

BEING THE CHURCH

The Gathering, Pt. 1, 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

October 22, 2023

²⁴ Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews,

Greeks or the church of God—³³ even as I try to please everybody in every way.

For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

¹ Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11

Welcome to Corinth

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³ and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. ⁴ Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

⁷ Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. ⁸ Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.”

¹¹ So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

Acts 18

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

1. Corinth may have been the most “modern” city Paul had yet visited
2. Many of Paul’s best relationships and much effective ministry came from Corinth
3. Paul has very high expectations for the church in Corinth – and in Anacortes!

Foundations for the gathering (or, Practicing with headcoverings)

² *I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you.*

³ *Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.* ⁴ *Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head.* ⁵ *And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is just as though her head were shaved.*

1 Corinthians 11

1. The church reflects the distinctives of creation order

⁷ *A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.* ⁸ *For man did not come from woman, but woman from man;* ⁹ *neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.* ¹⁰ *For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head.*

1 Corinthians 11

Note: Pastor Fakkema's view is that "because of the angels" reflects the presence of angels in our worship, and we don't want to anger these angels by dimming God's glory

2. The church reflects the interdependence of creation order

¹¹ *In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.* ¹² *For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.*

1 Corinthians 11

3. The church lives in tension between creational distinctives and interdependence

¹³ *Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?* ¹⁴ *Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him,* ¹⁵ *but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering.* ¹⁶ *If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.*

1 Corinthians 11

What are the creational principles that address our question?

How does God's will reflected at Sinai and at the cross address our question?

How does the "practice of churches" address our question?

Why Corinth?

1. We need to learn the lessons of creation, culture and God's plan for his church

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Acts 18

2. Paul helps us see God's purpose for us: the glory of God in the church and in the "many"

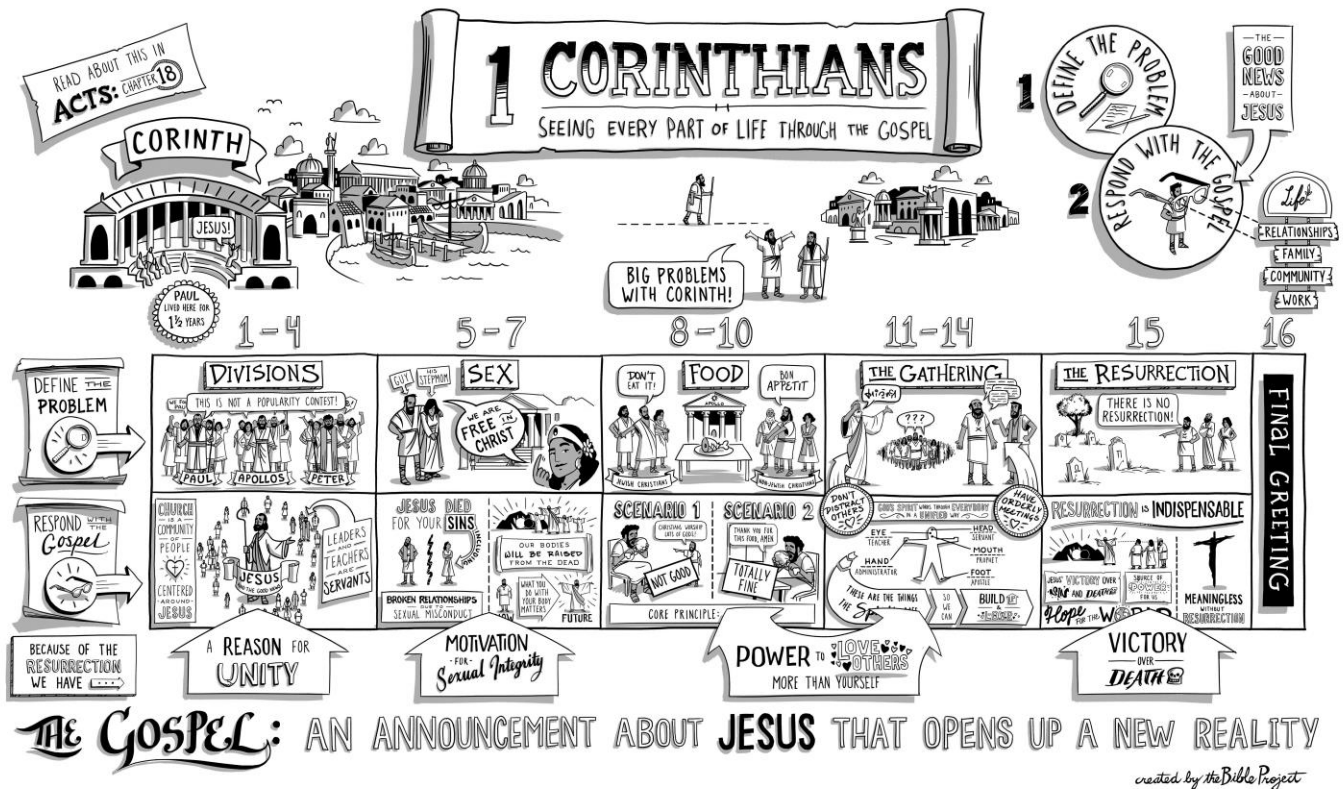
³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—³³ even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

1 Corinthians 10

3. Paul is ultimately optimistic about the future of the church

⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

1 Corinthians 1



Resources for further study

The Bible Project team does a great job of introducing 1 Corinthians at <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-1-corinthians/>

Spurgeon and Newton have several 1 Corinthians sermons at <https://www.biblebb.com/brefindex/1co.htm>

Ryle's study 1 Corinthians 10:14 is a good summary of the book at <https://www.monergism.com/flee-idolatry>

I appreciate Alexander Maclaren's application of this 1 Corinthians 10 to alcohol and gambling at <https://www.preceptaustin.org/1-corinthians-maclaren-3#t10l70>

John Piper has a very good 1 Corinthians series at <https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/1-corinthians/messages>

Doug has referenced these commentaries:

Simon Kistemaker's *New Testament Commentary* (Baker, 1993)

Anthony Thiselton's *NIGTC* volume (Eerdmans, 2000)

Harold Mare's commentary in the *EBC* series (Zondervan, 1976)

Derek Prime has a shorter study "Opening Up 1 Corinthians" (Day One, 2005)

I appreciate Wayne Grudem's response to the headcovering question at

<https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/Headcoverings%20by%20Wayne%20Grudem.html>

Doug likes the ESV Study Bible's introduction to 1 Corinthians and included it in these notes.