



Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

Course Text:

First Corinthians

The Corinthians were a wild church. Paul writes to them to try to help them understand Christ more completely and to realize that the implications our relationship with Him should have on the way we act. Read First Corinthians and answer the questions on the following pages.

POWER OF THE CROSS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18 NIV

Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on the page 9. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the First Corinthians.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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Read First Corinthians Chapters 1 to 5 and answer these questions.

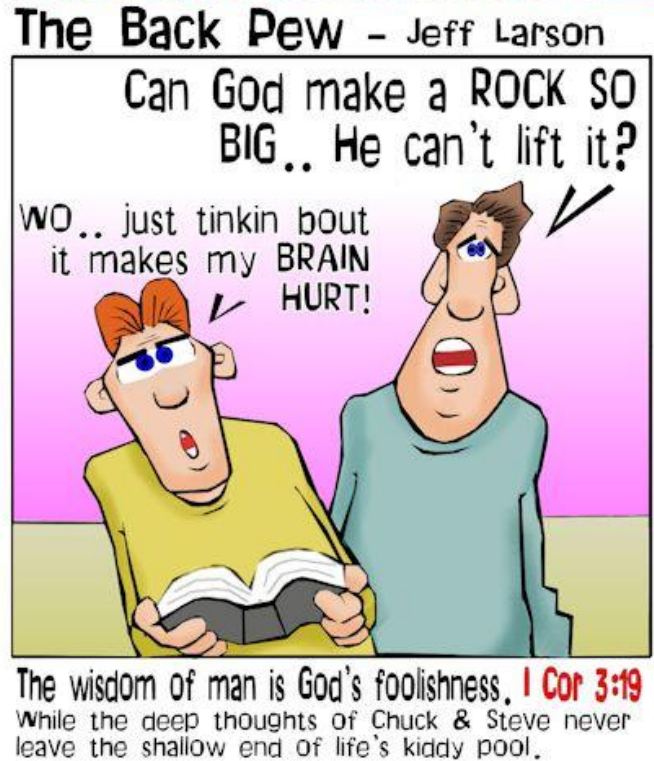
[1A] Who wrote 1st Corinthians?

[1B] To whom was this letter written?

[1C] What did Christ send Paul to do?

[1D] God is so much wiser than us that even His

_____ would
be wiser than the man's wisdom.



[2A] What did Paul decide to only know when he came to the Corinthians?

[2B] What does the Spirit search? _____

[3A] After Paul explains that he is God's fellow worker or co-worker, he calls us two things. What?

[3B] What foundation is laid that can not be replaced? _____

[3C] Who do we belong to? _____

[4A] Does a clear conscience mean you are innocent? _____

[4B] Paul says he is what for the sake of Christ? _____

[4C] The kingdom of God is not just talk or words. Instead, it is what? _____

[5A] Paul says there is someone in their church doing something so immoral that even non-believers do not do it. What?

[5B] Paul says that we can not avoid all sinful people because then we would be completely alone. 1Cor 5:9-10.

Who are we to avoid? _____

----- ANSWERS -----

First Corinthians Chapters 1 to 5

[1A] Who wrote 1st Corinthians? Paul & Sosthenes 1Cor 1:1

Most scholars believe Sosthenes was a scribe that was simply writing down what Paul said.

[1B] To whom was this letter written?

The Church of God at Corinth

To the sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints

To anyone anywhere who calls on the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 1Cor 1:2

[1C] What did Christ send Paul to do? Preach the Gospel 1Cor 1:17

[1D] God is so much wiser than us that even His foolishness would be wiser than the man's wisdom, if it were possible for Him to have such a thing as foolishness. 1Cor 1:25

[2A] What did Paul decide to only know when he came to the Corinthians? The Crucified Jesus Christ
1Cor 2:2

[2B] What does the Spirit search? Everything 1Cor 2:10

[3A] After Paul explains that he is God's fellow worker or co-worker, he calls us two things. What?
God's field or husbandry and God's building 1Cor 3:9

