

# **1 Corinthians**

## **11-14**



**10am Gathering**

INTEGRATED BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

## How to the get best value out of these studies...

Welcome to a new series of New Testament studies focused on the book of 1 Corinthians.

**If you're using these Guides in a Small Group**, it is vital that you have done preparatory work *before* you get to your meeting. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but to the other members of your group.

**If you're doing these studies individually**, make sure you let someone know you are doing so, and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

If you're after good commentaries or resources to complement your looking into the Bible, speak to your Small Group Leader or one of the staff, and we'll be as helpful as possible. Most people aren't going to spend lots of money on theological works, so we're constantly on the look out for quality titles that will result in money well spent.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with **prayer**, asking God to change your heart and life so that you – with God's people – might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.





6. What is the context (life situation) when men are urged not to cover their heads and women are?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What are the reasons that a woman should have a 'sign of authority on her head'? (v10).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Why does the passage move on to talk about the 'interdependence' of man and woman? (v11).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Paul clearly 'rips into' the Corinthians about their meetings (v17ff) What 'meetings' are on view?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. In v20, Paul speaks of the 'Lord's supper'. What is this? (i.e. what does the context of Chapter 11 tell you it is?)

## **6** | **1 Corinthians 11-14**

11. What is the big problem here? (v21ff)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What does it mean to eat and drink in an 'unworthy manner'? (v27)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. What form does the judgement of v29 take?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Is there any difference between 'judgement' and 'discipline' (v32)?

### **Thinking it through**

15. Do you think this principle of 'Headship' operates today?

How would you expect it to be expressed in our behaviour?



## 2 How To Measure Your Spirituality

### 1 Corinthians 12: 1-31

#### Getting started ...

1. Most people have dreamed of being someone else...a sports star, hero or some other famous person.

If you could be any other person in the world (except yourself) who would you want to be? Why?

#### Taking a closer look at 1 Corinthians 12...

2. Read chapter 12 aloud in your group.

What questions have the Corinthians raised that Paul is trying to answer? (ie when he says 'Now about/concerning spiritual things...')

3. How does 12: 3 provide a basic test for determining who is spiritual?

4. What is the point of talking about the diversity of gifts in 12: 4-7?
  - a) what is the purpose of these gifts?
  - b) who gives the gifts?
  
5. In 12: 8-11 a range of gifts are referred to. Is the order they are listed in important? Is this list meant to be a complete or exhaustive summary? (See 1 Corinthians 12: 28; Romans 12: 6-8; Ephesians 4: 11; 1 Peter 4: 11).
  
6. Paul does not go into great detail here about the content of these gifts or how they 'work'. How could we work out in more detail what is involved? (e.g. a 'message of wisdom' or a 'word of knowledge' etc.).

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7. Read through vv12 – 31. The body image is used in a range of ways in the Bible (cf Ephesians 5, 1 Corinthians 6, Colossians 1).  
What is Paul's main reason for using 'body' imagery here?
  
8. In v13 Paul refers to 'Baptism in the Spirit'. What 'experience' is this?  
(cf Galatians 3: 26-28; 4: 4-7).
  
9. In vv14-20 the issue of the feelings of some is looked at. Some didn't feel a part of the 'body' because of the particular gifts they had.
  - a) What had they forgotten? 12: 3-5.
  
  - b) How does Paul sort this problem out?  
  
vv14-16  
  
vv17-19  
  
v20

10. In the light of the 'body' teaching in this chapter, how would you answer the rhetorical questions in vv29-30?

### Thinking it through...

11. A Case Study...

You are shopping one day at Mitcham. A person approaches you and explains that they are from a local church and they are doing a survey on what people in Adelaide believe. As the discussion goes on it becomes clear to you that the person is from a local A.R.C. church and they believe you do not have the Spirit of God (and therefore you are not a Christian) unless you speak in tongues.

Using 1 Corinthians 12, how would you respond?

12. Do you ever find yourself feeling envious of others with more public gifts than yours? What antidote does 1 Corinthians 12 provide?



# 3 What's Love Got To Do With It?

## 1 Corinthians 13

### Getting started

1. Read through 1 Corinthians 13.

Is this a good passage to be read at a wedding or not? – give answers for and against.

2. Do you think it is possible for unbelievers to 'love' the way Paul speaks of love here in 1 Corinthians 13?

### Looking more closely at 1 Corinthians 12: 31 - 13: 13 ...

3. Why does Paul break into a discussion about gifts in chapters 12 and 14, and talk about love in Chapter 13?

4. Is it possible to do anything of Spiritual value without love? (vv1-3)



**Thinking it through ...**

## 8. A Case Study ...

You have a Christian friend, Alfredo, who is always making sacrifices for others, giving 50% of his income to the Church, taking meals around to families in need etc. But Alfredo, in a private conversation, tells you that he feels very distant from God and no matter how many extra things he does this doesn't seem to change. Also he is finding himself increasingly angry and frustrated because a lot of Christians are presuming upon his kindness. How could you help Alfredo from 1 Corinthians 13?

## 9. In Corinth it seems that the gift of tongues tended to dominate the Christian agenda instead of love. If there was a gift (or some gifts) that was in danger of overtaking us here at Trinity, what would it (they) be?



