

THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Key Verse: 3-4

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

1. Based on the references below, what were some of the problems Paul addressed in the Corinthian church? According to Paul, what could be the root problem of all of the issues described in this letter (1-2)? How do you think some of them lost their firm grip on the gospel? Why is holding on to the gospel so critical to Christian life as individuals and as a church?

1 Co 1:22,26 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom...Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.”

1:12 What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

11:18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father’s wife.

6:6-7 But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers! The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.”

11:21 for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk.

12:15, 21 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body...The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”

13:1-2 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

2. Read verses 3-4. What is the core of “this” gospel? What is significant about “according to the Scriptures”? What is the deep meaning of “Christ died for our sins” (Ro 5:8)? How has this gospel impacted your life?
3. What evidence does Paul give for the resurrection (5-7)? How and why is this compelling? Based on what you know about the apostles, what was the effect of the resurrection on their lives?
4. How does Paul understand his life through the lens of the gospel (8-10)? What effect did God’s grace have on Paul’s life (10-11)? How does the gospel reveal God’s grace to you and impact how you relate to others?