

Step by Step is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live.

1 Corinthians 1

V1-Apostleship is a calling not an achievement. *Called*=invited, appointed for a purpose. Notice Paul reveals that it is God who calls us to serve Him. *Apostle*= Delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders.

Sosthenes-This is very likely the same person we read about in Acts 18:17 who once was aggressively against the gospel yet is now united with Paul in the declaration of the gospel.

V2- Remember there is one church and it is God's. In His church there are many gathering places, such as *at Corinth*. *Sanctified*= Separated, dedicated to God. This speaks of His work in you. A sanctified life is experienced and expressed but not earned. A genuine believer, sanctified in Christ, is a *saint* because of what God has done. A common bond of unity is revealed when we *call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord*.

V3- Because we first experience *grace* we then have an understanding of *peace*. It is His grace that brings us peace! (Ephesians 2:8-9, 14)

V4-Being thankful to God helps us to see His work in our lives as well in the lives of others

V5- *Enriched*=made wealthy. Sadly the Corinthian believers were not living in the wealth of knowledge God had given them.

V6-Rather than point out all of their problems, they are reminded of the 'evidence' of Jesus' transforming presence in their lives.

V7- By grace God had given spiritual gifts to the believers in Corinth. These gifts were not given because the Corinthians were super spiritual, the gifts were given because God determined to. (1Corinthians 12:11). Additionally they were encouraged to be looking to Him and for Him, *eagerly waiting!*

V8-*confirm*= Establish, make firm. Our strength to endure and to eagerly wait comes from Him!

V9- We often become discouraged due to our unfaithfulness, here we are reminded our focus is to be on His faithfulness as we choose to live in *fellowship* with Him. *Fellowship*; Greek word is *koinonia* and speaks of joint participation, partnership, communion.

V10- Unity is a priority to God!

V11- *Contentions* speak of quarrels, strife, ongoing arguing.

V12- God is fully aware of every argument, every prideful posturing, every division among His children. If we are truly aware of His presence we would stop the silly bickering and look to Him.

V13- If our 'opinion' brings division perhaps our opinion is in opposition to Jesus.

V14-16- Recognizing the carnal reasoning that is present in their gatherings Paul states he is glad he didn't give them extra reasons to promote him.

1Corinthians 1:17- This verse brings clarification concerning a doctrine called "baptismal regeneration" which basically teaches you must be baptized to be saved. If that were true then Paul would have been baptizing everyone he could. Baptism is an act of regeneration not action to produce regeneration. Baptism is an act of obedience for a born again Christian.

V18- *Message of the cross* seems foolish to the unbeliever. For those who believe and are saved the message is life giving and life changing!

V19-25 James 3:13-17 give a description of earthly wisdom versus Heavenly wisdom. The 'wisdom' of this world shows itself to be selfish and foolish in light of the wisdom of God. This message of the cross that the world mocks and derides is proven to be the power of God. The wise, the scribe, the disputer in each age all perish without the message of the cross but the message is alive from generation to generation.

V26-It is important that we maintain a simplicity in identity. He has saved us and invited us to be a part of His kingdom work because He loves us! We brought nothing and we have got nothing to glory in!

V27-29 God has used weak, foolish people to change the world! The problem with the wise and the strong and the mighty is that they have themselves, therefore they have no need for God.

V30 The emphasis continues to be enforced; You are in Christ because of Him! *Righteousness*- Right in God's sight. *Sanctification*-Process of purifying and cleansing God does in our lives. *Redemption*- Released from debt by payment, delivered, liberated. All three of these are because of His power and presence in our lives!

V31- Referring to Jeremiah 9:23,24

The message of the cross; God redeeming us, calling us His own, pouring out His grace on us, giving us life and hope. He has saved us, we are His. Not because you are wise, or will be wise, but because He loves you, you have been saved.

My Memory Verse(s) for this week: _____

Notes: _____

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