



# THAT MESSED-UP CHURCH

Week of January 21  
1 Corinthians 2:10b-16<sup>1</sup>

## Overview

Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses needs and problems specific to that local church. But for a 2000-year-old letter, many of the topics will ring true to us today as well. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism were obvious in 1<sup>st</sup> Century Corinth and are also rampant in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world. Paul cares deeply about both right living and right thinking for Christians, and so should we. Read the letter with a view toward Paul's primary purposes: the health and "building up" of the body of Christ, and actions which further of the gospel. Keeping these themes in mind will help you understand the "why" behind Paul's guidance and admonitions to the Corinthian Christians.

## Group Objectives

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

## DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friends.
- ***We are Empowered by the Spirit.*** The Holy Spirit within us enables us to live life beyond belief – a life filled with joy, purpose, and power. We live in a supernatural reality that includes, yet transcends, the physical universe.

## Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- What is the most confusing part of the Bible for you? Why do you think God included it?

## Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week?
- How were you able to join God on mission?

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<sup>1</sup> This discussion guide was written by Dawn Gentry and edited by Rachel Vaughn. For more background information on 1 Corinthians, see the Reading Plan [found here](#).

## Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

In chapter two, Paul continues to examine the “wisdom of the world,” but uses language concerning what is “human” versus “of the Spirit.” Paul hints at a topic to come up in chapter twelve (spiritual gifts) and notes the importance of spiritual discernment for the use of those gifts to build up the church.<sup>2</sup> For Paul, “the very definition of what it means to be a Christian is having the Holy Spirit in one’s life.”<sup>3</sup> As we rely on the Spirit more consistently in our day-to-day lives, we will grow to understand God’s will and wisdom more fully.<sup>4</sup>

### **Read 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16**

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- What do you find most challenging about this text?
- What does it mean to you to be “taught by the Spirit” (verse 13)? Share about a time when you sensed the Spirit led you to gain a new insight into or understanding of a scripture text.
  - How did you respond? What was the outcome?
- How might understanding our spiritual gifts help us “build up” one another (and so, build up the church) more consistently?
- What do you think Paul may have meant by being “subject to no one else’s scrutiny” (verse 15)? How might you interpret this considering other passages where we are encouraged to “be subject to one another” (Eph 5:21) or even to “go and point out their fault” (Matt 18:15)?
- What are some practices that help us develop “the mind of Christ”? How have those practices benefited you over the years you’ve been following Jesus?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
  - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?

### **Reach One More Practice**

- Sometimes we can inadvertently put people off by presuming to know too much, or always having an answer. This week, put yourself in a position of humility and ask someone for help with a project or to teach you how to do a task. Practice living with the posture of a learner.
- What are you learning about yourself in this season?
  - What are you learning about God?

### **Prayer Prompts**

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
  - *Holy Spirit, I ask you to fill me more each day, and for the wisdom that only you can provide. Help me to serve others with discernment and humility.*

### **For further study**

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see [www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org](http://www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org)
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1corinthians/>

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<sup>2</sup> See also Romans 12:1-3, where discernment is also linked with humility.

<sup>3</sup> Ben Witherington, *Conflict and Community in Corinth* (Eerdmans, 1995), 123.

<sup>4</sup> This is somewhat confirmed in 1 Cor 3:1-3 where Paul expounds on the differences between a young and a mature believer – division is evidence of a less-mature faith.