

BUILT TO BLESS

1 CORINTHIANS PART 3

MAY/JUNE 2022

How to Use This Guide

Over the next few weeks, we will be reading, discussing and learning from Paul's teachings in 1 Corinthians. This guide covers 1 Corinthians 8-14 and will be updated over the coming weeks.

Our series title is "Built to Bless." God designed us to be a blessing to others. The gifts given out by Jesus were meant to be used for love, so we are providing a space to discuss how we can better understand the gifts God has given us and how to better love those around us. In our Sunday gatherings and Thrive Groups, we will ask questions, learn from others and ask God humbly to provide opportunities to grow into more loving people in the city of Los Angeles.

Watch the Sermon

In Person on Sundays at 10am: 2234 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Online Live on Sundays at 10am: thriveLA.online.church

Archived: thrivelachurch.com/media

Gather Weekly

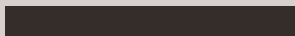
We have multiple Thrive Groups throughout Los Angeles and Online. We encourage our groups meeting in person to share a meal together.

Discussion

In your groups you will discuss the week's sermon and Bible readings with reflection/discussion questions designed to help you go deeper.

Join or Start a Group

Go to thrivelachurch.com/thrivegroups or Text "Groups" to 323-709-0711 to be placed in a group and to learn more.



Looking Ahead

First Steps

First Sundays of the month are for First Steps! When you invite your friends, the best place for them is coming to First Steps. Here they'll learn about Thrive, make some more friends, and have a chance to ask questions.

Young Life LA 5K

Walk/run with Hollywood Young Life on Saturday, May 21st at 8 am from home or at Echo Park Lake (starting near the swan boats) with the crew! Contact us to receive registration details and raise funds to help young people engage with Jesus-centered mentors.

Monthly Meals

We're eager to share monthly meals together again - it's a distinctive part of our Thrive family culture. Our next potluck is on May 22nd, so save the date!



Week 1: Glorify God Through Differences of Opinion

We are all made differently. It’s a beautiful thing. We look different from one another, we have different interests and talents. We all have the opportunity to contribute and each one of us could learn something from another person in this group.

When we have knowledge or a talent, it feels good. We can feel proud, and there may be opportunities that come from possessing this knowledge or talent. In this passage, Paul encourages those who have knowledge to use it for love instead of to think of themselves better than others.

Opening Question:

If you were a flavor of ice cream, what would you be and why?

Bible Reading:

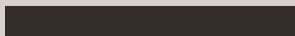
Read 1 Corinthians 8

Discussion:

- How do you feel when someone in a group acts smarter than everyone else?
- What is a topic of conversation without a clear right or wrong answer that comes to mind for you, and who is someone you’ve seen handle these types of issues or conversations well in their lives?
- How does it feel to be in a situation where you are the person with knowledge or experience amongst those who have a lesser understanding than you?
- What do you think Paul means when he encourages us to love in order to “build others up (verse 1)?”
- What is something you have knowledge or talent in? What is a way you could use that knowledge or talent to love others?

Prayer:

Pair up with a member of the group and pray for one another.



Week 2: Sacrificing for the Sake of Gospel Witness

We’ve been talking about freedom a lot recently in our groups and sermons. We have freedom in Christ, but what does that really mean? Does that mean we can do whatever we want? Do we get to make the rules?

Paul encourages the Corinthians to use their freedom to be sacrificial. Instead of holding their rights close to their chest, he wants them to think about the people around them and become weak like them so they can see the love of God.

Opening Question:

If you could see any band or artist in concert this weekend, who would you choose? Do you have a preferred venue?

Bible:

Read 1 Corinthians 9

Discussion:

- When does a right become an entitlement that could turn something good into a negative?
- What is a perceived right/entitlement you have that you hold a little too tightly? Why?
- In verses 24-27 Paul compares himself to an athlete. Why do you think he uses an athlete metaphor and what point is he trying to get across?
- What would it look like for you to “walk in someone else’s shoes?” What kind of person comes to mind? How could you find a way to learn about and love this person better?

Prayer:

Pray that we would be a people that use our freedom to love the people around us. Who are some people we are thankful are in our lives this week?

Week 3: Lifestyle of Worship

A relationship with God isn't about checking the boxes that you went to church and that you read your Bible x amount of times this week. A relationship with God is more than that. God is with us wherever we go, and He wants us to invite Him into all we do. We can glorify (meaning honor or praise) God through our work, our parenting, and our eating. We can glorify God in how we treat others, in how we encourage, and in how we learn to trust Him with decisions big and small.

In tonight's passage, Paul encourages readers to not fall captive to idols of the world, and to not worry so much about being perfect and following all the rules. Instead he wants Christ-followers to grow in love and to grow in learning how to glorify God in all they do.

Opening Question:

What's your favorite "road trip snack?"

