



First Corinthians

Week 3

Hi amazing leaders- This week's study will spur on a lot of discussion. Be sure to encourage your more timid participants (we like to call them the "Timid Tinas") to share one thing that stood out to them this week. Also, gently remind your "Chatty Cathys" to resist the urge to fill silent time with more words- sometimes a little silence gives the Timid Tinas the courage to speak up! And remind everyone each week to come prepared to share their favorite Scripture passage from the lesson, something that stood out to them, or a question they had. It helps them take ownership over the group and helps you facilitate discussion that is on topic with the lesson.

Day 1

Paul is responding to disagreements within the church that was going public. We have already established that disagreements will occur between imperfect believers who are unified in purpose but certainly not uniform in personality or circumstances. So, while it is understandable that we will have conflict, we must deal with our conflict differently than the world does. The world is watching us and how we interact with one another!

Melissa points out Romans 15:1-5 to make it clear that Paul is distinguishing between grievances and criminal activity. When it comes to grievances, Melissa shares three great points. We should (1) sacrificially care for one another (2) stand up against injustice and (3) be willing to take a loss. What key points stood out to your group?

Warning! There will likely be some gray area here given our current situation with mask and vaccine mandates and the ordinances that shut down schools and business for so long. Some will think that we should obey the government as Paul sates in Romans 15. Some will think that we should not obey the government because these mandates and ordinances are promoting injustice and "crushing" others (Proverbs 31:80). Honestly, I am not sure where I stand on this, and am certainly praying for discernment right now, while trying to respect both points of view. If were leading a group- I think I would tell my group that, and then try to say that, and try to steer away from heated debating, while recognizing each point of view.



Day 2

I liked the question at the top of page 85. What were some of the answers from the ladies in your group?

At the bottom of page 86, Melissa stated that, "It broke Paul's heart as a spiritual father to watch the Corinthians use their freedom in Christ as an excuse to continue in sins that would harm them spiritually." Again- we see the motive of Paul. Not to shame his flock but to gently correct because he loved them.

Sex infiltrates almost every part of life- and it is likely that we have all succumbed to sexual immorality in some way. We would be wise to talk honestly to God about where our temptation lies and why, and let Him help us determine where our personal boundaries should be. Also pray that He would give us and spirit of obedience and self-control. Sexual immorality is a big problem with Christian women, even though we tend to assign this sin to men only.

Day 3

I thought this was a great lesson on preferences and absolutes. This concept really comes into play when it comes to disagreements on gray areas within the church. I love what Melissa says toward the bottom of page 92, "We would not need a relationship with God or the guidance of the Holy Spirit if a specific answer for every decision we will ever make was to be found in the pages of the Bible." How true is that! And what a call to develop a personal relationship with God through the study of His word and prayer about our specific lives. When we work with God to get wisdom in specific circumstances, it cultivates a strong bond with God. Don't skip that step- and just assume that someone is going to tell you what to do.

Is there a situation in your life where you need to realign your life with grace towards someone else?

Day 4

In this day, we look at another specific example (meat sacrificed to idols) to develop an overarching biblical principle. There are issues of personal conviction in our lives- Melissa describes it very well in the margin of page 95: An issue of conscience is a gray area not forbidden or allowed according to the Bible. We each must make individual decisions according to God's personal leading in our lives on issues that are not black and white.



People's backgrounds, personalities, spiritual gifts contribute to their personal convictions. It helps to see another person's viewpoint. Do we take the time to listen to one another and see someone's else's viewpoint? Or do we just tell them our stand on something and not listen to their opinion? Loving people listen to one another!

Day 5

In this day, we build on the idea of having personal convictions. How are we to interact with others who have a different conviction that we do? Paul uses the term stumbling block. We need to waive our right to exercise our personal conviction in order not to become a stumbling block to someone else. I like the comment made by Richard Hayes on page 102 and 103- "the 'stumbling block' principle is often erroneously invoked to place limits on the behavior of some Christian's whose behavior offends other Christians with stricter behavioral standards." I have never really thought about that before. Am I guilty of that? Are you?

There are lots of great lessons to consider this week as we look at the real examples of the Corinthian church. What themes on page 105 resonated with the ladies in your group?