

God transforms us to righteousness, and teaches us Christ’s love.

1. Paul Admonished Divisions within the Church.

1 Cor. 1-4

- a. Paul denounced cultism of Christians to their leaders (1), as the leader of all is Christ (2).
- b. Worldly wisdom is folly to believers (3). Paul then addressed his ministry (4).

“these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.” ... “The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ,” 1 Cor. 2:10-13 ... 15-16

2. Paul Advised Christians within the Church to Love as Christ Loves.

1 Cor. 5-16

- a. Paul addressed sexual immorality within the church (5). warned against litigation and sexual immorality (6), and counseled marriage (7).
- b. He described Christian “stumbling blocks” and liberties (8), and freedoms in ministry (9).
- c. Paul warns of idolatry and indulgences, and God’s limits to temptation (10). He addressed traditions, prayer, communion, and Spiritual gifts (11-12), and love (13).
- d. He spoke to prophesy, tongues, worship and the resurrection (14-15), and offerings (16).

“‘All things are lawful for me,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but I will not be dominated by anything. ‘Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food’—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?” ... “no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone,” 1 Cor. 6:12-15 ... 12:3b-6

3. Paul Defended his Character, Ministry Needs, and Apostleship.

2 Cor.

- a. Paul explained his ministry and forgiveness (1-2), and sanctification in the gospel (3-4).
- b. Paul asked for their reconciliation and purity (5-7), and ministry support (8-9).
- c. Paul defended his apostleship (10-12), and sought the Corinthians’ self-examination (13).

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit,” ... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,” 2 Cor. 3:18 ... 5:17-18

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