a form of communication with God that is not understandable to others.
3. Verse 3: "But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort." This verse describes the purpose of the gift of prophecy, which is to strengthen, encourage, and comfort others.
4. Verse 12: "So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church." This verse encourages believers to seek gifts of the Spirit that build up the church and help others.
5. Verse 26: "What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." This verse highlights the importance of order in the use of spiritual gifts during church gatherings, emphasizing that everything should be done to build up the church.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 14, the Apostle Paul addresses the topic of spiritual gifts, particularly the gift of speaking in tongues and the gift of prophecy, within the context of Christian worship. This chapter contains theological thoughts and principles that have

had a significant influence on Christian worship practices, the use of spiritual gifts, and the orderliness of corporate worship. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 14:

**Edification of the Church:** Paul emphasizes that the primary purpose of spiritual gifts, including speaking in tongues and prophecy, is the edification or building up of the Church. He states that all things in the worship service should be done for the edification of the believers. This theological thought has influenced discussions on the role of spiritual gifts in corporate worship and the priority of edification in Christian gatherings.

**The Gift of Prophecy:** Paul places a strong emphasis on the gift of prophecy in this chapter. He states that prophecy is more valuable than speaking in tongues because it benefits the entire congregation by providing encouragement, edification, and comfort. This emphasis on prophecy has influenced discussions about the role of prophetic ministry in the Church and the importance of messages that edify the community.

**Intelligibility in Worship:** Paul stresses the importance of intelligibility in worship. He argues that if there is speaking in tongues without interpretation, it may not benefit the congregation because people will not understand what is being said. This thought has influenced Christian worship practices by emphasizing the need for clarity and understanding in public worship services.

**Decency and Order:** Paul emphasizes that worship should be conducted in an orderly and decent manner. He instructs that if someone speaks in tongues, there should be interpretation, and that everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. This concept has influenced discussions on the structure and decorum of Christian worship services.

**The Role of Women:** In this chapter, Paul briefly touches on the role of women in the assembly, suggesting that they should be silent and that if they have questions, they should ask their husbands at home. This theological thought has influenced discussions on gender roles in worship and church leadership.

**God is Not a God of Confusion:** Paul affirms that God is not a God of confusion but of peace, and that everything should be done decently and in order. This theological thought has influenced Christian worship practices by emphasizing the importance of reverence and orderliness in corporate worship.

**Seek the Gifts that Build Up:** Paul encourages believers to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially those that build up the Church. This teaching has influenced discussions about the discernment and exercise of spiritual gifts within the Christian community.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 14, Paul addresses issues related to spiritual gifts, intelligibility in worship, and the orderliness of corporate gatherings. These theological thoughts continue to influence Christian worship practices, discussions about the use of spiritual gifts, and the focus on edification and order in the worship of God.



## 1 Corinthians 15

### New International Version

#### The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance<sup>[a]</sup>: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas,<sup>[b]</sup> and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

#### The Resurrection of the Dead

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he “has put everything under his feet.”<sup>[c]</sup> Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

29 Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? 30 And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,

“Let us eat and drink,  
for tomorrow we die.”[d]

33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”[e] 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

### The Resurrection Body

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”[f]; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we[g] bear the image of the heavenly man.

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”[h]

55 “Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"[i]

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 15:3 Or you at the first

1 Corinthians 15:5 That is, Peter

1 Corinthians 15:27 Psalm 8:6

1 Corinthians 15:32 Isaiah 22:13

1 Corinthians 15:33 From the Greek poet Menander

1 Corinthians 15:45 Gen. 2:7

1 Corinthians 15:49 Some early manuscripts so let us

1 Corinthians 15:54 Isaiah 25:8

1 Corinthians 15:55 Hosea 13:14

#### Chapter 15 of 1 Corinthians:

In this chapter, the apostle Paul addresses the issue of the resurrection of the dead, which some in the Corinthian church were denying. He begins by reminding the Corinthians of the gospel message, which he had received and preached to them, and which includes the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul emphasizes that the resurrection of Christ is central to the Christian faith, and that if Christ had not been raised, the entire gospel message would be empty and meaningless.

He then goes on to argue that Christ was indeed raised from the dead, and that his resurrection is the firstfruits of a general resurrection of the dead that will occur at the end of the age.

Paul provides a detailed explanation of the nature of the resurrection, noting that the body that is sown in weakness and perishable is raised in power and imperishable. He notes that the resurrection is a victory over death and sin, and that it gives believers hope for eternal life.

