**The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians**

**1 Corinthians Chapter 1**

OPENING GREETING (1:1-9)  
Salutation

1Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ[[1]](#footnote-16916) by the will of God, and Sosthenes, our brother, 2to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who have been made holy in Christ Jesus, called ones, holy ones, with all those in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—theirs and ours: 3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Thanks and Encouragment

4I thank my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given to you in *union with* Christ Jesus, 5because in *union with* him you were enriched in everything, in all speech and all knowledge, 6(just as the testimony about the Christ was confirmed in you), 7so that you are not trailing behind *the others* in any gift, as you are eagerly awaiting the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

RESPONSE TO DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH (1:10-4:21)  
Divisions in the Church

10Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be made complete by *having* the same mind and by the same judgment. 11For I have been informed about you, my brothers and sisters, by Chloe’s followers, that there are quarrels among you. 12What I mean is this: that each one of you says, “I am of Paul,” “But I of Apollos,” “But I of Cephas,” “But I of Christ.” 13Has the Christ been divided up? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16(But I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other). 17For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to proclaim the good news—not with clever words, lest the cross of Christ should be emptied *of its power*.

Christ: The Power and Wisdom of God

18For 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. 19For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will bring to nothing.[[2]](#footnote-14873) 20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the expert in the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn’t God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God by its wisdom, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23but we preach Christ crucified, which is a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to the called ones (both Jews and Greeks), Christ is God’s power and God’s wisdom. 25Because the foolishness of God is wiser than human *wisdom*, and the weakness of God is stronger than human *strength*.

26For consider your calling, brothers and sisters, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many powerful, not many of noble birth, *are called*, 27but God chose the no-good things of the world to put to shame those who are wise, and God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, 28and the low-born things of the world, and the things that are treated with contempt—God has chosen *these*—and the things that are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29so that no flesh can boast in the presence of God. 30And it is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God—and righteousness, and holiness, and redemption, 31so that, as it is written, The one who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.[[3]](#footnote-28269)

**1 Corinthians Chapter 2**

Proclaiming Christ

1And I, brothers and sisters, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the sacred secret of God. 2For I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ,[[4]](#footnote-21969) and him crucified. 3And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of spirit and of power 5so that your trust should not stand in human wisdom, but in the power of God.

The Wisdom of God

6However, we do speak wisdom among those who are mature. But not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7But we speak God’s wisdom *that was kept* in a sacred secret, *and* that has been hidden, which God decided in advance before the ages for our glory, 8which none of the rulers of this age knew, for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9But as it is written, Things that no eye has seen, and no ear has heard, and *which* have not come up into the heart of man, God prepared those things for those who love him.[[5]](#footnote-22516) 10But God has revealed *them* to us through the spirit, for the spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11For who among people knows the *things* of a person, except the spirit of the person that is in him? Even so the *things* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God. 12Now we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit that is from God, so that we can know the things that were freely given to us by God. 13And we speak about these things, not in words that man’s wisdom teaches, but *words* that the spirit teaches, combining spiritual things with spiritual *words*. 14But the worldly-minded person does not receive the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15Now the spiritual person judges all things, but he himself is judged by no one. 16For who has come to know the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?[[6]](#footnote-23366) But we have the mind of Christ.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 3**

Immature and Worldly

1And I, brothers and sisters, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual people, but as to people living by the flesh,[[7]](#footnote-24827) as to babies in Christ.[[8]](#footnote-28255) 2I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able *to receive it*. No, even now you are not able, 3because you are still living by the flesh.[[9]](#footnote-27999) For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not living by the flesh,[[10]](#footnote-12557) and are you not walking like *unspiritual* people? 4For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not being *merely* human?

Building Upon Christ

5Who then is Apollos? And who is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, and each *serving* as the Lord gave to him. 6I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7So then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but *only* the one who is giving the increase—God! 8Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.

10According to the grace of God that was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But let each one be careful how he builds on it. 11For no one is able to lay a foundation other than *the one* that has already been laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12But if anyone builds on the foundation *using* gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, straw— 13each one’s work will become plainly seen, for the Day will make it clear, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire itself will test each one’s work, *and show* of what kind it is. 14If anyone’s work that he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but it will be like escaping through a fire. 16Do you not know that all of you *collectively* are God’s sanctuary, and *that* the spirit of God lives in you? 17If anyone harms the sanctuary of God, God will harm him, for the sanctuary of God is holy, which is what all of you *collectively* are.

