

MENS LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

1 Corinthians Chapters 6-16

Living as a Christian

Overview: In a few minutes we will again watch the Bible Project video overview of 1st Corinthians. Our previous lesson covered the first six Chapters, where Paul's primary focus was on divisions within the church. Paul begins Chapter 7 by saying "Now for the matters you wrote about." This tells us that those in the Church in Corinth were seeking Paul's guidance regarding how they should be living out their faith regarding the practical issues of daily life. This included issues regarding marriage, sexual morality, the eating of food, partaking in the Lord's Supper, and the proper manner of communal worship.

I believe it is important to remember that Paul's response would have been tailored to the specific culture, traditions, and society that the Corinthian believers had grown up with and were living in. There are certainly significant similarities and differences between the Corinthians situation, and our culture, traditions, and society. However, in our discussion, we will consider how we believe Paul's words to the Corinthian Church should be applied to us today. This is an example of how God's word is the Living Word, that speaks to us individually, wherever we are. His word can lead and convict us in different practical ways than they did the Corinthians, but God can and will use His word for His purposes in our life.

Video: Bible Project <https://bibleproject.com/explore/1-corinthians/>

Segment Questions:

1. In chapters 7-12 Paul does respond with instructions related to the many specific questions that the Corinthian Christians had asked him about. Then, in chapter 13, he begins by saying "And now I will show you the most excellent way." Take a moment to silently, once again, read to yourself Paul's words regarding Love, from Chapter 13:1-5.

If I speak in tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- Letting God use those words to personally instruct and convict us, what are your biggest struggles in failing to feel or exhibit love?
- Share examples of how, through God's grace, you have overcome some of the unloving behaviors in your past.

- What has been most important and helpful in your personal efforts to become a more loving person?
2. Another important topic that Paul discusses extensively in this section of his letter is the topic of a believers “Freedom in Christ.”
 - Share what the phrase and principal of having “Freedom in Christ” means to you.

Paul begins this discussion on Freedom in Christ by saying:

“Now about food sacrificed to idols. We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the man who loves God is known by God.”

- Since Paul is responding to a question specifically about the eating of food sacrificed to idols, why do you think he starts by talking about knowledge and love?
- Regarding Paul’s discussion of our Freedom in Christ, share some practical examples of where you (or other Christians) should appropriately modify our behavior because of the potential impact on others.

Action Questions:

1. If something in this lesson has been personally convicting to you, what change would you like to make to become more Christ-like in that area?
2. Are you willing to privately share one such struggle, and your commitment change, with a Christian brother, and ask him to help you with accountability? (That brother does not need to be in our Men’s Life group.)
3. If you are **willing**, will you commit to doing it?