

1 Corinthians study
Fall 2020
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**Week 6 study guide “Real Life”
1 Corinthians 15-16.**

Read through chapters 15-16. Underline verses that stand out. Jot down questions you have.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central, defining doctrine and claim of the Christian faith. What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to you?

Read John 11:25. What did Christ say about himself?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2. What do you learn about the Gospel from these verses?

Reflect on the aspects of the Gospel that Paul asked the Corinthians to recall by answering the following questions:

What is one of your earliest memories of believing in Jesus? If it seems you always have believed, share one of your earliest memories of hearing about, or praying to Jesus.

How was your faith in Christ brought stability to your life?

How is salvation not only a past experience but also a present reality? What is an example from your life that shows how you are currently being saved through God's power?

According to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, what source attested to the fact that Christ died, was buried, and then was raised?

Look up the following passages and write a statement for each to summarize how it refers to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection:

Psalms 16:8-11

Isaiah 53:3-10

Matthew 12:38-41

How has God used Scripture in your life recently to confirm truth or direct your thinking?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:5-11 and list below the people or groups that saw Jesus after his resurrection.

Of all these people, who stands out to you and why?

Verse 7 tells us that Jesus appeared to James, whom many scholars believe was the half-brother of Jesus. What do we learn about Jesus' brothers from John 7:5?

How do you think Paul's reminders of the many eyewitness accounts of the resurrected Christ were encouraging to the believers in Corinth?

Read John 20:24-29. Who doubted the resurrection of Jesus?

What proof did he want before he would accept the truth of the Resurrection?

How did Christ respond?

What doubts do you need to bring to Jesus today?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 and complete the phrases below:
If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has: (v 13, 17)

our preaching is (v 14)

your faith is (v 14, 17)

the apostles (v 15)

you are (v 17)

all who have died believing in Christ are (v 18)

Now write verse 19:

If someone asked you why the Resurrection is vital to the Christian faith, how would you answer?

How does hope in Christ for the next life give you encouragement in your daily struggles in this life?

What are some trials that have caused you to look forward to heaven?

Read Romans 8:18-25 and write two things that believers have to look forward to after death:

How do these verses from Romans encourage you in the midst of whatever difficulties you are facing?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-29. What Old Testament reference did Paul make in verses 20 and 25 to explain Christ's resurrection? (see Leviticus 23:10-11 if you aren't sure)

What person did Paul reference in verses 21-22 in relation to Christ?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-42. In verses 36-38, what illustration does Paul use? What insight does this give us about the resurrection?

In verses 39-40, what illustration does Paul use? What insight does this give us about the resurrection?

In verses 41-42, what illustration does Paul use? What insight does this give us about the resurrection?

Read 1 John 3:2. What two things do we have to look forward to when Christ appears?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:45-57. What kind of bodies cannot inherit the kingdom of God? (v. 50)

What secret does Paul share with the church at Corinth? (v. 51)

What is the sting that results in death? (v. 56)

Why can we give thanks? (v. 57)

Take a moment to reflect on loved ones you have lost who now are with Christ. Envision them at peace in Christ's presence. How envision them with the new spiritual bodies they will receive. Write a short prayer below thanking God that death is truly swallowed up in victory through Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. What does Paul say we are to be, do, and why? (answers might vary slightly based on translation.)

Be:

Do:

Because:

Everything we do matters. Nothing we do for the Lord is useless. We can work enthusiastically on both the smallest and the biggest of tasks. God doesn't waste anything. What have you been doing lately that seems to be a waste of your time, talents, or treasures?

Be encouraged that if you are doing it for God, it will be used for the glory of God! What seems like a waste to us might reap big results later.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4. Look specifically at verse 2 as you answer the following questions:

Who should participate in the offering?

How often should they put money aside?

In what amounts should each person give?

What changes in your current pattern of giving, if any, might God be calling you to make?

