

V VERITAS CHURCH



FIRST CORINTHIANS

A church divided, now united

1 CORINTHIANS SERIES GUIDE
PART 2: CHAPTERS 11 - 16

WHY HAVE A SERIES GUIDE?

This guide has taken a lot of time, effort, and energy to produce. Why go to all of this effort? Our hope is that this guide will serve to deepen our study of 1 Corinthians in Community Groups, Discipleship Groups, and individually throughout the church.

FOR COMUNITY GROUPS

Community Groups (CGs) meet together during the week throughout Fayetteville and surrounding areas to live life together, discuss the bible and pray for each other. Because we are united around what scripture we are walking through, CGs will have the freedom to decide when and how they study that scripture together. Some CGs may choose to study a passage before it's preached while other CGs study it after.

What can be expected at a CG is :

- A time to catch up with each other, often over a meal
- A reading the selected passage from 1 Corinthians out loud
- Discussing selected questions on that passage (not all questions offered in the guide need to be discussed!)
- Prayer in smaller same gendered groups for each other, needs of the church and our city, and the world



FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Discipleship Groups (DGs) are groups of 2 or 3 people who meet together for more focused community and study. A DG can use this Guide as a means of structuring their time together. An example of this for an hour-long DG may be:

- A short opening prayer followed by reading the 1 Corinthians passage out loud
- 20 minutes of discussion questions
- 10-15 minutes of relationship building/accountability
- Closing prayer requests and prayer for each other

FOR PERSONAL USE

Along with the (daily) Veritas Bible Reading Plan, someone may choose to use this as a means of weekly bible study. Someone can do deeper study of the passage with a Study Bible or Cross-Reference Bible. Personal answers to the questions in the Guide can be written into a journal. Some people may choose to prepare for a CG or DG in this way!



1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul concluded his discussion on food offered to idols by telling us that whatever we do, we should do to the glory of God.

KEY THEMES

Paul talks about how men and women should speak and dress in the church gathering in a way that honors God's creation of them as male and female.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- What problem was Paul addressing here?
- Where does it seem like Paul's teaching is clearest? Where does it seem like his teaching is hardest to understand?
- This passage presumes males and females worshiping together (both praying and prophesying) , why would this be significant in light of Jewish or pagan regulations for worship?

DOCTRINE

- How are men and women created differently? Why is it good and important?
- Where do we see good news in this passage?



1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- What is the clearest way we can apply the principles of Paul's argument to the manner in which we gather as a church?
- What breaks from custom (v.16) in our church would bring dishonor (v.4-5) to us? What is the equivalent to head coverings in our cultural context?
- In your relationships with those of the opposite sex, how can you reflect the fact that men and women are different yet not independent of each other?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul began chapter 11 by talking about how we should act in corporate worship. Here he moves to how we take communion.

KEY THEMES

The Lord's Supper bears witness to what Jesus has done to unite us together as a church body, so we should not take it in a way that betrays that unity and privileges wealthier brothers and sisters over others.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- How does communion “proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes”?
- What does it mean to “eat the bread and the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner”?
- Paul harshly rebuked those who would show preferential treatment to some within the church. Who are you tempted to show preference toward?

DOCTRINE

- What is the significance of communion? Why should it be a regular part of our gathered worship?
- How does communion bring unity in the church?



1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- In what ways do we cheapen, or disregard communion? What does Paul say about those consequences (re-read v.29-30)?
- What might deepen and enrich our experience of communion? How could you implement such practices?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul has been discussing how we should interact in corporate worship, when we come together as a church. In chapters 12-14, he will talk about how we should use our spiritual gifts to build up the body.

KEY THEMES

All followers of Jesus have been given spiritual gifts that they should use to build up the body of Christ.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Begin by reading this passage in 3-4 different translations. What are some noticeable differences in the way this passage is translated? Are there any phrases that you find helpful or confusing?
- What words and phrases does Paul use to describe Spiritual Gifts?
- What words are repeated most often? Why do you think that is significant?

DOCTRINE

- Is Paul giving an exhaustive, complete list of Spiritual Gifts in this passage? Explain your reasoning, and use additional scripture to support your ideas.
- How many times does Paul mention the Holy Spirit as the source of these gifts? Why does he emphasize this point so much?



1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- How should this passage inform how we relate to Spiritual Gifts?
- What are some appropriate and encouraged spaces and guidelines for Spiritual Gifts? What are some inappropriate and out-of-line uses?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

We have each been given spiritual gifts to serve and build up the body of Jesus.

