

To the Church in Corinth



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 10: June 11–17, 2016

Day 1

June 13



Pray | Confess and repent your sins. Ask God for his forgiveness.

A LOT OF times the idea behind Paul's letters was to have them read aloud by a church leader to a congregation. Imagine that you are that church leader. Think of what tone and inflection that you might place on various words and phrases. Read the first three verses of this chapter out loud.



Read | 1 Corinthians 12:1–3



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Keep in mind that the Corinthian church had only existed for a few years prior to the writing of this letter. Many of the Corinthians probably had never heard of Jesus before that point in time. Paul says that before they knew Christ, they were led “astray” by mute idols. What sort of self-reflection do you think these verses caused in them, and what about in you when you consider before you heard about Jesus?

As you consider the verses you read, if someone does, in fact, speak ill of Jesus such as saying, “He’s not who he says he was,” “He never existed,” or “If he was God’s son, why did he die how he did?” what do you think would be the source of such questions or comments?

If you are one who crossed the line of faith to put your trust in Jesus in the young adult stage or later stages of your life, what was your life like beforehand, and what was your attitude toward the idea of Jesus?

Day 2

June 14



Pray / Give God praise for the teachings of the apostle Paul.

AS YOU READ the verses for today, consider the importance of the first of the Ten Commandments: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3) and Jesus’ interpretation of “the great commandment”: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

In order for a church to operate, a small group to thrive, or a Bible study to be successful, different people are required to serve with different gifts, jobs or functions. The one thing everyone must adhere to are the two statements above, or nothing will work. If we are truly to obey the first and greatest commandments, we must stow away our personal pride. Accept the fact that different people have different gifts and serve different functions. Some may be more prestigious through our point of view, but that does not mean they are more important. What good would a pastor be with zero people listening to his message? What good would a ministry leader be with zero members?



Read / 1 Corinthians 12:4–11



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Paul makes it clear that any true spiritual gift is from God and only God. There was most likely jealousy among members of the Corinthian church in regard to one another in who had this or that ability, gift, or understanding. With that in mind, how do you react to those with different gifts than what God has given you?

Think of the gifts and talents that God has created in you and given you through the Holy Spirit, whether it be encouragement to others, ability to be empathetic, clear understanding of the Scriptures, the ability to speak well publically, teaching, and so on. How can you, have you, could you, or will you use these gifts and talents to enrich your relationship with Christ or that of others?

Have you ever helped others discover what gifts or talents they might possess in Christ? What were the results?

Day 3

June 15



Pray / Thank God for all that you have and all that you are.

THINK OF WHAT it means when someone uses the term “church body.” A church is extremely effective if its members do not stray from the teachings of the Bible, encourage their leaders, encourage others in their spiritual gifts and talents, and know that God loves *everyone*.



Read / 1 Corinthians 12:12–19



Reflect | Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Paul makes an important point about the body being made up of very different parts. Everyone is unique, and everyone is special in God's eyes. What "part" of the body do you most relate to and why?

Next time you are at a church service, try to count how many people are working (paid employees and volunteers) to make just that one service function. The amount of people you count probably will be many more than what you would expect. Then think of the people working behind the scenes that you don't see, such as the facilities manager, stage designers, cleaning crew, sound crew, lighting crew, and so on. Has today's reading had any effect on your attitude toward the role each individual plays to accomplish the goal of worshiping the Lord?

How can you apply today's reading to someone who might be seeking you out and asking about what their place might be in God's kingdom?

Day 4

June 16



Pray / Thank God for his grace.

GOD'S GRACE IS amazing far beyond our comprehension. Christianity itself or a church congregation have been used this week to attempt to gain an understanding of this epistle. Today let's turn our concentration to a viewpoint considering God's entire kingdom and eternity.

Try not to think about the "body parts" in today's reading as roles in the church you regularly attend. Think instead about Christians throughout the world as you read this passage. God will use everyone in some way to accomplish his mission.



Read / 1 Corinthians 12:21–26



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

God allows suffering to happen, evil people to exist, and tragedies to occur. Why do you think this is?

Consider that all of the universe is God's creation, and God made every living being. In the name of Christ, we are commanded to love everyone. How might this change your actions and attitude toward someone you might be, for example, holding a grudge against or feuding with, especially in light of verse 25?

Verse 26 says, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." The way Paul phrased this is interesting because he did not say if one is honored, all are honored, but that if one is honored, we all rejoice. Yet the suffering of one results in the suffering of all. Explain how this verse might play out in your life.

Day 5

June 17



Pray / Tell God you love him unconditionally.

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE in God's kingdom. God loves the megachurch pastor, the gardener, the homeless person, and the school teacher all the same. He confirmed this through putting Jesus Christ on a cross to suffer for *all* of humanity.

Through Jesus, God has given every person, no matter who they are, the opportunity to accept his grace and enter his eternal kingdom.

If you do not yet have relationship with Jesus Christ, reflect on why this might be the case. God loves you and wants you to be a part of his kingdom.



Read / 1 Corinthians 12:27–31



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

We can't possess every gift or ability mentioned in today's verses. However, some people may possess a gift they do not realize. Reflect on the list given in today's reading. Do you have a gift that you did not think you had before reading this week's verses?

How can you use 1 Corinthians 12 to help or counsel someone who might be stalled or discouraged in his or her walk with Christ?

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