[3B] What foundation is laid that can not be replaced? Jesus Christ 1Cor 3:11

[3C] Who do we belong to? Jesus Christ 1Cor 3:23

[4A] Does a clear conscience mean you are innocent? No 1Cor 4:4

[4B] Paul says he is what for the sake of Christ? A fool 1Cor 4:10

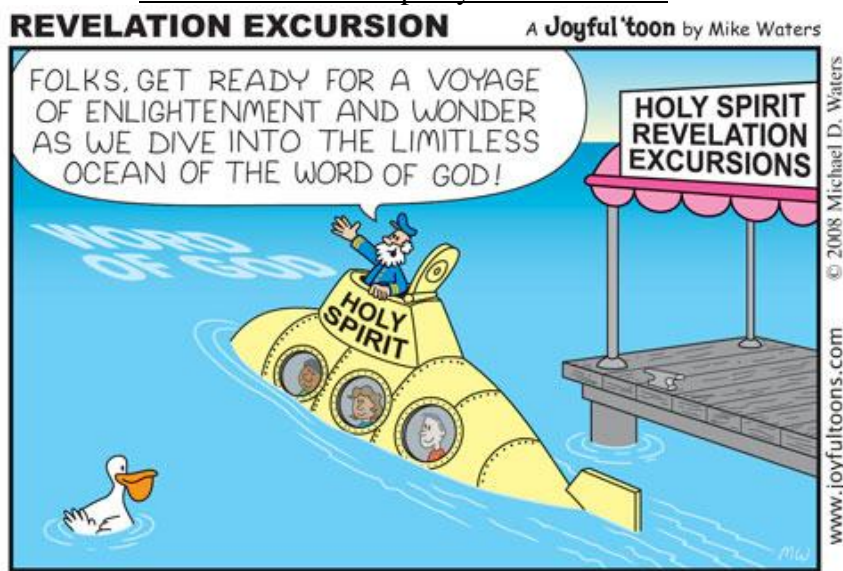
[4C] The kingdom of God is not just talk or words. Instead, it is what? Power 1Cor 4:20.

[5A] Paul says there is someone in their church doing something so immoral that even non-believers do not do it. What?

A man was living with his step-mother as man and wife 1Cor 5:1

[5B] Paul says that we can not avoid all sinful people because then we would be completely alone. 1Cor 5:9-10.

Who are we to avoid? Christians who sin openly without shame 1Cor 5:11-13



but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. - 1 CORINTHIANS 2:10 NIV

Read First Corinthians Chapters 6 to 10 and answer these questions.

[6A] Who will we judge? _____

[6B] Who will *not* inherit the Kingdom of God? _____

[6C] Our body is whose temple? _____

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Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, not a GARBAGE DISPOSAL! **1 Cor 6:19**

[7A] If you are married who has authority or power over your body? _____

[7B] When Paul says we should not become slaves what reason does he give?

[7C] When Paul says we should not seek or look for a wife is that God's command?

[7D] How long is a wife married to her husband? _____

[8A] God knows you if you do what? _____

[8B] To prevent a Christian brother from stumbling or sinning Paul was willing to do what? _____

[9A] Who is expected to eat the fruit of a vineyard? _____

[9B] True or False? Paul says it is right and proper for a preacher of the gospel to earn a living from preaching the gospel. _____

[9C] True or False? Paul says he makes his living from preaching the gospel. _____

[10A] Why were the things that happened to the Israelites, written in Exodus?