KEY THEMES

God has given us different roles, giftings, and opportunities in the body of Christ to serve one another, and all are needed and necessary. We are interdependent on one another.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- What message is Paul trying to convey with his body metaphor?
- After reading this passage in a few translations and looking for repeating words, how would you summarize it in your own words?
- What would you say is the tone of Paul's message to the Corinthians right now? How and why is this different from his tone from earlier parts of the letter (say Chapter 4)?

DOCTRINE

- What does unity in Christ mean? What does it NOT mean?
- How would you compare and contrast verses 15-26 with verses 27-31? Is Paul saying all gifts are equal or some are more important than others? Support your answer with scripture? (Note; if there is a hierarchy of gifts listed, position doesn't correlate to value.)



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- How can we discern what our Spiritual Giftings are? What heart posture should we have when seeking Spiritual Gifts?
- How can we serve the Lord and the church with our giftings in a humble and content way even while Paul says, 'Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.' (v 31)?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 13

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul has been telling us that we have each been given gifts to serve the church body.

KEY THEMES

Paul's famous chapter on love shows us how we should think about our spiritual gifts. God gave us gifts as a way to love others, and love is the highest good in the church.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 13

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Begin by reading this passage in 3-4 different translations. How would you paraphrase verses 1-3?
- What is Paul's definition of love? What is it? What does it not do?
- What message is Paul trying to convey in verses 8-13?

DOCTRINE

- How does Paul's definition of love differ from the world definition of love?
- In verses 1-3, Paul describes people who are incredibly gifted, capable, and even powerful, but lack love. What do people like this do to God's witness and the church? How can we be on guard within ourselves and our communities against prioritizing competency over character?



1 CORINTHIANS 13

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- If we encounter someone who is gifted but not acting in love, how should we respond to this?
- Paul's description of love is the ideal for how we should carry ourselves, and we will inevitably fail because we are human. How do we balance striving for this love and giving grace when we fall short?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-12

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul has talked about how our spiritual gifts should be used in a way that loves and serves others and seeks to build up the church.

KEY THEMES

The gifts of prophecy and tongues should be used to build up the church, not ourselves. If we are eager to see the Holy Spirit work among us, we should strive to excel in building up the church with our gifts.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-12

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- What does Paul say are the difference between speaking in tongues and speaking prophecy?
- After reading this passage, write down any unanswered questions you might have. Work through the questions in community together.
- Reread verses 1-5. What is the purpose of prophecy? What is the purpose of speaking in tongues?

DOCTRINE

- How does scripture define prophecy? What is it not? Why is it important to have a clear understanding of prophecy?
- What instruction does Paul give about speaking in tongues?



1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-12

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- What are some healthy ways to have conversations about the practice of speaking in tongues? What are some biblical, helpful resources you know to explore this topic?
- How can we respect fellow believers that have a differing view on the Spiritual Gifts than we may personally hold?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 14:13-25

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul introduced the gifts of prophecy and tongues and told us that they should be used to build up the church, not ourselves. If we are eager to see the Holy Spirit work among us, we should strive to excel in building up the church with our gifts.

KEY THEMES

Paul gives us instruction on how to use the gifts of prophecy and tongues, how we can build up the church through these gifts.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 14:13-25

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Begin by reading this passage in 3-4 different translations. Try reading both thought for thought translations (NLT, MSG) and word for word translations (NASB, ESV, etc.). After this exercise, how would you summarize the passage?
- What reasons does Paul give for the importance of interpretation of tongue and speaking in understandable words?
- After reading this passage, write down any unanswered questions you might have. Work through the questions in community together.

DOCTRINE

- What explicit guidelines are given in this passage related to the Sunday Gathering? What reasoning does Paul give?
- Read Isaiah 28:1-15. What does this passage (referenced by Paul) tell us about people misusing Spiritual Gifts?



1 CORINTHIANS 14:13-25

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- What guidance does Paul give related to praying in the Spirit and using our minds together (v 13-17)
- The Message (a commentary/personal translation of Eugene Peterson) of v 13-17 says, “So, when you pray in your private prayer language, don’t hoard the experience for yourself. Pray for the insight and ability to bring others into that intimacy. If I pray in tongues, my spirit prays but my mind lies fallow, and all that intelligence is wasted. So what’s the solution? The answer is simple enough. Do both. I should be spiritually free and expressive as I pray, but I should also be thoughtful and mindful as I pray. I should sing with my spirit, and sing with my mind.” What does this look like in daily practice?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-40

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul has been giving instructions on prophecy and tongues. Now he is going to move to how we should order our worship gatherings so that the church would be built up.

KEY THEMES

Paul discusses how prophecies are supposed to be given during the worship gathering and evaluated.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-40

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- What does Paul want to make most clear in this section of chapter 14?
- What could be potentially confusing about this passage?
- What about Paul's teaching here could make some of us uncomfortable? Why?
- What does Paul explicitly prohibit in this passage? How does this accord with his teachings elsewhere in the New Testament?