Paul also addresses the issue of how the resurrection relates to the Christian life, noting that if there is no resurrection, believers' faith is in vain and they are to be pitied above all people. He encourages the Corinthians to be steadfast and immovable in their faith, knowing that their labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Overall, Chapter 15 of 1 Corinthians provides a powerful defense of the reality and importance of the resurrection of the dead. It emphasizes the centrality of Christ's resurrection to the Christian faith, and encourages believers to live in the hope and confidence of eternal life.

Here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 15, along with brief explanations and corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 3-4: "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." These verses summarize the core message of the gospel: that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead on the third day.
2. Verse 14: "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." This verse emphasizes the importance of the resurrection of Christ, which is the cornerstone of the Christian faith.
3. Verse 20: "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." This verse proclaims the reality of Christ's resurrection, which serves as a guarantee of the future resurrection of all believers.
4. Verse 22: "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." This verse contrasts the universal effects of sin with the universal hope of salvation through Christ.
5. Verse 58: "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." This verse encourages believers to remain steadfast in their faith and to devote themselves fully to serving the Lord, knowing that their labor will be rewarded.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, the Apostle Paul addresses the theological thought of the resurrection of the dead. This chapter contains some of the most profound and influential theological teachings in the New Testament regarding the resurrection, the nature of the resurrection body, and the victory of Christ over sin and death. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 15:

**The Resurrection of Christ:** Paul begins by reminding the Corinthians of the Gospel he preached to them, emphasizing that Christ was raised from the dead on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures. This foundational theological thought underscores the central role of Christ's resurrection in the Christian faith and has influenced Christian beliefs about the historical reality of Christ's resurrection.

**The Resurrection as Essential:** Paul argues that the resurrection of Christ is not a peripheral belief but is of primary importance to the Christian faith. He states that if Christ has not been raised, then faith is in vain, preaching is in vain, and believers are still in their sins. This theological thought highlights the crucial role of the resurrection in the Christian Gospel message and has had a profound influence on Christian theology.

**The Firstfruits of the Resurrection:** Paul refers to Christ as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep, meaning that His resurrection is the first in a sequence of resurrections that will follow. This thought has influenced discussions on the resurrection of believers and the hope of future resurrection for Christians.

**The Nature of the Resurrection Body:** Paul addresses questions about the nature of the resurrection body, comparing it to a seed that is sown and then transformed into a new

body. This theological thought has contributed to Christian discussions on the nature of the resurrection and the concept of transformation in the resurrection.

**The Victory Over Death:** Paul declares that death has been swallowed up in victory through Christ's resurrection. This theological thought underscores the triumph of Christ over the power of sin and death and has influenced Christian teachings on the hope of eternal life.

**The Transformation of Believers:** Paul teaches that when the resurrection occurs, believers will be changed and will put on imperishable, immortal bodies. This concept has influenced Christian eschatology (the study of the end times) and beliefs about the transformation of believers in the future resurrection.

**The Sting of Death and the Power of Sin:** Paul discusses the sting of death and the power of sin, emphasizing that these have been overcome through Christ. This theological thought has influenced discussions on the victory of Christ and the hope of believers in the face of mortality.

**Motivation for Holy Living:** Paul concludes the chapter by encouraging believers to stand firm and abound in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labor is not in vain. This theological thought has influenced Christian ethics and the motivation for holy living based on the hope of resurrection and the reality of the victory of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, Paul provides a comprehensive and profound theological exploration of the resurrection, its centrality to the Christian faith, and its implications for believers. This chapter's teachings continue to shape Christian beliefs about the resurrection, eternal life, and the victory of Christ over sin and death.

## 1 Corinthians 16

### New International Version

#### The Collection for the Lord's People

16 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

#### Personal Requests

5 After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia. 6 Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. 7 For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. 8 But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

10 When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am. 11 No one, then, should treat him with contempt. Send him on his way in peace so that he may return to me. I am expecting him along with the brothers.

12 Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.

15 You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the Lord's people. I urge you, brothers and sisters, 16 to submit to such people and to everyone who joins in the work and labors at it. 17 I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. 18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

#### Final Greetings

19 The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla[a] greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. 20 All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.

22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord[b]!

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

24 My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.[c]

#### Footnotes

1 Corinthians 16:19 Greek Prisca, a variant of Priscilla

1 Corinthians 16:22 The Greek for Come, Lord reproduces an Aramaic expression (Marana tha) used by early Christians.

1 Corinthians 16:24 Some manuscripts do not have Amen.

#### Chapter 16 of 1 Corinthians:

In this final chapter of the book, the apostle Paul provides some practical instructions for the Corinthian church. He begins by discussing the collection that he is taking up for the poor saints in Jerusalem, and encourages the Corinthians to contribute generously to this cause.