Here are some questions to ask yourself:

- Am I investing my personal finances in God's kingdom work?
- Am I practicing regular, planned giving or sporadic giving whenever I feel like it?
- Am I contributing in proportion to my income?
- How do I evaluate the organizations where I make consistent donations?

As we close our study, read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 and write Paul's 5 final instructions to the Corinthians:

How do these truths resonate in your life and relationships right now?

We come now to the final words of Paul’s letter. Read 1 Corinthians 16:23-24. Write them below.

The summary chart below was found in the study guide from Melissa Spoelstra’s study *First Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree*. It is a helpful way to encompass everything we have learned together.

Week of Study	Main Themes	Reflection Questions
1. “In Christ Alone” chapters 1-2	The letter opened with the Gospel and our identity in Christ. Seeing ourselves and one another as holy and loved by God sets the foundation we need for dealing with our disagreements.	Where do you find your identity? It’s so easy to seek worth in our careers, possessions, or the eyes of others. Remember that if you have called on the name of Christ, He has made you holy.

<p>2. “Growing Up” chapters 3-5</p>	<p>Like a good father, Paul wanted his children in the faith to grow. Their petty disagreements and spiritual pride were keeping them from building with materials that would last forever. Paul admonished them to stop judging one another and merely talking about spiritual things. He reminded them that the kingdom of God is living by God’s power.</p>	<p>Is your walk with Christ strong and growing? What does your spiritual diet look like? Are you talking about God but not experiencing the power to change? God wants us to grow continually in faith so that we can invest in others. How might soul junk food be hindering your ability to live by God’s power and store up treasure in heaven?</p>
<p>3. “Everybody’s Doing It” chapters 6-8</p>	<p>Sexual sin, idolatry, and lawsuits abounded in Corinthian culture. The church struggled not to be sucked into worldly thinking and excuse behaviors that were unbiblical.</p>	<p>How are you struggling to live in the world but not be of it? What influence does your surrounding culture have in your life? Just because “everybody’s doing it” doesn’t mean it is beneficial for your spiritual life.</p>
<p>4. “Beyond Ourselves” chapters 9-11</p>	<p>Paul called the believers to find common ground with others so that they might share the gospel. He said individual rights are secondary to winning souls for Christ. He encouraged the church to run spiritually just as athletes train physically with discipline and passion.</p>	<p>Where has selfishness isolated you from other believers? Where can you find common ground with others in order to share the Gospel? How can you run your spiritual race with greater discipline and purpose?</p>

<p>5. “Living Love” chapters 12-14</p>	<p>Love is the greatest. Paul defined the reality of God’s love- which stands for truth and treats others respectfully and patiently in the process. He called the Corinthian church to apply the principles of love in their conflict over spiritual gifts. He reminded them that the Holy Spirit gives each believer a spiritual gift.</p>	<p>What is the spiritual gift the Holy Spirit gave you? How are you loving others lately? Does it look like a picture of 1 Corinthians 13? It’s harder than it sounds on paper. How does realizing that we see an incomplete picture help you extend love to those with whom you disagree?</p>
<p>6. “Real Life” chapters 15-16</p>	<p>These physical bodies wont last forever. They will be resurrected to spiritual bodies. In light of that, Paul reminded that church that nothing they did for the Lord would ever be wasted. He called them to give generously, take opportunities, and invest in people. Everything is to be done with love.</p>	<p>How does your view of the next life bring perspective to your current decisions? What changes is God calling you to make in your giving and time management? Think of relationships God is calling you to invest in, and ask the Lord to help you do everything in love!</p>

Thank you so much for joining me in this study of 1 Corinthians. I hope that it helped you to grow in your understanding of God and of living out your faith. I hope it helped you to know how best to live love even when you disagree. Take care and I hope to see you soon!

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Don’t forget our final gathering for discussion! It will be in the commons of First Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening November 8th from 6:30-8:00pm. Wear your mask.