

12 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 2



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the importance of spiritual leadership in the church?
2. Who called Paul, and what was his function in v.1? **(Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes.)**
3. To whom does the church belong to according to v.2? **(To the church of God that is in Corinth.)**
4. What are believers called in v.2b? **(Those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.)**



Let's go deeper

5. What does believers receive from God in v.3? **(Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.)**
6. What does believers receive in v.5? **(In every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge.)**
7. What does v.8 promise believers? **(God will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.)**
8. What does v.9 tell us? **(God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.)**



Let's apply this

9. 1 Corinthians 1:9; God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The believers in Corinth stopped talking to Jesus, and telling others about Him and the result was divisions, fighting, and living in sin.

- Do you find it difficult to respect and submit to spiritual leadership?
- Do you find it hard to say no to sin, and yes to God?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you power to keep on speaking to Jesus and to tell others about Him.

SUMMARY:

1 Corinthians: Week 2 – A leader's perspective

Read: 1 Cor. 1:1 – 9

The church in Corinth struggled with divisions and in-house fighting and many of the believers lived in sin, and Paul addressed these issues and questions that believers had in his letter to the Corinthians. Paul grew up very religious (Galatians 1:13 – 14), and in Acts 9:3 – 9 Paul meets Jesus, and his life was radically changed.

v.1; Spiritual leadership. The problem was that the church did not listen to anyone. Paul starts by reminding the believers that he was called / chosen by the will of God, to be an apostle, Paul did not choose himself. It was God who called Paul and gave him the authority and function of an apostle (apostolos – ambassador of the Gospel, he that is sent). God sent Paul to start the church in Corinth. Paul continues that he is an apostle of Christ (Anointed One) Jesus, Jesus Christ anointed Paul to do the work of an apostle. Paul ends by saying that the brother Sosthenes was with him an example that spiritual leadership should be done in team and not in isolation.

From this verse we learn important principles about church leadership; God calls chooses leaders, (Numbers 27:15 – 17), God gives leaders authority to fulfil the call and function that God gave them, and that Jesus Christ anoints and empowers leaders with Holy Spirit for the task of leadership, and to represent Jesus Christ in His body, and church leadership should always be done in team and not in isolation. The qualifications for church leadership can be found in 1 Timothy 3:1 – 13, and what leaders do can be found in Hebrews 13:7 – 8; 17.

v.2; The church belongs to God. The problem was that the church was fighting, and Paul reminds the believers that the church belongs to God, and not to any individual or leader or group. As believers we should lay down our vision and plan for the church to take up God's plan and vision for His church. Paul mentions the universal church; "all those... who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." And the local church expression; "the church of God in Corinth," Corinth was a specific location.

v.3 – 9; Believers are called to be holy.

vv.1 – 3; We are sanctified set apart by God and for God. Born-again believers receive a new heart, Holy Spirit, mind and have new passions, desires, values and are called to live and behave different than unbelievers. Called to live for God.

vv.4 – 6; Believers are enriched (made wealthy) by God's grace. God's grace empowers believers to say no to sin, and yes to God. Use your gifts to glorify God.

vv.7 – 9; Believers should trust and depend on God's faithfulness. God will not give up on believers, He will keep them to end of time. Paul mentions Jesus Christ nine times in these verses, and for believers to live holy lives they should focus on Jesus.