Foolishness of Worldly Wisdom

18Let no one deceive himself. If anyone thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, so that he becomes wise. 19For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, *He is* the one catching the wise in their craftiness,[[11]](#footnote-10158) 20and again, The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are worthless.[[12]](#footnote-20503) 21So, let no one boast about human beings! For everything is yours— 22whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come—everything is yours, 23and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 4**

The Apostles: Servants and Managers

1People should regard us in this manner: as of ministers of Christ,[[13]](#footnote-21354) and stewards of the sacred secrets of God. 2Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3But with me, it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you, or by man’s day *of judgment*. In fact, I do not *even* judge myself. 4For I am not aware of anything against myself—but I am not declared righteous by that. The one who judges me is the Lord. 5So then, do not pass judgments before the proper time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and reveal the motives of *people’s* hearts, and then each one will have his praise from God.

The Example of the Apostles

6Now these things, brothers and sisters, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that you learn from us not *to go* beyond the things that are written, so that none of you get puffed up in favor of one *person* over against another. 7For who makes you to differ? And what do you have that you did not receive *as a gift*? But if you received it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

8Already you are filled! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And indeed, I wish that you *really* did reign, so that we also could reign with you. 9For I think God has put us, the apostles, on display last of all *in the procession*, as men doomed to death, for we are made a theatrical spectacle to the world, both to angels and people.[[14]](#footnote-26123) 10We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you have glory, but we have dishonor. 11Even to this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are naked, and are roughly treated, and have no home, 12and we labor, working with our own hands. When we are insulted, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; 13when we are defamed, we entreat. We are made as the filth of the world, the offscourings of all things, even until now.

Admonition to Follow Paul’s Example

14I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish[[15]](#footnote-22066) you as my beloved children. 15For though you have 10,000 guides in Christ, yet *you do* not *have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I fathered you through the good news. 16Therefore, I urge you, be imitators of me. 17For this reason I sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my ways in Christ, just as I teach *them* everywhere in every church. 18Now some are puffed up, as if I were not coming to you. 19But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. 20For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. 21What do you want? Should I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of meekness?

**1 Corinthians Chapter 5**

RESPONSE TO MORAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES (5:1-6:20)  
Sexual Immorality and Church Discipline

1It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even among the Gentiles—that one *of you* has his father’s wife. 2And you are puffed up! Should you not rather have mourned? Let him who has done this deed be removed from among you. 3For I truly, being absent in body but present in spirit, have already, just as if I were present, judged him who has done this thing. 4When you, and my spirit, are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5*you are* to hand over such a one to the Adversary for the destruction of the flesh, so that *his* spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord Jesus.

6Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*? 7Clean out the old leaven,[[16]](#footnote-11499) so that you can be a new lump, just as you *really* are unleavened. For indeed, Christ,[[17]](#footnote-26322) our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8So then, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people, 10not at all *meaning* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, since then you would have an obligation to go out of the world. 11But as it is, I am writing to you not to associate with anyone named *as* a brother or sister who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or verbally abusive, or a drunkard, or a swindler; with such *you are* not to eat. 12For what have I to do with judging those who are outside *the church*? Aren’t you *supposed* to judge those who are inside *the Church*? 13But those who are outside God judges. Remove the wicked *person* from among yourselves!

**1 Corinthians Chapter 6**

The Problem of Lawsuits

1Dare any of you, having a matter against his neighbor, go to court before the unrighteous, and not before the holy ones? 2Or do you not know that the holy ones will judge *and administer* the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you incompetent to judge the trivial cases? 3Do you not know that we will judge *and administer* angels? How much more, then, things that pertain to this life? 4If then you have to judge things pertaining to this life, do you set them to judge who have no standing in the church? 5I say *this* to move you to shame. What, is there not able to be *found* among you one wise person who will be able to decide between his brothers and sisters? 6But brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers! 7Actually, then, it is in general a loss for you that you have lawsuits among yourselves. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8But to the contrary, you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and that *to your* brothers and sisters!

9Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither *the* sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor passive homosexual partners, nor homosexuals, 10nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor the verbally abusive, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11And such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were made holy, but you were declared righteous in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,[[18]](#footnote-11656) and by the spirit of our God.

