

NT Reading Plan 2020

Living Hope Fellowship
1 Corinthians 8-16

Bad Reports

As you read the second half of this epistle, remember that Paul is responding to at least two communications from Corinth: **Chloe's Report** (1:11) regarding divisions in the church (1:10-4:21), sexual immorality (5:1-12; 6:12-20) and lawsuits between believers (6:1-11).

A Letter the Corinthians sent Paul with questions regarding marriage (7:1-40), food sacrificed to idols (8:1-10:33), head coverings (11:1-16), the Lord's table (11:17-34), spiritual gifts (12:1-14:40), and resurrection (15:1-58).

Food & Idols

Corinth was a pagan city with many temples to various idols. Cultic rituals in the worship of these false gods involved animal sacrifices which certain people within the church had real scruples with when it came to church BBQs.

1. What in the world does "knowledge" have to do with food sacrificed to idols? How does knowing that Paul is returning to prosecuting a persistent problem in the church: the arrogance of many members who think they are spiritually superior to other "weaker" believers help with interpretation? (Paul is likely quoting the Corinthians, "all of us possess knowledge" in 8:1 like he did in 7:1.)
2. Since Paul clearly comes back to food sacrificed to idols at the end of chapter 10, it is reasonable to explore chapters 9 and 10 in relation to that theme. However, the connections are not easily apparent. If Paul is making the point in chapter 8 of not exercising certain rights as believers if it threatens the gospel, how does that impact your understanding of Paul's personal anecdotes in chapter 9? Does chapter 9 make the same point as 8 from two different examples?

Head Coverings

This is one of the harder passages to interpret in 1 Corinthians (and there are plenty)! Suffice it to say for now, according to this passage:

3. Are there clear distinctions between men and women?
4. Is there a clear interdependence between men and women?

The Lord's Table

The church shows yet more signs of arrogance and immorality when it comes to this ordinance.

5. in 11:17-22, Paul identifies at least 4 problems going on in the church at the Lord's table, what are they?
6. In 11:30, Paul tells the church that God has responded to their abuse of this ordinance in what 3 ways?

Spiritual Gifts

In keeping with their immaturity, divisions, and arrogance, some factions of Corinthians have been elevating certain spiritual gifts in their church above others' gifts. Talk about a failure to discern the same source of each gift and the common purpose of each one for mutual edification.

7. According to 12:4-6, having what three same things (hint, hint) in common should cause every believer to grow in unity?

8. What two spiritual gifts does Paul spend the most amount of time elaborating on and correcting the misuses of? Are these common areas of dispute among Christians today? How does knowing the parameters for these gifts to be used help correct our own abuses of these gifts?

Resurrection

The longest chapter in the letter is devoted to the resurrection of Jesus Christ along with the implications of that reality for the church. This has much to say about its vital importance!

9. According to 15:1-5, the resurrection of Jesus is an essential part of the _____ along with Christ's death and appearance to eye witnesses, and is therefore of first importance.