

1 CORINTHIANS REVIEW

1. God the Father.

- a. There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist (8:6). All things are from God (11:12). God is the owner of everything (10:26).
- b. He is the head of his Son, Christ Jesus (11:3), and he gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (15:57).
- c. God is a God of peace, not confusion (14:33), and so he has arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose (12:18).
- d. Amazingly, God knows us (8:3; 13:12) and takes a personal interest in us.
- e. One day he will be all in all (15:28).
- f. **Action step: Do you believe that God, not yourself, is the highest reality and the source of all things?**

2. The Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. There is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist (8:6). He is the power of God and the wisdom of God (1:24).
- b. Of first importance are the historical facts: (1) that Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures (15:3); (2) that he was buried (15:4); (3) that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (15:4); and (4) that he appeared to many (15:5-8). Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (15:20).
- c. Christ became to us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1:30), and so we are to boast in him (1:31).
- d. We are one spirit with him (6:17), and our physical bodies are members of him (6:15).
- e. He is foundation of the church (3:11). We are his servants (4:1; 7:22), and when he comes, he will judge our service (3:13-15; 4:4-5).
- f. Christ will reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet (15:25). He will destroy every rule, authority, and power opposed to God (15:24). Then he will deliver the kingdom to the Father (15:24).
- g. The name “Jesus” or “Yeshua” and the titles “Lord,” “Christ,” and “King” are to be on our lips constantly, as they were for Paul. Note how many times Paul mentions Christ in the first ten verses of the letter (1:1-10).
- h. **Action step: In what practical ways will you lift your thoughts more regularly to Christ?**

3. The Holy Spirit.

- a. The Spirit enables our salvation. No one can say the great confession, “Jesus is Lord,” except in the Holy Spirit (12:3).
- b. At moment we believed in Jesus, we were washed, sanctified, and justified by the Spirit of our God (6:11). In one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free (12:13).
- c. The Holy Spirit dwells in and among us (3:16). We, the church, are a temple of the Holy Spirit (3:16). But our individual physical bodies are as well (6:19).
- d. The Spirit searches the depths of God (2:10), and only the Spirit of God comprehends the thoughts of God (2:11). God has revealed what he has prepared for us through the Spirit (2:9-10). We have received the Spirit from God in order to understand the things freely given us by God (2:12). The apostles imparted the revelation in words taught by the Spirit (2:13). Put another way, the Spirit enables us to access the mind of Christ (2:16).
- e. The Spirit apportions and empowers our spiritual gifts (12:7-11).
- f. **Action step: What sinful behaviour do you need to stop immediately so that your physical body may be temple fit for the Holy Spirit?**

4. Scripture.

- a. The world cannot know God through its own autonomous, independent wisdom (1:21). In fact, God has made foolish the wisdom of this world (1:21). He will destroy the wisdom of the wise (1:19). The wisdom of this world is folly with God. He catches the wise in their craftiness (3:19). The present form of this world is passing away (7:31). The cross of Christ exposes the deficiency of human reason (rationalism) and human experience (empiricism)(1:22-23). So we must never boast in human ability. “Let no one boast in men.” (3:21).
- b. There is a wisdom, however, for the mature (2:6). This spiritual wisdom is “the mind of Christ” (2:16). It is a secret and hidden wisdom of God (2:7), a wisdom that the world cannot understand (2:8). We have access to this wisdom, this “inside information” through the Holy Spirit (2:10-12). So we are to endeavour to comprehend and understand this inside information (2:12). It is like a new radio frequency. When we are truly spiritual, when we are in fellowship with God, abiding in Christ, and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit, we can access this inside information (2:13). It’s like becoming an “all-access subscriber” on Spotify or on the website of the NZ Herald. This wisdom is unavailable to the natural man (2:14), and the fleshly Christian is temporarily shut out. He can’t remember his password, and his access has been suspended. But when we are truly spiritual and come to know and

- understand the mind of Christ, we are truly wise. In this way we evaluate things correctly and sit above all human judgment (2:15).
- c. And so we are to maintain the traditions as delivered by Jesus and the apostles (11:2), acknowledging that what Paul and the other apostles wrote is a command of Jesus himself (14:37). We are not to go beyond what is written and get puffed up with pride (4:6), and we are to be instructed by the negative examples we find in the Old Testament, like the sustained failures and resultant discipline of the Exodus generation (10:11).
 - d. **Action step: What do you need to do to regain access to your “mind of Christ” subscriber account? Once you’re let back in, how will you tune out other frequencies so you can tune in to the “mind of Christ” channel.**