Christ’s Body and Sexual Immorality

12“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be mastered by anything. 13“Food for the belly and the belly for food,” but God will bring to nothing both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14And God raised the Lord, and will also raise us up through his power. 15Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? So should I take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Absolutely not! 16Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute is one body? For the two, it says, will become one flesh.[[19]](#footnote-26821) 17But whoever is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

18Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a person does is outside the body, but whoever commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the holy spirit that is in you, which you have from God, and you are not your own? 20For you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 7**

RESPONSE TO DISPUTED PRACTICES (7:1-11:1)  
Celibacy and Marriage

1Now concerning the things about which you wrote: it is good for a man not to touch[[20]](#footnote-32489) a woman. 2But, because there is so much sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3Let the husband fulfill his obligation to the wife, and likewise also the wife to the husband. 4The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*, and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. 5Do not deprive one another unless it is by mutual consent for a set time, so that you have leisure time for prayer and *then* come together again, so that the Adversary does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6Now I say this by way of concession, not by *God’s* command, 7for I would like everyone to be just as I myself. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

To the Unmarried and Widows

8Now I say to the unmarried and to the widows, *it is* good for them if they remain *single*, just as I am. 9But if they are not exercising self-control, let them marry, for it is better to marry than to burn *with desire*.

To the Married

10Now to the married I command, not I, but the Lord, that the wife not depart from her husband 11(but should she depart, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband not leave his wife.

12But to the rest I say (*I*, not the Lord), if any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she is content to live with him, let him not leave her. 13And the woman that has an unbelieving husband, and he is content to live with her, let her not leave her husband. 14For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of the brother. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. 15Yet if the unbelieving departs, let him depart, the brother or the sister is not bound in such *cases*, but God has called us in peace. 16For how do you know, O wife, if you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, if you will save your wife?

God’s Calling and Life’s Circumstances

17Only as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, so let him walk. Indeed, this is my rule in all the churches. 18Was any man called being circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Has any been called in uncircumcision? Let him not be circumcised. 19Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God *is everything*. 20Each one should remain in that calling in which he was called.

21Were you called *while* a slave? Do not be concerned about it. But if you are able also to become free, rather do *that*. 22For whoever *is* in *union with* the Lord, who was called *while* a slave, is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise whoever was called while free is Christ’s slave.[[21]](#footnote-15408) 23You were bought with a price. Do not become slaves of *other* people. 24Brothers and sisters, each person is to remain with God in whatever *condition* he was called.

To the Unmarried and Widows

25Now concerning virgins, I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who has received mercy from the Lord to be trustworthy. 26I consider, therefore, that this is good because of the present distress; that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28But if you marry, you have not sinned, and if a virgin marry, she has not sinned. Yet those *who do marry* will have trouble in the flesh, and I am trying to spare you.

29But this I say, brothers, the appointed time has grown short, so from now on those who have wives should be as if they had none; 30and those crying as not crying; and those rejoicing as not rejoicing; and those who buy *things*, as if they did not have them; 31and those who use the world, as not using it to the full, for the present form of this world is passing away.

32I want you to be free from anxieties. He who is unmarried is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he can please the Lord, 33but he who is married is anxious about the things of the world, how he can please his wife, 34and is divided. *So* also, the woman who is unmarried and the virgin are anxious for the things of the Lord, so that she can be holy both in body and in spirit, but she who is married is anxious about the things of the world, how she can please her husband. 35And this I say for your own profit, not to impose a restraint on you, but to promote that which is proper, and so you can be devoted to the Lord without distraction. 36But if any man thinks that he is acting improperly toward his virgin *daughter*, if she is past the bloom of her youth, and if need so requires, let him do what he will; he does not sin; let her marry. 37But he who stands steadfast in his heart (being under no obligation, but has control over his own will) and has decided in his heart to keep his own virgin *daughter* will do well. 38So then both he who gives his own virgin *daughter* in marriage does well; and he who does not give her in marriage will do better.

39A wife is bound for as long a time as her husband is living, but if the husband has fallen asleep, she is free to be married to whom she wants, *but* only *if he is* in the Lord. 40But, in my opinion, she is more blessed if she remain as she is, and I think that I also have *the* spirit of God.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 8**

Food Sacrificed to Idols

1Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2If anyone thinks that he has come to know something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3But if anyone loves God, that one is known by him.

