

Body by God

Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body

Come Together Over Me

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 1-2

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

The Beatles song, "Come Together", was written as a campaign song for Timothy Leary, advocate of LSD in the seventies. His idea was that everyone could come together over him if they used LSD like he did. We know this idea was absurd; however, there is One who can help people "come together over me", and that is Jesus. As Paul wrote the letter to the church at Corinth, the people were divided. Although God had given them everything they needed, and they were genuine, born-again, believers, they were acting like anything but that. They were more characterized by their old way of life, called the "flesh", than they were by the life that Christ exhibited here on earth. They had decided to "choose up sides",

following their teacher of choice, as if Christ were divided. The real problem they had was pride—they wanted to be right, to be the elite, with everyone submitting to them. But, as Paul said, the word of the cross is itself foolishness to the world, and even those who follow Christ have been called from the foolish, weak, and despised classes of people. Even Paul's preaching was done with superior speech of wisdom, but in the power of God. God has purposely designed His work this way so that everyone's boasting might be in Him alone. Furthermore, the wisdom that Christ's followers do speak is God's, and not the world's wisdom, and this wisdom is known only to whom God has revealed it by His Spirit.



Following God's principles will develop a body that can glorify Him fully

Each of Christ's followers have the Spirit of God, which is the mind of Christ, so that we are able to understand all that God has given us in Christ. So, that which unifies is much greater than that which keeps us apart. Since Jesus is the One who binds us together, He can truly say to us, "come together over Me".

Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Corinthians 1-2

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

1. Look at 1 Corinthians 1:1-3. How did Paul describe himself (v1), and the church at Corinth (v2)? What blessings did he ask for them (v3)? Why does God's "calling" set us apart (sanctify) from others?
2. In 1:4-6 for what was Paul thankful (v4, 5) and how did he know it was true (v6)? What has God done for believers by His grace (v5)?
3. According to 1:7-9 what two things were true of the Corinthians (v7), and how are these connected? What did he promise them (v8), and on what basis (v9)?

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I Corinthians 1-2 Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 1:10-16 what problem were the Corinthians experiencing (v11-12), and what was the underlying problem (v10)? What was the error in their thinking (v13)?
5. From 1:17-21 what is the basis of God's power in those who are saved (v18), and why do you think it is? How does the message of the cross appear to the world (v18), and what effect does it have on them (v21)?
6. According to 1:22-25 for what are Jews searching (v22), and everyone else (v22)? How do they react to the message of Christ crucified (v23), but how do those who believe see Him (v24)? Apply this to your life.
7. Read 1:26-31. Describe those whom God has called (v26), and why God has called people like this (v27-29, 31). How has God taken care of our deficiency (v30), and what does this mean to you?
8. In 2:1-5 what approach did Paul avoid with the Corinthians (v1, 4), and what approach did he take (v2, 3, 4)? Why did he do this (v5), and how can we imitate this today?
9. From 2:6-8 how does the wisdom of God appear to those not in His kingdom (v7), and what was the result of this misunderstanding (v8)? Why is Christ's crucifixion a mystery to those who don't know Him?
10. According to 2:9-12 what is promised to believers (v9), and how do we come to know these things (v10)? What does He reveal to us (v12), and why do you think He wants us to know this?
11. Look at 2:13-16. Why do unbelievers not understand the truth of God (v13, 14), and what has God done for believers that solves this problem (v12-13)? How does this apply to being able to understand the Bible?

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***"Christ Jesus ... became to us
wisdom... righteousness and
sanctification and redemption.***

1 Cor 1:30

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*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship)

1. Why is the scripture true that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Tim 3:12)? How much do you feel persecuted?
2. Discuss the difference between being persecuted for righteousness vs self-righteousness, and the difference between punishment and persecution.
3. When you are truly persecuted because of Christ, does it usually entail personal insults, being personally pursued by others to find faults, or personal accusations?
4. Based on questions 2 & 3, re-evaluate how much you think you are persecuted? Why is it important to recognize the source of it, and to refuse to retaliate?
5. How do you typically respond to persecution—the hellish level, the human level, or the heavenly level? Talk about why you think you're that way.
6. Why does being happy with persecution show the Spirit in your life, and show God that He can trust you? Discuss how to respond this way in persecution.