5. Humanity.

- a. As Christians, we must agree with the biblical view of humanity, not the view of humanity predominant in our culture. Man is the image and glory of God (11:7). and woman is the glory of man (11:7). Woman was made from man and created for man (11:8-9). The husband is the head of the wife (11:3). But of course, men and women aren’t independent of one another (11:11). Man is born of woman (11:12). Husbands and wives compliment one another, but they are not interchangeable.
- b. **Action step: Do you agree with God that there is a real distinction between male and female, and will you choose to respect that distinction in your home life?**

6. Salvation.

- a. It is belief in the gospel message that saves us. This message was received by Paul and the apostles and delivered to us (15:3). This message is about one person, the Christ, who died for our sins according to the Scriptures (15:3) and who was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (15:4).
- b. Believing this simple message, our salvation becomes certain (1:4-9, 30). We were bought with a price (6:20; 7:23), and now we belong to Christ Jesus (3:23). We have been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (6:11). We received the gospel, we stand in it, and we are being saved by it (15:1-2).
- c. As a result, “all things” are ours: Paul, Apollos, Peter, the world, life, death, the present, the future (3:22). Incredibly, we will judge the world (6:2) and angels (6:3).
- d. We don’t deserve any of this, and we sure didn’t earn it. That’s why there is to be no boasting in the presence of God (1:29). God has chosen

the foolish, the weak, the low, and the despised to bring to nothing the wise, the powerful, the high, and the popular (1:28).

- e. **Action step: Is now the moment you would like to take that all-important step and believe in Jesus Christ and what he has done for you?**

7. The Christian Life.

- a. We are to be “spiritual” men and women, able to receive solid food (3:2), the mind of Christ (2:16), the wisdom for the mature (2:6). A spiritual person is one who enjoys continual fellowship with the Father, who habitually abides in Christ, and who regularly keeps in step with the Holy Spirit.
- b. As spiritual believers, we are to concern ourselves with the things of the Lord Jesus, how to please him (7:32), and how to be holy in body and spirit (7:34). Our devotion to our Lord Jesus is to be undivided (7:35). In our thinking we are to be mature (14:20).
- c. Moreover, we are to lead the life the Lord Jesus has assigned to us and to which God has called us (7:17). We are to remain with God in the condition in which we were called (7:24), doing all to his glory (1 Co 10:31).
- d. It can be difficult to imitate the Father (Eph 5:1) and Christ Jesus. After all, they are both God, and we obviously are not. But Paul helps us by saying, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ” (11:1). By observing Paul’s inner life and how he deals with individuals and churches, we learn what our inner life is to look like and how we are to deal with one another.
- e. For example, some think Christians are or ought to be pushovers, but Paul is no pushover. If you are a pushover, you are imitating neither Paul nor Christ. We are to be watchful, stand firm, act like men, and be strong (16:13).
- f. As spiritual believers, we are to work hard by the grace of God that is with us (15:10). We are to be steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the work of the Lord (15:58). We stand and run at the same time. We stand in God’s grace, and we run so as to win the gold medal (9:24-25).
- g. **Action step: What changes do you need to make to more regularly abide in Christ as a daily habit?**

8. Sin.

- a. We can stall in our advance to Christlikeness and spiritual maturity (3:1-3). As believers, we are no longer natural (2:14), but we can be “fleshly” or “carnal” (3:1) and behave just like the natural man (3:3). We are among those who will inherit the kingdom of God, so we absolutely must not act like those who will not (6:9-10).

- b. Pride was the Corinthians' biggest weakness. They were "puffed up" like marshmallows against one another (4:6) and were extremely self-focussed with a "live your best life now" mentality (4:8).
- c. Sin has consequences for both unbelievers and believers. We may be justified and saved from the penalty of sin, but that doesn't mean we are currently being saved from the power of sin. If we as believers desire evil, as did the Exodus generation, God will not be pleased and, figuratively speaking, could very well "overthrow us in the wilderness" (10:5). Specifically, we are not to engage in idolatry (10:7), sexual sin (10:8), putting Jesus to the test (10:9), or grumbling (10:10). We must take heed lest we fall (10:12).
- d. God won't let us be tempted beyond our ability. He will always provide the way of escape, that we may be able to endure the temptation (10:13).
- e. **Action step: In that area of sin that you tend to struggle with, what is the escape hatch God wants you to take?**