# 4 Prophecy, Tongues & Church Growth

## 1 Corinthians 14

### Getting started ...

1. Imagine your employer transfers you overseas to a country where English is not spoken anywhere. Your term of employment is five years. You and your family go along to the local church on Sunday where everything is in the local dialect (Kyzbychkystani). No one in your family understands anything. No one in the church can translate any of it for you.

How would you feel?

2. What about our church? Can you think of any practices, language or customs that make it hard for those coming in 'fresh' to understand?
3. In what way were the Corinthians acting immaturely when it came to their handling of the gift of tongues? (Important to back up answers here by reference to chapters 12-14).





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9. How were the Corinthians 'thinking like children' (v20)?
  
10. vv20-25 contain what are at first difficult and seemingly contradictory verses. ie:
  - a) Tongues are not for believers but unbelievers (v22). However, in v23 the unbeliever will think Christians are out of their mind if they enter a church where people are speaking in tongues.
  - b) v22 prophecy is for believers, not unbelievers. Yet vv24-25 the unbeliever benefits enormously from prophesying.
    - i) Can these be reconciled? (it will help to know the context of Isaiah 28: 9-13 where the reference is to the foreign language of the Assyrians invading in judgement).
  
    - ii) Even if you can't fully understand the argument of these verses, what is the point being made about the value of tongues vs prophecy in a church meeting context?

11. Summarise the 'regulations' for tongues and prophecy in church. Why are the Corinthians given these instructions? (particularly v26, 33).

### **Thinking it through ...**

12. Some evangelicals have argued that to have any notion of prophecy where there is revelation today, apart from the Bible, is a threat to the authority of God's Word in the Scriptures. Discuss.  
(It may be helpful to have in mind places in the Bible where a broader idea of revelation is used as in Matthew 16: 17; Philippians 3: 15; Ephesians 3: 14-19).

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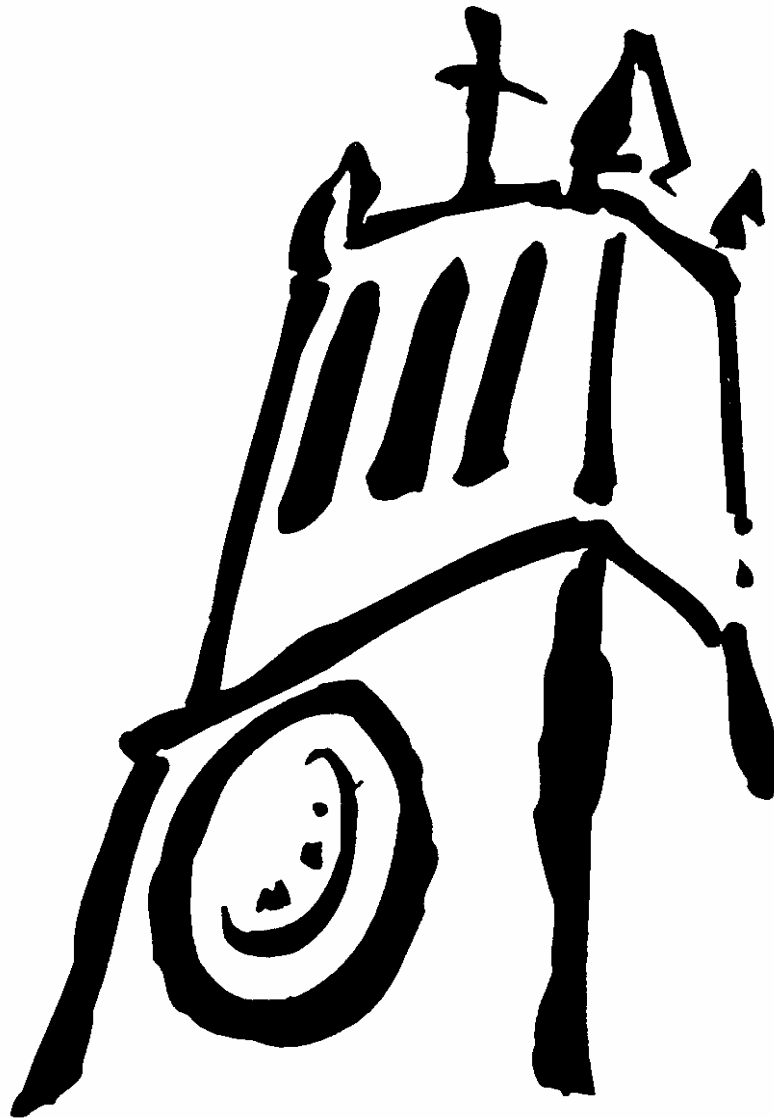
13. You are on holidays in Melbourne and on the Sunday morning you pop into the local church for their main meeting. During the meeting the pastor explains that they are going to have a few minutes where everyone will be able to speak in tongues as a way of corporately praising God.

While they are doing this, you decide to read 1 Corinthians 14 to see if you think it is appropriate.

What do you conclude?

14. What if the meeting was designed to be evangelistic, and afterward the pastor explained to you that they spoke in tongues as part of their evangelistic outreach (citing 1 Corinthians 14: 22).





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