

“A love affair with problems!” —studies in 1 Corinthians (week 3)

Read 1 Corinthians 2; 9:22-23; 15:1-3; Acts 17:16-18:17.

1. Would you have applied for membership in the Corinthian church? Why or why not?
2. Steve said that this church both “charismatic and chaotic.” What do you think he meant?
3. Have you ever been fearful? Share with your group of such an instance. Why was Paul fearful?
4. Read 1 Cor. 2:1-5. Having just visited the city of Athens (see Acts 17:16-34) why do you think that Paul changes his strategy for Corinth? How did Paul’s approach change from Athens to Corinth? Was Paul wrong in trying to ‘be all things to all men’ (1 Cor. 9:22-23) in Athens? Should he have stuck to the ‘simple’ gospel?
5. Paul relied on the power of the Holy Spirit (v4) rather than on clever and persuasive speeches. In which ways does this principle apply to all Christians, not just preachers?
6. Did Paul only speak the plain, simple message of the gospel (see v6)? Do you think it is important for Christians to move on beyond the basic teachings?
7. How has God revealed these great truths? How important is the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Paul? How important is the Spirit in your life?
8. What two kinds of people does Paul talk about? (see 14-16). What is the point that he is making?

HOMEWORK:

Read through 1 Cor. 1:10—4:21 in one sitting with a notepad and pen. Ignore the chapters, verses and headings, and decipher the flow of Paul’s argument to the Corinthians. Don’t forget chapters and verses are a relatively new invention.