[10B] What are we to flee? _____

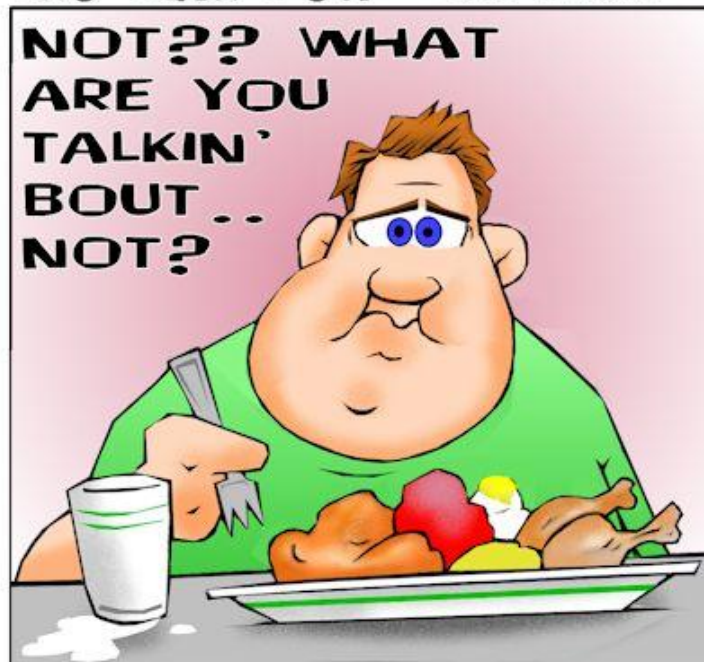
[10C] Whose good or well being are we supposed to be looking out for? _____

----- ANSWERS -----

First Corinthians Chapters 6 to 10

- [6A] Who will we judge? Angels 1Cor 6:3
- [6B] Who will *not* inherit the Kingdom of God? The unrighteous, wicked, or unjust 1Cor 6:9
- [6C] Our body is whose temple? The Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit 1Cor 6:19
- [7A] If you are married who has authority or power over your body? Your spouse 1Cor 7:4
- [7B] When Paul says we should not become slaves what reason does he give? We were bought at a price. 1Cor 7:23
- [7C] When Paul says we should not seek or look for a wife is that God's command for us?
No. 1Cor 7:25-27 He says it is his opinion and links it to the circumstances at the time.
- [7D] How long is a wife married to her husband? As long as they are both alive. 1Cor 7:39
- [8A] God knows you if you do what? Love God 1Cor 8:3
- [8B] To prevent a Christian brother from stumbling or sinning Paul was willing to do what? Never eat meat again. 1Cor 8:13
- [9A] Who is expected to eat the fruit of a vineyard? The one who plants it. 1Cor 9:7
- [9B] True or False? Paul says it is right and proper for a preacher of the gospel to earn a living from preaching the gospel.
True 1Cor 9:14
- [9C] True or False? Paul says he makes his living from preaching the gospel. False 1Cor 9:15-18
- [10A] Why were the things that happened to the Israelites, written in Exodus?
As examples to keep us for doing the same sinful things they did. 1Cor 9:6
- [10B] What are we to flee? Idolatry 1Cor 10:14
- [10C] Whose good or well being are we supposed to be looking out for? Our neighbor's 1Cor 10:24

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Food will NOT bring you closer to God. **1 Cor 8:8**
Eloy was stunned to learn after all these years and meals the little but powerful word.. 'not'.

Read First Corinthians Chapters 11 to 16 and answer these questions.

[11A] Would Paul have us imitate or follow him, or Jesus Christ?

[11B] What was Jesus talking about when He said, "This is my body?" _____

[11C] What was Jesus talking about when He said, "This is my blood?" _____

[12A] There are many spiritual gifts. How many spirits? _____

[12B] Who decides who gets which spiritual gifts. _____

[12C] Are we supposed to desire or covet the best gifts for ourselves? _____

[13A] If you have enough faith to remove mountains, but no love, what are you? _____

[13B] What does love rejoice in? _____

[13C] How long will love last? _____

[13D] Of faith, hope, and love, which is greatest? _____

[14A] Why is prophecy better than speaking in tongues?