Bible Reading:

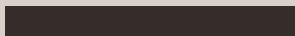
Read 1 Corinthians 10

Discussion:

- What are some ways we can learn from the mistakes others have made before us?
- Do you ever get caught up in the rules or details of something and miss the point of why you're doing it? Tell us about an experience that comes to mind.
- Read verses 23-24 again. Discuss what Paul means here and think about what it could mean for you.
- Have you had a time where you were doing something and you felt confident it glorified God? How did you know and how did it feel?

Prayer:

Ask for prayer requests from the group and pray together to meet the needs of one another.



Week 4: Gender Equality

As Paul continues his letter to the church in Corinth, he takes on the topic of head coverings and male and female relationships. The passage preached on this weekend and that we are going to discuss tonight is one of the most debated passages in the entire Bible. Depending on the version of the Bible you are reading (ESV, NIV, NLT etc.), interpretations of the original Greek words leave readers with conflicting meanings and understanding.

We encourage your group to read from multiple versions of the Bible to compare and contrast, and we also encourage wrestling with this passage as you try to understand what Paul is telling the Corinthian church and how it impacts us today.

Opening Question:

If you could be a superhero, who would you be and why?

Bible Reading:

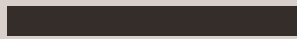
1 Corinthians 11:1-16

Discussion:

- How do you often respond when something is confusing or doesn't make sense to you?
- Do any other passages in the Bible or other debated topics come to mind when thinking about topics that don't have a clear interpretation or right answer?
- How do you think we can continue to grow as a church that states that we value mens and womens voices equally?
- After reading the passage a few times tonight in a few different versions, what thoughts or questions do you still have?

Prayer:

Ask the group if anyone has prayer requests. Pray as a group this week. Ask God for clarity and comfort in times where you don't have all the answers.



Week 5: True Communion

In this passage Paul writes about communion, a meal eaten together by people at the church.

Communion is supposed to be a time of remembrance, where the church can thank Jesus for his sacrifice on the cross, yet in the Corinthian church some members were getting drunk and overeating and others weren't offered food and were starving.

Paul wants to tackle the hypocrisy in the church as well as the class divisions, as He encourages the church to move towards a unified membership that cares for those in and outside the church.

Opening Question:

What is the most bizarre food you've ever eaten?

Bible Reading:

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Discussion:

- Can you think of a time in your life where you were affected by another person's hypocrisy?
- How does marginalization affect whether someone would feel welcome in a group?
- How does hypocrisy in the American Church affect your view of the Church and of Christians?
- Why is it problematic that some in the church are overeating and others aren't receiving enough food? What could be some remedies to the issues?
- What is Paul's encouragement to the church in verses 33-34? How could these commands be interpreted for us today?

Prayer:

Get into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each other how you can pray for each other. Are there any needs that the group can meet to help one another?

Week 6: Church Is...

We all have different gifts, all of which can be used for the glory of God and to love others. Some of us are gifted mathematically or with vision casting. Some of us are gifted with stage presence or artistic design. Some of us are gifted relationally with warm smiles and extrovertedness.

Whatever your giftings are, everything good comes from God and can be used to glorify Him. It is good that we do not all have the same gifts, but rather we can help each other and learn from each other as we grow in the family of God.

Opening Question:

If someone were to make a movie about your life, which actor/actress would you want to play you?

Bible Reading:

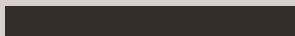
1 Corinthians 12

Discussion:

- Spend some time talking about some gifts people have in your group. Affirm one another and share how their gifts have affected you or impact your group as a whole.
- Why do you think Paul uses body parts to explain member's roles in the church?
- Overall, how would you sum up Paul's message to the Corinthian church in 1 Cor. 12?
- Paul also writes about supernatural gifts such as healing, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. Have you ever experienced these gifts personally or witnessed them being used by someone else? Do you have any thoughts on these spiritual gifts, or any other spiritual gifts you may have heard of or encountered?

Prayer:

You all have amazing gifts. If you're unsure how God wants to use you in this season, ask him to show you. Spend some time praying individually and then come together as a group to pray for any prayer requests that come up.



Week 7: Love Is...

We all have thoughts on what love is. However, if we were to all describe love I’m sure our group would come up with many different answers. Love can be a feeling, an action, short term or long term. It can be platonic or romantic, and there are a lot of songs and movies about it.

In this passage, Paul describes love as well as how love should affect everything we do. He encourages us to act in love, and that love should come before everything else. In a book of many “gray area” topics, Paul wants it to be clear that love should be at the root of all we do.

Opening Question:

What’s your karaoke song?

Bible Reading:

1 Corinthians 13

Discussion:

- What words or actions come to mind when you think about love?
- After making your own list as a group, list out what Paul says “love is” in the chapter. Do any of his statements stand out to you?
- Can you think of someone in your life who loves others in the way Paul describes?
- What have you learned about love by reading this chapter tonight?
Does Paul write anything about love that you haven’t heard before or hasn’t been made clear to you in the past?

Prayer:

Get into groups of 3 or 4 and pray for one another.