9. The Church.

- a. We, the church, are God's field, God's building (3:9), God's holy temple (3:16). We are the body of Christ and individually members of it (12:12, 27).
- b. That is why we must be careful about our materials and craftsmanship when building the church (3:10-14). We are to strive to excel in building up the church (14:12).
- c. The health of the church was vitally important to Paul, and it must be very be vitally important to us (1:2, 9).
- d. When it comes to our doctrine, our theology, we are to be united in the same mind and same judgment (1:10). There must be no divisions in the church (11:18).
- e. Good order and discipline is necessary in the church (7:35; 14:40). Respect for authority is also important. God has appointed apostles, prophets, and teachers to be first in the church (12:28). We are to be subject to every co-worker and labourer (16:16). Authority, order, and discipline are the trellis on which the vine of agape love grows.
- f. When it comes to how we treat one another, we are to pursue agape love (14:1), which builds up (8:1). Everything we do is to be done in agape love (16:14).
 - (1) One of the ways we love one another is in how we use our so-called "rights." We must not use our rights in a way that becomes a stumbling block to our weaker brothers and sisters (8:9). We are to seek the good of our neighbour, not our own good (10:24), and have the same care for one another (12:25).
- g. Our local church is to be connected to the global church, especially through financial giving to Christians in need (16:2).

h. Action step: How can you demonstrate agape love in our church in this next week?

i. The Lord's Supper.

- (1) The apostles passed down two ordinances for the church to practice, baptism and the Lord's supper or communion. *1 Corinthians* has a lot to say about the Lord's supper.
- (2) The cup of blessing is a participation in the blood of Christ, and the broken bread is a participation in the body of Christ (10:16). We partake of the one bread because, though many, we are one body (10:17). We are to eat the bread and drink the cup in remembrance of Jesus' death until he comes (11:26).
- (3) Given its importance and symbolism of the Lord's supper, we must not eat or drink it in an unworthy manner (11:27). We are to examine ourselves before we eat and drink (11:28). For we cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons (10:21).
- (4) Action step: Are you approaching the Lord's supper with fear and trembling, making sure you are in fellowship with God before you eat and drink?**

j. Spiritual gifts.

- (1) There are varieties of gifts, ministries, and effects (12:4-6).
- (2) We are to earnestly desire the gift of speaking to the church for its upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation (14:1, 3).

k. Action step: Are you carrying out the ministries the Spirit is directing you towards with courage, excellence, and perseverance?

l. Evangelism.

- (1) We are entrusted with a stewardship, and so we must preach the gospel (9:18). Woe to us if we do not preach the gospel (9:16)!
- (2) Our job is to speak the gospel clearly and confidently to a confused world (1:17-18). It isn't lofty speech or wisdom we need to use (2:1). Our message is simple—Jesus Christ and him crucified (2:2).
- (3) Like Paul, we are to endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Messiah (9:12). We are to give no unnecessary offense (10:32).
- (4) We are to make ourselves servants of all in order to win more (9:19). We are to become all things to all people in order to save some (9:22). We are to do all for the sake of the gospel (9:23), seeking the advantage of many, that they may be saved (10:33).
- (5) Those who proclaim the gospel are entitled to get their living by the gospel (9:14).

(6) Acton step: With whom does God what you to share the gospel of Christ this week?

10. The End Times.

- a. God has raised the Lord Jesus, and he will also raise us up (6:14). We will all be changed in a moment, at the last trumpet sound (15:51-52). We will be raised with an imperishable, glorious, powerful, spiritual body (15:42-44). We will bear the image of the man of heaven (15:49).
- b. Then Christ will reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet (15:25). Death will be swallowed up in victory (15:54).
- c. Then he will deliver the kingdom to the Father (15:24), and God will be all in all (15:28).
- d. **Action step: This week, meditate on the fact we absolutely will one day bear the image of the man of heaven, Jesus.**

Closing

The final moments of this message are dedicated to those of you who have not yet believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says that as an unbeliever you are separated from Christ, having no hope, and without God in the world. But now is your opportunity to believe in Jesus, begin a relationship with God, and have eternal life. In the privacy of your soul, simply tell God that you believe in his Son, the Lord Jesus Messiah, who paid for your sins on the cross and rose from the dead.

Jn 3:16 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Jn 20:31 31 These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Final Blessing

Eph 3:14-21 14 ...I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to

him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.