Paul also discusses his travel plans, noting that he hopes to visit the Corinthians soon and stay with them for a while. He asks them to prepare for his visit, and encourages them to be on guard against false teachers and those who seek to cause division in the church.

Paul concludes the chapter by sending greetings to various individuals in the church, including Stephanas and his household, who were the first converts in Achaia, and Aquila and Priscilla, who had been his fellow workers in Christ.

Overall, Chapter 16 of 1 Corinthians provides some practical guidance for the Corinthian church. It emphasizes the importance of generosity, hospitality, and vigilance in the Christian life, and encourages believers to support one another and stay united in the face of various challenges and opposition.

here are some important verses from 1 Corinthians Chapter 16, along with brief explanations and corresponding verse numbers:

1. Verse 2: "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made." This verse instructs believers to give regularly and generously to support the work of the church.
2. Verse 13-14: "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." These verses encourage believers to be vigilant, steadfast, and loving in their Christian walk.
3. Verse 15: "You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the Lord's people. I urge you, brothers and sisters," This verse commends the faithful service of a particular family and encourages believers to follow their example.
4. Verse 19-20: "The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss." These verses demonstrate the interconnectedness of the early Christian community and encourage believers to greet one another warmly and affectionately.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 16, the Apostle Paul concludes his letter to the Corinthians with various practical instructions and greetings. While this chapter is more focused on practical matters, there are still theological thoughts and principles that can be discerned. Here are the key theological thoughts and influences from 1 Corinthians chapter 16:

**Regular Giving:** Paul instructs the Corinthians to set aside a portion of their income on the first day of the week for a collection to support the saints in Jerusalem. This reflects the theological principle of stewardship and the responsibility of believers to contribute to the material needs of fellow Christians.

**Corporate Worship:** Paul mentions that the Corinthians are to gather on the first day of the week to break bread, which is often understood as a reference to the regular practice of the Lord's Supper or Eucharist. This reflects the theological importance of corporate worship and the celebration of the sacraments within the Christian community.

**The Resurrection:** Although not explicitly stated in this chapter, the broader context of 1 Corinthians includes Paul's extensive teaching on the resurrection in chapter 15. The

theological influence of the resurrection as a central doctrine in the Christian faith continues to underpin the hope and identity of believers.

**Church Unity and Order:** Throughout his letter, Paul has emphasized the importance of unity, orderliness, and the building up of the Church. These theological principles of church unity and order are reflected in his closing exhortations and greetings in this chapter.

**Love and Encouragement:** Paul's words of encouragement and expressions of love for the Corinthians reflect the theological importance of love within the Christian community, as previously discussed in 1 Corinthians 13. Love remains a foundational principle in Christian relationships and ministry.

**Submission to Leaders:** Paul instructs the Corinthians to submit to the authority of Timothy, Apollos, and others who were co-workers in spreading the Gospel. This reflects the theological principle of submission to spiritual leaders within the Church.

**The Kingdom of God:** Paul mentions the phrase "the kingdom of God" in verse 19, which reflects the theological concept of God's reign and rule over the lives of believers and the anticipation of the fullness of His kingdom.

While 1 Corinthians chapter 16 is more focused on practical instructions and personal greetings, it is important to consider its theological context within the entire letter. The theological influence of 1 Corinthians as a whole has had a significant impact on the understanding of various aspects of Christian life and community, including stewardship, corporate worship, church unity, the importance of love, and submission to spiritual leaders.

Notes:

In the book of 1 Corinthians, there are several difficult questions raised that have been debated by scholars and theologians over the centuries. While some of these questions may not have a definitive answer, many have been discussed and explored in depth within the context of biblical scholarship and Christian theology. Here are some of the most challenging questions raised in 1 Corinthians:

1. What does Paul mean when he says that the "foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom" in 1 Corinthians 1:25?
2. What is the precise nature of the "spiritual gifts" that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12-14, and how should they be exercised in the church?
3. What is the meaning and significance of Paul's teaching on the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15?



4. How should Christians navigate the tension between their freedom in Christ and the need to honor cultural and social norms, as discussed in 1 Corinthians 8-10?
5. What is the proper role of women in the church, as discussed in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16?

These questions have been the subject of extensive study and debate among Christians and scholars throughout history, and while there may not be a definitive answer to each one, they continue to challenge and shape Christian thought and practice.