

Chapter 29: The Power of Love

The Bible and its Influence



Who is Paul?

- Eventual follower of Jesus
 - Spread gospel of Christ to first-century
- From Saul to Paul
 - Saw resurrected Christ
- Reached out to Gentiles
 - Made Christianity inclusive
 - Salvation for all
- Wrote epistles to Christian communities
 - Letters got into New Testament

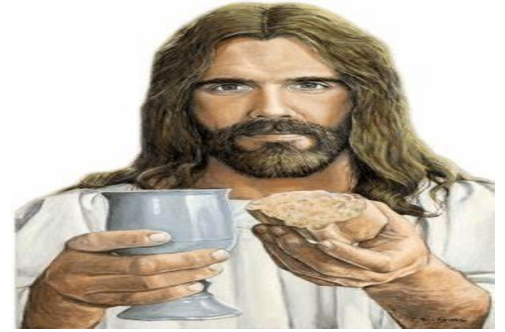


1 Corinthians



- Chloe
 - Member of Corinthian Christian community
 - Reports on issues with Corinth church
 - Disunity, sexual immorality, lawsuits among faithful
 - Marriage and Divorce
 - Prostitution was common for his time
 - Solution: Must have own spouse
 - Unmarried members of Corinthian congregation (widows too)
 - Remain unmarried (like Paul) but must marry if can't stay chaste
 - Discourage marriage between believers & nonbelievers
 - If already married, remain married (potential influence on spouse and kids)
 - If couples are divorced, remain unmarried or reconcile (prefers divorce to not be a thing, but very understanding of cases like adultery)

1 Corinthians Continued



- The Lord's Supper
 - In first letter to commemorate Jesus Christ's death & resurrection
 - Tells believers to partake in bread/wine for Jesus
 - "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26)
 - Act of gratitude and remembrance of Jesus's sacrifice
 - Christian faith would be in vain if Christ did not raise
 - No point in preaching
 - Forever stuck with sins

1 Corinthians Continued.... Again



- The Greatest Gift
 - Love!!!!
 - Beyond spiritual gifts
 - Speaking in tongues or faith
 - “If I speak in tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (1 Corinthians 13:1)
- Love never falters
 - Love above all else
 - Will always persevere
 - Does not delight in heinousness but celebrates truth

2 Corinthians (Finally)



- A lot more personal
 - Defends authority and integrity against criticism from false educators
 - Boasted about weakness
 - Reliance on God, not by oneself
 - Great indicator of God's strength and power to transform and give grace to believers
 - Gave blessing at the end
 - Wants the best out of everyone
 - Experience God's presence and love to the fullest extent
 - "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Galatians

- Founded Galatian church with non-Jewish followers of Christ in Central Asia
- Addressing unidentified teachers trying to convince Paul's converts (formerly pagans) to be circumcised
 - Observe Jewish laws and rituals like Sabbath and food laws
- Wanted to point out that the teachers were perverting the gospel message by dictating the Galatians practices
- A Magna Carta of Christian freedom
 - Followers of Jesus no longer slaves to laws
 - Free due to baptism of Jesus
 - "There is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28)
 - Powerful statement
 - Most of the world was non-Roman (less rights, women were property, slavery was very acceptable)

Galatians Continued

- Paul mentions Roman adoption laws as reference to freedom
 - Adopted person cannot be disinherited
 - Parent adopting chose to do so
 - Parents with natural kids had not made such as choice
 - Could be disinherited
 - Message is that followers of Jesus are adopted by God
 - Cannot be disinherited
- Referred to the fruit of the Holy Spirit as:
 - “Love, joy, peace patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22)
- At the end of the day, it doesn’t matter what sex or race or even slave status you are
 - “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29)



The End!!!