4Therefore, concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that “no idol in the world *really* exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), 6yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we are for him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ,[[22]](#footnote-20985) through whom are all things, and we are through him.

7But not everyone has this knowledge. Some are still so accustomed to idols that they eat as if it were food offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8But food will not bring us close to God, *for* neither, if we do not eat are we left behind, nor if we eat, do we have an overflow of credit. 9But take care lest by any means this liberty of yours becomes a stumbling block to the weak. 10For if someone sees you who have knowledge reclining *to eat* in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be emboldened to eat things sacrificed to idols? 11And so by your knowledge, the one who is weak is ruined—this brother for whose sake Christ died. 12And when you sin against the brothers or sisters in this way, and when you wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13Therefore, if food causes my brother to fall away, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother or sister to fall away.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 9**

Paul Yields Apostolic Rights

1Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you, for the seal of my apostleship is you in the Lord.

3My defense to those who examine me is this: 4Don’t we have the right to eat and to drink? 5Don’t we have the right to lead about a wife who is a believer, as do the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? 6Or *is it* only I and Barnabas who have no right to refrain from working for a living?

7What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard, and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who shepherds a flock, and does not eat of the milk of the flock? 8Do I speak these things from a *purely* human perspective? Or doesn’t the law also say the same *thing*? 9For it is written in the Law of Moses, Do not muzzle the ox while it treads out the grain.[[23]](#footnote-12866) Is it *only* for the oxen that God is concerned? 10Rather, is it not altogether because of us that he says it? Surely for our sake it was written, because whoever plows ought to plow in hope, and whoever threshes *should thresh* in hope of partaking. 11If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it too much if we reap your material things? 12If others partake of *this* right over you, shouldn’t we even more so? Nevertheless we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we cause no hindrance to the good news of Christ.[[24]](#footnote-19784) 13Do you not know that the ones working for the Temple eat *of* the things of the Temple, *and* those who regularly attend to the altar have their portion with the altar? 14So also the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the good news should live from the good news.

15But I have used none of these things, and I am not writing these things so that something will be done for me, for *it would be* better for me rather to die than…. No one will take from me my grounds for boasting! 16For if I proclaim the good news, I have nothing to boast about, for an obligation has been placed upon me. Indeed, how terrible it will be for me if I do not proclaim the good news. 17For if I do this willingly, I have a reward, but if unwillingly, I *still* have an administration entrusted to me. 18What then is my reward? That when I proclaim the good news, I can offer the good news without charge, so as not to make full use of my right *to be supported* in *proclaiming* the good news.

19For though I was free, *a slave* to no one*,* I have made myself a slave to everyone so that I win even more. 20And to the Jews I became like a Jew, so that I win Jews. To those who are under the law, *I became* like one under the law (not being myself under the law), so that I win those who are under the law. 21To those who are without law, *I became* like one without law (not being without God’s law, but subject to the law of Christ), so that I win those who are without law. 22To the weak, I became weak, so that I win the weak. I have become all things to all *people*, so that by every *possible* way I save some. 23And I do all things for the good news’ sake, so that I can be a joint-participant of it.

24Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? So run in such a way that you attain it! 25And everyone who is competing *in the games* exercises self-control *in* all things. Now they *do it* to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. 26Therefore, I do not run like one *who runs* aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air, 27but I treat my body harshly and make it my slave, lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified *for the prize*.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 10**

Warning Against Idolatry from Israel’s Past

1For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.[[25]](#footnote-24292) 5Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the desert.

6Now these things became patterns for us, so that we will not lust after evil things, as they lusted. 7Do not be idolaters, as were some of them, as it is written, the People[[26]](#footnote-21115) sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.[[27]](#footnote-12412) 8We must not commit sexual immorality, as some of them committed, and 23,000 fell in one day. 9We must not tempt the Lord, as some of them tempted, and perished by the serpents. 10We must not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So then, let the one who thinks he stands watch out, lest he fall. 13No temptation has taken hold of you that is not common to humankind, but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted more than you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, so that you will be able to endure it.

Flee From Idolatry

14Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 15I am speaking *to you* as to sensible people. Judge what I say. 16The “cup of blessing” that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17Because there is one *loaf of* bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

18Consider Israel according to the flesh: aren’t those who eat the sacrifices participants with the *sacrificial* altar? 19What am I saying then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20But *I say* that the things that the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21You are not able to drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You are not able to partake of the *dinner* table of the Lord and the *dinner* table of demons. 22Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than he, are we?