DOCTRINE

- How does Paul's corrective teaching to Corinth establish authoritative practice for the church today?
- Why is clear leadership in the church a necessity? What should that look like?



1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-40

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- How should we place ourselves under the authority of the scripture even when it may make us uncomfortable?
- How could these verses be misused to over-prescribe restrictions on women (and their participation in the Sunday Gathering)?
- How can we joyfully celebrate the gifts of both men and women in the life of the church?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul has been talking about how we should love and serve one another in the church, here in chapter 15 he moves to the foundation of why we do that: the gospel.

KEY THEMES

The resurrection is the central fact and most important truth of all of history. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and raised from the dead in accordance with the Scriptures. This is a historical event, the risen Christ was seen by over 500 people at one time, and his resurrection completely changes lives.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- How does Paul outline the Gospel? What has Paul passed on as first importance?
- What specific details does Paul offer in this account of the Gospel? Why do you think he does that?
- Why does Paul want to remind the Corinthians of the Gospel at this point?

DOCTRINE

- How does this passage relate to salvation?
- What can we learn about the relationship between grace by faith and the importance of works from v9-11?



1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- How comfortable are you with sharing the gospel? Why or why not? What can help us become more comfortable and bold with sharing the gospel?
- Share a recent experience of when you were reminded of the gospel and its impact on all areas of your life.

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-34

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul gave us the explicit and simple gospel, Christ died for our sins, was buried, and raised from the dead in accordance with the scriptures. He expands on that here by talking about the implications of the resurrection of Jesus.

KEY THEMES

We are a people of the resurrection. If Christ is not raised from the dead, nothing else matters. If Christ is raised from the dead, everything we do matters.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-34

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Begin by reading this passage in 3-4 different translations. What are two or three of Paul's main points related to resurrection from the dead?
- Reread verses 20-28, how would you paraphrase this section, particularly verses 24-28.
- What questions do you still have about this passage? Write them down and work through them in community.

DOCTRINE

- Why is an actual resurrection such an important point for our faith? What does Paul mean when he says, 'And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.' (v17-19)?
- What do verses 21-28 tell us about Christ's reign as a human being?



1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-34

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- If you have ever grappled with wondering and worrying about the reality of resurrection after death, how did you process these things in a healthy way?
- How can we support someone who is grappling with resurrection? How can we lovingly challenge someone who denies it?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul challenged us to live like the resurrection of Jesus is true. Here he begins to talk about our resurrection.

KEY THEMES

Because Jesus is risen from the dead, we will rise from the dead in Him as well and be transformed. Therefore, we should not lose heart, but continue trusting and serving the Lord.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- How does Paul compare and contrast our earthly bodies to our heavenly bodies? What are some of the descriptions and metaphors he uses?
- Reread this text in multiple translations. How would you paraphrase verses 50-55 in your own words?
- What questions do you still have about this passage? Write them down and work through them in community.

DOCTRINE

- What important truths does this passage give us related to Christ's power over death and sin?
- Reread verses 35-44 and compare them to John 12:23-33. How and why does Paul play off of and continue Jesus' metaphor of a seed dying and being reborn?



1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- How should this text affect the way we live our life today? How should this text affect the way we see and feel about death?
- How does this text put into perspective our view of our earthly bodies? How do you feel about your body and what it can do for you now in light of waiting for our spiritual bodies?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.



1 CORINTHIANS 16

Read the text aloud

QUICK REVIEW

Paul challenged us to not lose heart in light of the resurrection and continue serving Jesus.

KEY THEMES

Paul wraps up the book of 1 Corinthians by giving us a picture of partnership in the local church together.

STUDY

Spend a few moments by yourself taking a closer look while re-reading the passage. Look for keywords, phrases, repetition, and transitional words. Consider how you might explain the passage using your own words.



1 CORINTHIANS 16

Discussion Questions

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- What are some of the main points within this passage?
- What instructions does Paul give concerning the collection for the saints? Why do you think he gives this instruction?
- What are some of the things you notice about the relationships references in this passage? Does any of it feel relevant today? Why or why not?

DOCTRINE

- Why is the collection of donations for other churches an important practice, even in the early church?
- Verses 13-14 says, 'Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.' How does this concise statement reflect some of the larger messages instructed throughout the whole letter of Corinthians?



1 CORINTHIANS 16

Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- As we end our series in 1 Corinthians, take some time to look back on the whole book and reflect. What are some of your main takeaways?
- Who are some fellow believers that you're no longer in weekly community with that you can greet and encourage in the faith?

PRAYER

Pray to close your time of discussion and study. If you are studying with another person or group, ask them for any specific ways you can pray.





V VERITAS CHURCH
VOLUME 2