

1 Corinthians chapter 1

What was wrong with the Corinthians? Paul describes the Corinthian saints as “rich” [5]; what, about them, made him describe them that way [4-9]? A congregation as richly blessed as theirs still has a big problem -- Paul spends most of this letter and a big portion of 2 Corinthians trying to correct it -- what is that problem [10-16 (*see also John 17:20-23*)]?

How does Paul's argument about wisdom and foolishness [17-31] relate to the problem he identified in 10-16?

1 Corinthians chapter 9

Paul defends his status as an apostle [1-3]; how does this relate to his purpose in writing the letter as we saw in chapter 1? After establishing his authority and rights as an apostle, he says that he deliberately avoids exercising them [12-17]; why [18-22]?

How is verse 19 (free man choosing slavery) like the example of Christ's life?

The word “gospel” appears nine times -- in 12, 14, 16, 18, and 23 -- in this chapter; how is it connected to the freedom/slavery argument? See also 1:17.

1 Corinthians chapter 12

Compare verses 12:1-5 with 1:5-7. Paul continues his effort to correct the Corinthian problem he identified in chapter 1; what metaphor(s) does he employ in this chapter?

Who is in charge of all this messy business -- each person doing something different [4-11]? See also John 3:8.

How important is the *first, second, third* sequence of verse 28?

Next week: 2 Corinthians chapters 3, 6, and 11.