Do What is Beneficial to the Glory of God

23“All things *are* lawful,” but not all things *are* beneficial. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build *people* up. 24No one should seek his own *good*, but the *good* of the other *person*.

25Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience’ sake, 26for the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.[[28]](#footnote-32041) 27If one of those who does not believe invites you *to a feast*, and you want to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience’ sake. 28But if anyone says to you, “This has been offered in a sacrifice *to idols*,” do not eat for the sake of the one who informed *you*, and for conscience’ sake. 29Now I say “conscience,” not *meaning* your own, but the other person’s, for why is my freedom subject to the judgment of another’s conscience? 30If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered for that for which I give thanks?

31Therefore, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God. 32Give no offense to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the church of God, 33just as I also please everyone in all things, not seeking my own benefit, but the *benefit* of the many *who do not believe*, so that they might be saved.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 11**

1Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.[[29]](#footnote-27973)[[30]](#footnote-22500)

INSTRUCTION ON PUBLIC WORSHIP (11:2-14:40)  
Concerning Head Coverings

2Now I praise you because you remember me in all things, and hold on firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered *them* to you. 3But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. 4Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. 5But every woman praying or prophesying with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for it is one and the same thing as if she were shaved. 6For if a woman is not covered, then she should cut off her hair. But if it is a shame to a woman to have her hair be cut or shaved off, let her be covered. 7For a man indeed has an obligation not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of the man. 8For the man did not come from the woman, but the woman from the man; 9for indeed, man was not created for the woman, but the woman for the man. 10This is why the woman has an obligation to have *a symbol of* authority on her head, because of the angels. 11Nevertheless in the Lord, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12For as the woman is from the man, so is the man also by the woman, but all things are from God.

13Judge among yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God uncovered? 14Doesn’t even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? 15But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, for her hair is given her for a covering. 16But if any man seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

The Lord’s Supper

17But in giving you this instruction, I do not praise you, because you meet *together*, but it results in more harm than good. 18For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you, and to some extent, I believe it. 19For there must be also factions among you, so that the “approved ones” among you become recognized. 20So when you assemble together, it is not the Lord’s Supper that you eat, 21for when you eat, each one goes ahead with his own supper first, and one is hungry, and another is drunk. 22What? Do you not have houses to eat and to drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God, and put to shame those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you in this? I praise you not.

23For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25In the same way, after supper, he also took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in remembrance of me.” 26For as often as you eat this bread, and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Examine Yourselves

27So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28But let a person examine himself, and only in this way let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29For anyone who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not discern the body. 30For this cause many among you are weak and sick, and many sleep *in death*. 31But if we were examining ourselves, we would not be being judged. 32But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord, so that we will not be condemned with the world. 33So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that when you meet together it will not result in judgment. And the remaining *matters* I will set in order when I come.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 12**

Concerning Spiritual Matters

1Now concerning spiritual *matters*, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. 2You know that when you were Gentiles, whenever you were being led to idols—those mute things—you were being led astray. 3Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking in *union with* the spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed,” and no one is able to say, “Jesus is Lord,” unless in *union with* the holy spirit.

4Now there are gifts being distributed *to people*, but it is the same spirit. 5And there are ministries being distributed *to people*, and *yet* it is the same Lord. 6And there are energizings being distributed *to people*, but it is the same God who energizes all *of them* in all people. 7Now to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good. 8For to one is given through the spirit a message of wisdom, and to another a message of knowledge by means of the same spirit, 9to a different one trust by the same spirit, and to another gifts of healings by the one spirit, 10and to another energizings of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to a different one *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11Now all these are energized by the one and the same Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as he purposes.

