

Questions in Review of 1 & 2 Corinthians **(centered around three major issues and themes)**

ISSUES FOR *THE CHURCH*

MISSION: 2 Cor. 8, 9 While continually addressing the problems of the Corinthian Christians, Paul is at the same time encouraging them to look beyond themselves. The collection for the distressed believers in Jerusalem is an example of this.

Q. How does your life evidence this verse? “He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.”

BAPTISM: 1 Cor. 10:1–13 Some Corinthian Christians were under the assumption that once they received Water Baptism they were guaranteed salvation no matter how they might live their lives after that experience.

Q. How does the example of the behavior of some of the ancient Israelites challenge this assumption?

Q. Do you agree or disagree with their assumption?

THE LORD’S SUPPER: 1 Cor. 11:17–34 Paul states in v. 20, “It is not the Lord’s Supper that you eat.”

Q. What attitudes and practices constitute the true eating of the Lord’s Supper?

LIFE TOGETHER: 1 Cor. 3:1–23; 12:1–31; 14:2 Paul teaches that in many different ways we encourage and build up one another as we live together in Christian fellowship.

Q. How would you describe how you are an encouragement to others?

LOVE: 1 Cor. 13 Sandwiched in between a discussion of spiritual gifts and prophecy in worship, Paul says, “. . . But have not love.”

Q. Why do the paragraphs on love occur here?

Q. Is love an alternative to gifts?

Q. Would you say that what you presently do is out of love for God? For others? For self?

WORSHIP: 1 Cor. 14:26–33 In his discussion of public worship, Paul states that, “When you come together, everyone has . . .”

Q. How is it that the fluid and dynamic nature of Early Church worship has become so scripted as it is today?

PROPHECY: 1 Cor. 14 Paul encourages us to “eagerly desire the gift of prophecy.”

Q. What is the gift of prophecy?

Q. Of what profit is it?

Q. Who presently speaks correction and/or encouragement and guidance into your life?

ISSUES FOR THE *INDIVIDUAL*

INTELLECT and MIND: 1 Cor. 1–4 Paul says that “the world through its wisdom does not know God”

Q. How does anyone come to know the one true God?

Q. Is God “anti-intellect”?

FREEDOM: 1 Cor. 6:12 Paul notes for us: “Everything is permissible for me — but not everything is beneficial.”

Q. What considerations in your life temper or give direction to your choices?

GIVING: 2 Cor. 8, 9 Verse 9 of chapter 8 reads, “You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” This was Paul’s basic motivation for financial giving.

Q. What motivates you to give?

Q. Do you substitute other forms of service for financial giving? How’s that working for you?

Q. How do you think that is working for God’s work?

SEX: 1 Cor. 6, 7 Paul asks the question: “Do you not know that your body is the temple of Holy Spirit?” The Corinthians (like many in our present culture) followed this sequential order: sex, engagement, and then perhaps marriage. Paul seems to argue for this order: friendship, engagement, marriage, and then sex.

Q. What for you is true faithfulness prior to and after marriage?

Q. What role does sex play in “oneness”?

SUFFERING: 2 Cor. 6:3–12; 11:16–12:8 One of Paul’s most striking statements is this: “For Christ’s sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Q. Do you find this boast of Paul’s counter-intuitive?

Q. Is there any profit/benefit in your suffering?

DEATH: 2 Cor. 15 Paul contends: “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins; and those who have died are lost.”

Q. How do you understand the nature of Christ’s resurrection?

Q. What comforts you when someone you love dies?

Q. Is there an intermediate state between one’s physical death and one’s bodily resurrection? (See 1 Cor.15:51; 2 Cor. 5:3; and 1 Thess. 4:16.)

ISSUES OF *AUTHORITY*

LEADERS: 1 Cor. 1:10–17; 2 Cor. 13:9, 10 Throughout Paul’s communication with the Corinthians, there is the undertow of their rejection of his authority, resulting in a sense that Paul must always argue for his place as an authority in their lives.

- Q. How does Paul understand his role in the life of the Church?
- Q. Would you say that you submitted to Pastor authority? If so, in what way(s)?
- Q. What happens when a church doesn’t move in agreement with its authorities?

WOMEN: 1 Cor. 7; 11:1–16; 14:33–35 Paul’s fundamental attitude towards women (often misunderstood) is articulated in this statement: “Woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.”

- Q. How then do you understand this other statement: “The head of every man is Christ, and the head of every woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God”?
- Q. Also, how do you interpret 1 Cor. 14:33–35?

DISCIPLINE: 1 Cor. 5:1–13 and 2 Cor. 2:5–11 Immorality on the part of church members was to be judged and disciplined.

- Q. Are there other activities that might require discipline on the part of the church?
- Q. Are you comfortable with this issue of church discipline? What is to be our attitude and posture when it is necessary to exercise church discipline?