

# BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

## First Corinthians

### Lesson Three



## Answer Key

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 qualifications Paul mentions to defend his right to minister to the Corinthians? He was an apostle, he had seen the Lord Jesus, The Corinthian believers were evidence of his work in the Lord.

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

3. (vs. 7) What three illustrations does Paul use to prove that ministers have the right to be supported for their work? A soldier does not serve at his own expense, someone that plants a vineyard can eat the grapes, someone that tends a flock may drink of the milk.

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4. (vs. 9) Which Old Testament commandment does Paul quote to prove his point? **Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.**
5. (vs. 12) Did Paul feel that he had a right to be support by those he ministered to? **Yes**
6. (vs. 12) Did Paul take advantage of this right to receive financial support from the Corinthians?  
**No**
7. (vs. 13) What example from the temple does Paul use to prove his point? **The people that work in the temple get their food from the temple and those that serve at the altar may eat what is offered at the altar**
8. (vs. 14) What is the Lord's command regarding the support of those involved in ministry? **Those that preach the gospel should receive their living by the gospel.**
9. (vs. 16) What was Paul's great desire? **To preach the gospel**
10. (vss. 19-23) Describe in your own words what Paul means when he says he became all things to all people? **He would observe the law when he was with Jews and if he were with non Jews he would not be bound by the law. Answers will vary**
11. (vs. 22) Why was Paul willing to become "all things to all men?" **So that through all means some would be saved**
12. (vss. 24-25) What activity does Paul use to illustrate the believer's effort to live the Christian life?  
**A runner in a race**
13. (vs. 25) How does Paul describe the crown a believer will receive for living a worthwhile life? **An everlasting (KJV- incorruptible) crown**

14. (vs. 27) Why did Paul discipline himself and bring his body into subjection? So that  
he himself would not be disqualified for the prize.

**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? The crossing of the  
Red Sea

2. (vs. 2) What term does Paul use to describe the Israelites' Exodus experience? Baptized into Moses

**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?  
Christ

4. (vss. 6 and 11) What value do the events recorded in Israel's history have for us? They serve as examples  
for us that we should not behave the same way as they did.

Take some time to read the following stories associated with the various sins mentioned in this passage (1Corinthians 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?

**Be careful that you don't fall**

6. (vs. 13) Are the temptations we experience unique to ourselves? **No**

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

**We do not have to yield to temptation. God will provide a way out so that we can withstand anything that comes our way (Answers will vary)**

### **IDOLATROUS FEASTS**

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

8. (vs. 14) What instructions does Paul give to the Corinthians in this verse? **To flee from idolatry**

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

**The cup is a participation (communion – KJV) in the blood of Christ and the bread is a participation in the body of Christ.**

10. (vs. 17) What does the one loaf (bread – KJV) symbolize? **That we are all members of one body which is the Body of Christ.**

11. (vs. 19) Is there any real significance to an idol or a sacrifice to an idol? **No**

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

13. (vs. 21) What does Paul say we cannot do? **We cannot link the things of the Lord with those of the demons (We cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons)**

### **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? Not everything is beneficial or constructive (NIV) All things are not expedient and do not edify (KJV)

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?

The believers are permitted to eat any food they buy in the meat market without being concerned about questions of conscience. They can do this because everything on the earth belongs to the Lord.

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. If he is eating at the home of an unbeliever the Christian should feel free to eat anything placed before him.

If someone present (a believer or unbeliever) makes a comment about eating the food the believer should be willing to not eat that thing.

18. Describe a modern day circumstance in which the principles Paul outlines in verses 27-30 would apply. Answers will vary

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19. (vs. 31) How are we to think about everything we do? We are to do all for the glory of God.

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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. He is will willing to act in certain ways with different people so that he will not offend them for the purpose of sharing the gospel with them in hopes that some will be saved.  
Answers will vary somewhat.

21. (vs. 11:1) What is Paul's final instruction in this section? We are to follow him as he follows Christ

## 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? God has authority over Christ  
Christ has authority over men, Men have authority over women

**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? No

### 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? No

4. (vs. 18) What has Paul heard about the attitude of the Corinthians when they come together?  
**That there were divisions among them**

5. (vs. 19) What function would divisions (heresies – KJV) serve? **It would show those that were approved (by God)**

**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. **Some would go ahead of others in line. Some were hungry and others were getting drunk.**

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

**Note:** The following verses (23-32) give specific instructions regarding the observance of the memorial ceremony which is commonly 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**

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

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

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

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 (had 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 of 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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