Diversity in Christ’s Body

12For as the body is one, and has many parts, and all the parts of the body, being many, are one body, so also is *the body of* Christ.[[31]](#footnote-15779) 13For we were all baptized in one spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slave or free, and were all made to drink of one spirit. 14For the body is not one part, but many. 15If the foot says, “Because I am not the hand, I am not *part* of the body,” that does not mean it is not *part* of the body. 16And if the ear says, “Because I am not the eye, I am not *part* of the body,” that does not mean it is not *part* of the body. 17If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would* the hearing be? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would* the smelling be? 18But now God has set the parts, each one of them, in the body, just where he wanted *them*. 19And if they were all the same part, where *would* the body be? 20But now there are many parts, but one body. 21And the eye is not able to say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are much more necessary, 23and those *parts* of the body we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unrespectable *parts* have more abundant respect, 24whereas our respectable *parts* have no need. But God has combined *the parts of* the body, giving more abundant honor to that *part* that lacked, 25so that there is no division in the body, but *that* the members have the same concern for one another. 26And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, or *if one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27Now you all are the body of Christ, and individually parts of it. 28And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, *various* kinds of tongues. 29Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all *workers of* miracles? 30Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And yet I now show you a more excellent way.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 13**

Love: The More Excellent Way

1If I speak with the tongues of men[[32]](#footnote-18500) and of angels but do not have love, I have become a sounding bronze, or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I prophesy, and know all the sacred secrets and all the knowledge, and if I have all trust so that I can move mountains, but I do not have love, I am nothing. 3And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I give my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4Love is patient, *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not brag, is not puffed up, 5does not act improperly, is not self-seeking, is not provoked, does not keep a record of wrongs, 6does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; 7bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8Love never ends, but where *there are* prophecies, they will be done away; where *there are* tongues, they will cease; where *there is* *a message of* knowledge, it will be done away. 9For we know *only* in part, and we prophesy *only* in part, 10but when the Completeness comes, that which is in part will be done away. 11When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought as a child, I reasoned as a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away childish things. 12For now we see in a mirror, darkly, but then face to face. Now I know *only* in part, but then I will know fully just as also I was fully known. 13But now these three remain: trust, hope, *and* love—but the greatest of these is love.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 14**

Prophecy and Speaking in Tongues

1Diligently pursue love, yet earnestly desire the things of the spirit, especially that you prophesy. 2For whoever speaks in a tongue does not speak to people, but to God, for no one understands, but by the spirit he speaks sacred secrets. 3But whoever prophesies speaks to people *for* building *them* up, and encouragement, and comfort. 4Whoever speaks in a tongue builds himself up, while the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5Now I want all of you to speak in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy, for greater is the one who prophesies than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church is built up.

6But now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you, unless I speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophecy, or by a teaching? 7Even lifeless things that produce a sound, whether flute or harp, if they do not give a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is being played or what is being harped? 8For indeed, if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for war? 9It is the same for you. Unless with *your* tongue you give a message that is easy to understand, how will it be known what is being said? For you will be speaking into the air. 10There are, undoubtedly, very many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is voiceless. 11But if I do not know the meaning of the voice, I will be a foreigner to the one who speaks, and the one who speaks will be a foreigner to me. 12So also you, since you are zealous for spirit*-empowered words*,[[33]](#footnote-28702) strive to abound *in them* with a view to the building up of the church. 13Therefore, let the one who speaks in a tongue pray so that he can interpret. 14For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15What, then, is *to be done*? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 16Otherwise, if you praise with the spirit, how will anyone who is unlearned say “Amen!” at your giving of thanks, seeing he does not know what you are saying? 17For indeed you are giving thanks very well, but the other is not being built up. 18I thank God; I speak in tongues more than you all. 19But in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding in order to instruct others, than 10,000 words in a tongue.

20Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking, yet with respect to evil be children, but in your thinking be mature. 21In the law it is written, By people with other tongues and by the lips of others I will speak to this people, and not even then will they listen to me,[[34]](#footnote-22693) says the Lord. 22So then, tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to the unbelieving, but prophecy is not *a sign* to the unbelieving, but to those who believe.

23Now, if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and unlearned ones or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are raving mad? 24But if everyone prophesies, and an unbelieving or unlearned one enter, he is convinced by all, he is called to account by all, 25the hidden things of his heart are revealed, and as a result he will fall facedown and worship God, declaring, “God is truly among you.”

Orderly Conduct in Church

26What is to be done, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation? Let all things be done for building *people* up. 27If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most three, and one at a time, and one must interpret! 28But if there is no one to interpret, let him keep silence in the church, and let him speak to himself and to God. 29And let the prophets speak *by* two or three, and let the others thoroughly examine *what was said*. 30But if something is revealed to another sitting by, let the first keep silent. 31For you are all able to prophesy one by one, so that all can learn, and all can be encouraged. 32And spirit*-empowered words*[[35]](#footnote-14835) *spoken* by prophets are subject to the prophets; 33for God is not *a God* of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the holy ones.

