

# ***BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP***

## **First Corinthians**

### **Lesson Three**



**Please memorize the following verse and be prepared to write it out at the end of this lesson.**

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! (1 Corinthians 9:16)

## **CHAPTER NINE**

### **THE RIGHTS OF AN APOSTLE**

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-27 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

As minister of the gospel Paul knew that he had certain rights due him, such as financial support. More often than not Paul chose not to exercise those rights, however, he wanted to instruct the Corinthian believers that they had the responsibility to take care of the people that God chose to minister the Word to them.

1. (vs. 1) What are some of the qualification Paul mentions to defend his right to minister to the Corinthians? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. (vs. 5) Do ministers of the Word have a right to be married if they choose? \_\_\_\_\_

3. (vs. 7) What three illustrations does Paul use to prove that ministers have the right to be supported for their work? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. (vs. 9) Which Old Testament commandment does Paul quote to prove his point? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. (vs. 12) Did Paul feel that he had a right to be support by those he ministered to? \_\_\_\_\_
6. (vs. 12) Did Paul take advantage of this right to receive financial support from the Corinthians?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. (vs. 13) What example from the temple does Paul use to prove his point? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. (vs. 14) What is the Lord's command regarding the support of those involved in ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. (vs. 16) What was Paul's great desire? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. (vss. 19-23) Describe in your own words what Paul means when he says he became all things to all people? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. (vs. 22) Why was Paul willing to become "all things to all men?" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. (vss. 24-25) What activity does Paul use to illustrate the believer's effort to live the Christian life?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. (vs. 25) How does Paul describe the crown a believer will receive for living a worthwhile life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. (vs. 27) Why did Paul discipline himself and bring his body into subjection? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** This passage speaks to modern day preachers and ministers. There have been many well known evangelists with high profile ministries that have preached to millions of people but they have not brought themselves under strict discipline and have ended up being disqualified for the prize through yielding to temptation.

## CHAPTER TEN

### WARNINGS FROM ISRAEL'S HISTORY

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

1. (vss. 1-2) To which important event in Israel's history does this verse refer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. (vs. 2) What term does Paul use to describe the Israelites' Exodus experience? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** In this verse Paul uses the word "baptized" in a figurative sense referring to how Israel was *identified* with Moses and the program of the Law which God instituted through him. The scripture speaks of at least 11 different kinds of baptisms, most of which are not literal immersion in water. We therefore must recognize that not all references to baptism speak of water ceremony practiced by most Christian churches.

3. (vs. 4) This verse is a reference to the events of Numbers 20:1-13 in which provided water for the Israelites wandering in the wilderness by having it come out of a rock. Whom did that rock represent?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. (vss. 6 and 11) What value do the events recorded in Israel's history have for us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Take some time to read the following stories associated with the various sins mentioned in this passage (1 Corinthians 10:6-10).

**Idolatry** Exodus 32:1-35

**Sexual Immorality** Numbers 25:1-18

**Testing the Lord (NIV) Tempting Christ (KJV)** Numbers 21:5-6

**Complaining** Numbers 16:11-50

5. (vs. 12) What advice does Paul give to those that might become overconfident in their Christian life?

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6. (vs. 13) Are the temptations we experience unique to ourselves? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Describe the promise of this verse and relate any time in your life where you believe you have seen it worked out. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **IDOLATROUS FEASTS**

Read 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

8. (vs. 14) What instructions does Paul give to the Corinthians in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. (vs. 16) How does Paul describe the cup and the bread taken during the communion service.? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. (vs. 17) What does the one loaf (bread – KJV) symbolize? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. (vs. 19) Is there any real significance to an idol or a sacrifice to an idol? \_\_\_\_\_

12. (vs. 20) To what are the sacrifices of pagans really offered? \_\_\_\_\_

13. (vs. 21) What does Paul say we cannot do? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **THE BELIEVER'S FREEDOM**

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

14. (vs. 23) Paul states that all things are “permissible” (lawful – KJV). What condition does he put on our actions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Note: When Paul says that all things are permissible he is probably quoting a slogan or proverb used commonly in Corinth. He is not making a statement that we can live or behave in any manner we want. What he is saying that although we have freedom from certain regulations living under grace it is not always in the best interest of the everyone in the church for us to take advantage of that freedom.

15. (vs. 24) Look up the following verses and explain the point these verses are making.

Romans 15:1-2; Romans 14:19; Philippians 2:4,21; 1 Corinthians 13:5

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16. (vs. 25-26) What instruction does Paul give the believers in this passage and what is the reason for it?

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17. (vs. 27-30) Describe in your own words the conditions when a believer might be free to eat anything that is served to him and when he should refrain from eating certain foods. \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Describe a modern day circumstance in which the principles Paul outlines in verses 27-30 would apply. \_\_\_\_\_

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19. (vs. 31) How are we to think about everything we do? \_\_\_\_\_

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20 (vs. 32-33) Compare these verses with 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Explain why Paul is not being hypocritical in these verses. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. (vs. 11:1) What is Paul's final instruction in this section? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### HOW WOMEN ARE TO BEHAVE IN THE CHURCH

Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

1.. (vs. 3) What is the chain of authority which Paul lists in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Note of explanation for verses 4-10:** "In the culture of Paul's day, men uncovered their heads in worship as a sign of their respect for and submission to deity. When a man prayed or prophesied with his head covered, he failed to show the proper attitude toward Christ.