[14B] Did Paul speak in tongues? _____

[14C] What must be done decently and orderly? _____

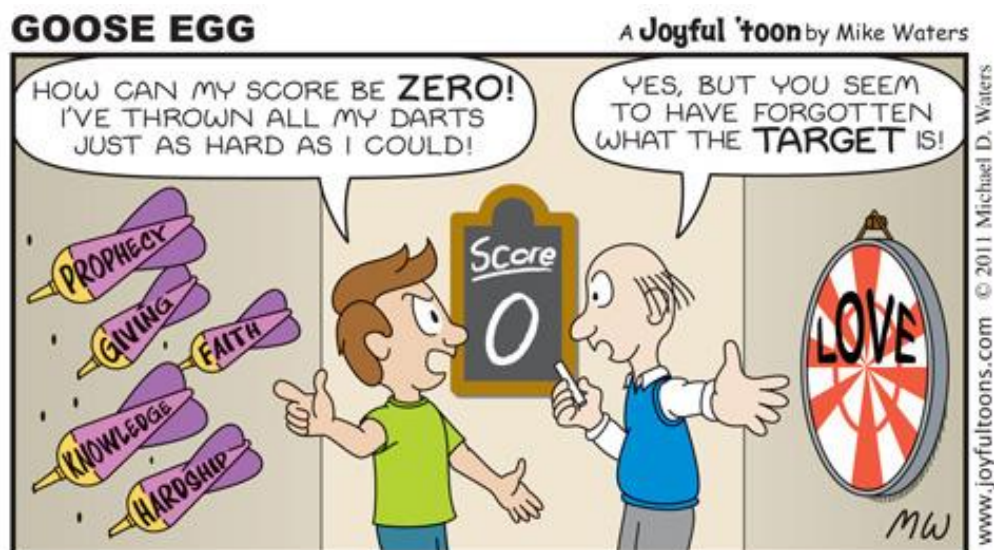
[15A] How large was the crowd to whom the resurrected Jesus appeared? _____

[15B] If Christ was not resurrected what are we still in? _____

[15C] What is the last enemy to be destroyed or abolished? _____

[16A] Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? _____

[16B] Everything we do should be done in what? _____



If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. — 1 CORINTHIANS 13:2-3 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

First Corinthians Chapters 11 to 16

[11A] Would Paul have us imitate or follow him, or Jesus Christ?

Paul wants us imitate and follow Jesus Christ just as he imitates and follows Him. 1Cor 11:1

[11B] What was Jesus talking about when He said, "This is my body?" bread 1Cor 11:24

[11C] What was Jesus talking about when He said, "This is my blood?" cup 1Cor 11:25

The practice described in verses 1 Cor 11:23 -34 is carried on by almost all Christian churches. It goes by many different names, such as Blessed Sacrament, Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, Blessing, Breaking of Bread, Breaking of the Bread, Communion, Eucharist (Greek for "Thanksgiving", Holy Communion, Holy Mysteries, Holy of Holies, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Lord's Body, Lord's Supper, Love-Feast, Memorial of the Passion, Table of the Lord, The Sacrament, The Remembrance and many others. I do not think the name is very important or the Bible would have given it one.

[12A] There are many spiritual gifts. How many spirits? One 1Cor 12:4-6

[12B] Who decides who gets which spiritual gifts. Holy Spirit 1Cor 12:11

[12C] Are we supposed to desire or covet the best gifts for ourselves? Yes 1Cor 12:31

[13A] If you have enough faith to remove mountains, but no love, what are you? Nothing 1Cor 13:2

[13B] What does love rejoice in? The truth 1Cor 13:6

[13C] How long will love last? Forever 1Cor 13:8

[13D] Of faith, hope, and love, which is greatest? Love or Charity 1Cor 13:13

[14A] Why is prophecy better than speaking in tongues?