34[Let the women keep silence in the churches, for it is not permitted for them to speak, but they are to be in submission, as also says the law. 35And if they want to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is shameful for a woman to speak in the church.]

36What? Was it from you that the word of God went out? Or did it come to you alone? 37If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, he must fully realize that the things I write to you—that they are a commandment of the Lord. 38If anyone does not acknowledge this, he is not acknowledged. 39So then, my brothers and sisters, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid *anyone* to speak in tongues. 40But let all things be done decently and in an orderly way.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 15**

THE RESURRECTION (15:1-58)  
Christ’s Resurrection and the Good News

1Now brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2and by which you are being saved if you hold on firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you believed it in vain. 3For I delivered to you as of first importance that which also I received: that Christ[[36]](#footnote-11690) died for our sins according to the scriptures, 4and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. 6Then he appeared to more than 500 brothers and sisters at once (most of whom remain *alive* until now, but some have fallen asleep), 7then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8and last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared to me also. 9For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I labored even more than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11Whether then *it was* I or they, so we preach, and so you believed.

Christ’s Resurrection and Our Trust

12Now if Christ is being preached that he has been raised from among the dead, why are some among you saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised, 14and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, *and* your trust is also in vain. 15Indeed, we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified in contradiction to God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, then even Christ has not been raised. 17And if Christ has not been raised, your trust is pointless; you are still in your sins. 18Then also, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19*And also*, if in this life we have only put our hope in Christ, we are of all people to be pitied the most.

Christ’s Resurrection as the Firstfruits

20But in fact, Christ has been raised from among the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since death *came* by a man, the resurrection of the dead also *came* by a man. 22For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then those who are Christ’s, at his coming. 24Then *comes* the end, when he delivers the kingdom to *his* God and Father, after he brings to an end every ruler and every authority and power. 25For it is necessary for him to reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26*The* last enemy *that will be* brought to an end *is* death. 27For He has put all things in subjection under his feet.[[37]](#footnote-15950) But when it says, “all things” have been put in subjection, it is clear that the One who subjected all things to him is not included. 28And when all things have been put in subjection to him, then the Son will subject himself to Him who put all things in subjection to him, so that God is all in all.

Additional Support for Christ’s Resurrection

29Otherwise, what will those do who are being baptized for the sake of those who are dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? 30Why are we in danger every hour? 31I die every day! I swear this, brothers and sisters, by your reason to boast, that is, Christ Jesus our Lord. 32If for *merely* human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me if the dead are not raised? Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.[[38]](#footnote-19936)

33Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” 34Start thinking clearly, as is right, and stop sinning, for some have no knowledge of God. I say *this* to move you to shame.

The Nature of Resurrection

35But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?” 36You senseless one, that which you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37And that which you sow, you do not sow the body that will be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat, or of something else. 38But God gives it a body just as it pleased him, and to each of the seeds *he gives* a body of its own. 39All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of humans, and another flesh of animals, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. 40There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one *kind*, and the *glory* of the earthly is another. 41There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory. 42So it is with the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44It is sown a soul body, it is raised a spiritual body.

Since there is a soul body, there is also a spiritual one. 45So also it is written, the first man, Adam, became a living soul.[[39]](#footnote-20514) The last Adam *has* *become* a life-giving spirit. 46But the spiritual is not first, on the contrary, the soul *body* is; after that is the spiritual. 47The first man is of the earth, made of dust; the second man is of heaven. 48Like the *one* made of dust, so too are those who are of the dust; and like the heavenly *man*, so too *will be* the heavenly *ones*. 49And just as we have borne the image of the *man* made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly *man*.

Victory in Resurrection

50Now I say this, brothers and sisters: flesh and blood is not able to inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption. 51Look! I tell you a sacred secret: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed. 52In a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. 53For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54Now when this corruptible puts on incorruptibility, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the word that has been written will be brought to pass: Death has been swallowed up in victory.[[40]](#footnote-18428) 55O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?[[41]](#footnote-15339) 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin comes from the law, 57but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58So then, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**1 Corinthians Chapter 16**

FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION (16:1-24)  
The Collection for Believers in Jerusalem

1Now concerning the collection for the holy ones, as I gave orders to the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. 2On the first day of every week each one of you is to set something aside, storing up whatever he has prospered in, so that no collections are made when I come. 3And when I arrive, whomever you approve to carry your gracious gift to Jerusalem, I will send them with letters *of introduction*, 4and if it is right for me to go also, they will go with me.