"For a woman, taking off her head covering in public and exposing her hair was a sign of loose morals and sexual promiscuity. Paul says she might as well have her hair cut or shaved off. The shaved head indicated that the woman either had been publicly disgraced because of some shameful act or was openly flaunting her independence and her refusal to be in submission to her husband. Paul's message to her was: Show your respect for and submission to your husband by covering your head during public worship." (NIV Study Bible, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Addition; Grand Rapids, Zondervan; © 1995; p.1750)

The commandment for women to keep their heads covered and not cut their hair is one that is probably cultural in nature, rather than being a universal truth that must be observed for all time. However, the principle of showing proper respect for God-given authority is still relevant for believers today.

2. (vs. 11) Are man and woman independent of each other in the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

### BEHAVIOR DURING THE OBSERVANCE OF COMMUNION

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

3. (vs. 17) Is Paul pleased with the Corinthian believers at the beginning of this section? \_\_\_\_\_

4. (vs. 18) What has Paul heard about the attitude of the Corinthians when they come together?

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5. (vs. 19) What function would divisions (heresies – KJV) serve?

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**Note of explanation for verses 19:** “As deplorable as factions may be, they serve one good purpose: They distinguish those who are faithful and true in God’s sight. .” (NIV Study Bible, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Addition; Grand Rapids, Zondervan; © 1995; p.1751)

6. (vss. 20-21) Describe how the Corinthians behaved while eating the Lord’s Supper.

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7. (vs. 22) What was the result of this behavior? **It showed disgrace (despised) the church of God and would humiliate those that had little (the poor) in the church. ( Answers will vary)**

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**Note:** The following verses (23-32) give specific instructions regarding the observance of the memorial ceremony which is common referred to as Communion or the Lord’s Supper. It seems that when the early Christian believers gathered together they first ate a full meal which was called a “love feast” (feast of charity – KJV) after which they would celebrate the memorial to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the “bread and cup.” Because of their behavior during the earlier meal they in turn disgraced the solemn ceremony of remembrance.

8. (vs. 23) From whom did Paul receive what he was about to pass on to them? **From the Lord.**

**Note:** The actual information about the events at the Last Supper is probably not what Paul is referring to here. That can be learned from reading the gospels (Please read Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:17-20) What he received from the Lord was the fact that this memorial ceremony was to be practiced by the members of the Body of Christ.

9. (vs. 23) When did the Lord do and say these things? **The night he was betrayed**

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10. (vs. 24) What did the Lord do with the bread before he presented it to the disciples? **He broke it and gave thanks.**

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11. (vs. 24) What does the bread represent? **The Lord’s body which was broken for us**

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12. (vs. 24) Why were they to eat the bread in this manner? **In remembrance of the Lord**

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13. (vs. 25) What does the cup (wine) represent? **The blood of the Lord**
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14. (vs. 26) What do we do each time we eat the bread and drink the cup? **We proclaim the Lord's death**
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15. (vs. 26) Until what time are we to observe this memorial ceremony? **Until the Lord returns**
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16. (vs. 27) What is the consequence of someone that eats the bread and drinks of the cup in an unworthy manner?  
**They are guilty (of sinning against) the body and blood of the Lord**
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17. (vs. 28) What should a person do before he eats the bread and drinks the cup of communion? \_\_\_\_\_  
**A person should examine himself**
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**Note:** This verse is telling believers to search their hearts and determine if they are walking in the Spirit or in the flesh. If a person is walking in the flesh they may be currently involved in sinful activity which they have not renounced, or they might have unspiritual attitudes controlling their thoughts such as hatred, envy, lust, etc. This is an opportunity to confess those sins and accept God's forgiveness for them based on the death of Jesus Christ.

18. (vs. 29) What is the result of someone that partakes of the communion in an unworthy manner (NIV- not recognizing the body of the Lord)? **He eats and drinks judgment (damnation – KJV) on himself.**
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**Note:** The King James Version says a person "eateth and drinketh damnation to himself." The Greek word Translated "damnation" is in all other places in this passage translated as "judged" which is how it is best translated in this verse as well.

19. (vs. 30) How were some people judged by God for partaking unworthily of Communion? **Some became**  
**sick while others died (have fallen asleep)**
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20. (vs. 32) What is the Lord doing when he judges believers? **He disciplines them**
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**Note:** The Lord's discipline of believers is different than judgment on unbelievers. When a believer in Christ is disciplined by God it is done as a loving father chastens his child. The condemnation on the unbeliever is like that of a judge against a criminal.



21. (vss. 33-34) How are the believers to behave during the love feast and the Communion service? **They are**  
**to wait for one another. They should eat at home if they are too hungry to wait.**

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Write 1 Corinthians 9:16 from memory on the lines below.

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Use the space below for any questions or comments:

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