Prophecy can be understood and helps everyone, tongues do not. 1Cor 14:1-5

[14B] Did Paul speak in tongues? Yes 1Cor 14:18

[14C] What must be done decently and orderly? All things 1Cor 14:40

[15A] How large was the crowd to whom the resurrected Jesus appeared? Over 500 1Cor 15:6

[15B] If Christ was not resurrected what are we still in? Our sins 1Cor 15:17

[15C] What is the last enemy to be destroyed or abolished? Death 1Cor 15:26

[16A] Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? Ephesus 1Cor 16:8

[16B] Everything we do should be done in what? Love 1Cor 16:14



Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor 11:1

(1) In 1st Corinthians chapter 3 Paul says his readers are infants or babies. What does he mean?

Think & Pray _____

(2) What do you think 1st Corinthians 6:12 means?

Think & Pray _____

(3) How would you explain 1st Corinthians 7:22?

Think & Pray _____

(4) What do you think 1st Corinthians 11:2-16 is saying? How does this apply to us today?

Think & Pray _____

(5) How would you describe 1st Corinthians to someone who has not read it?

Think & Pray _____

(6) What did you learn while reading 1st Corinthians that you might apply to your own life?

Think & Pray _____

(7) What questions do you have from 1st Corinthians?

Think & Pray _____

(Question 1) **Baby or Adult:** It is a physical picture of what is going on in the spiritual realm. Paul's readers are like infants, in that they need to grow into Christ. Everything is new to them spiritually. They need to grow spiritually to know what is wrong or right. As infants in Christ, we are still living the fleshly life and have not turned our lives over to God yet. Some at Corinth were like babies because they were new to the faith. They had a lot to learn from God's Word and a lot of room to grow in faith. Paul was also talking to those who were still spiritually immature and shouldn't have been by now. They were still baby Christians needing to be fed milk, when by now they should have been mature Christians able to digest solid food. That was evident in the factions among their members as people took sides following various pastors.

(2) **Liberty or License:** We have to consider what is helpful not just what is lawful. If we continue to choose sinful acts, we let sin be our master. Things of the world are lawful to Paul; money, material things, etc.; but he doesn't need it. He doesn't let money, material things or the flesh control him. These things, if not controlled, are what causes sinning that destroys our effectiveness for Christ. We have great "Liberty" in Christ (Gal. 5:1); but liberty is not co-equal with "License". God gives no man license to sin!

(3) **Slave or Free:** I think verse 22 is now discussing the fact that Christ frees us from sin so that we can serve him. Many people struggle with this every day. The solution is to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (II Pet. 3:18); for this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (I John 5:4). Since we have to serve someone or something, it is better to serve God, isn't it? Before we are saved, we are in bondage to slaves to sin. After we are saved, we are servants of Jesus. We can be free in Christ even when I am locked in a cell. No jailer, warden, or guard can rob me of the freedom I have in Jesus.

(4) **Hair or Hat:** This passage deals with public worship. There is dissention or maybe lack of knowledge concerning different worship practices in the church. Unity in our attitudes towards certain customs is necessary for us to come together in worship. We can not meet for worship unless we agree about what time church service is to begin. People who believe musical instruments are wrong in worship and people who think they are essential to worship can not worship together, but they will find when they reach heavens shores that it is the blood of the lamb, not the sound of the song, that got them there. The point of all this is that Paul was talking about customs not commands. He was a Jew. Jewish men cover their heads when praying. He is saying that if it does not really matter, go along with the customs of the people around you, instead of making a big fuss about nothing.

(5) **First Corinthians Summary:** This letter was written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth to deal with problems the church was having: dissention, immorality, disagreements about public worship and confusion about spiritual gifts. My summary of the entire book of 1st Corinthians is that Christians have the Holy Spirit living in them and their lives should reflect that fact. Paul provides several different examples of how Christians should live such as in marriage, within the church, and in relationships with other Christians. Maybe I'd add that the letter deals with many situations in a messed-up congregation caused by pride in one's self, which can be remedied and improved only by the love of God through Christ.

(6) **Life Application:** Christian love needs to be seen in action in the marriage, home, and congregation. That love comes from Christ's love for us. We are often selfish and unloving. That will lead to disorder and chaos in marriage, family, congregation, and society.