Paul’s Travel Plans

5Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I intend to pass through Macedonia) 6and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter *there*, so that you can set me forward on my journey wherever I go. 7For I do not want to see you now *just* in passing. I hope to stay a while with you if the Lord permits. 8But I will stay at Ephesus until Pentecost, 9for a wide door, even an effective *work*, has opened to me, and there are many opposing *it*.

10Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he works the work of the Lord, as I also do. 11Therefore let no one treat him with contempt, but set him forward on his journey in peace so that he can come to me, for I expect him with the brothers.

12Now concerning our brother Apollos, I greatly exhorted him to come to you with the brothers, but it was not at all *his* will to come now, but he will come when he has an opportunity.

Final Exhortation

13Be watchful, stand firm in the faith,[[42]](#footnote-25959) be courageous,[[43]](#footnote-13217) be strong. 14Let everything that you do be done in love.

15Brothers and sisters, you know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have committed themselves to minister to the holy ones. Now I urge you 16to submit yourselves to people like them, and to every fellow worker and laborer. 17And I rejoice that Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus are here, because they provided what you were not able to; 18for they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore you must give recognition to people like them.

Farewell Greetings

19The churches of *the province of* Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you warmly in the Lord, along with the church that is in their house. 20All the brothers and sisters greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. 22If anyone is not a friend with the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord comes![[44]](#footnote-19031) 23The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ[[45]](#footnote-23197) be with you all. 24My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

1. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-16916)
2. From Isa. 29:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-14873)
3. From Jer. 9:24 [↑](#footnote-ref-28269)
4. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-21969)
5. From Isa. 64:4 [↑](#footnote-ref-22516)
6. From Isa. 40:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-23366)
7. Lit. “fleshly” [↑](#footnote-ref-24827)
8. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-28255)
9. Lit. “fleshly” [↑](#footnote-ref-27999)
10. Lit. “fleshly” [↑](#footnote-ref-12557)
11. From Job 5:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-10158)
12. From Ps. 94:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-20503)
13. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-21354)
14. Paul alludes to the Roman Triumphal Procession. After some wars, captives were marched through Rome and on to slavery or death. [↑](#footnote-ref-26123)
15. Or “counsel” [↑](#footnote-ref-22066)
16. Part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was removing all leaven, yeast, from the house (Exod. 12:15). [↑](#footnote-ref-11499)
17. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-26322)
18. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-11656)
19. From Gen. 2:24 [↑](#footnote-ref-26821)
20. Idiom for sexual touch and sexual intercourse. [↑](#footnote-ref-32489)
21. Lit. “a slave of the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-15408)
22. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-20985)
23. From Deut. 25:4 [↑](#footnote-ref-12866)
24. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-19784)
25. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-24292)
26. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-21115)
27. From Exod. 32:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-12412)
28. From Ps. 24:1 [↑](#footnote-ref-32041)
29. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-27973)
30. 1 Cor. 11:1 is actually the last verse of chapter ten. [↑](#footnote-ref-22500)
31. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-15779)
32. Or “people” [↑](#footnote-ref-18500)
33. Lit. “spirits,” referring to an utterance spoken by the power of holy spirit. [↑](#footnote-ref-28702)
34. From Isa. 28:11-12 [↑](#footnote-ref-22693)
35. Lit. “spirits,” referring to an utterance spoken by the power of holy spirit. [↑](#footnote-ref-14835)
36. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-11690)
37. From Ps. 8:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-15950)
38. From Isa. 22:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-19936)
39. From Gen. 2:7 [↑](#footnote-ref-20514)
40. From Isa. 25:8 [↑](#footnote-ref-18428)
41. From Hos. 13:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-15339)
42. “Faith” refers to the Christian Faith. [↑](#footnote-ref-25959)
43. Lit. “act like a man”; an idiom [↑](#footnote-ref-13217)
44. An Aramaic liturgical formula that was transliterated into Greek as marana tha. [↑](#footnote-ref-19031)
45. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-23197)