

1 Corinthians 13

1. What is the theme of 1 Corinthians?

-“Problems in the Church.”

2. To correctly understand the gift of tongues, it is important to learn three truths. What are these truths?

-1) The gift of speaking in tongues was a temporary gift to begin the church.

-2) The gift of speaking in tongues was to build up the church.

-3) The gift of speaking in tongues was only with known languages.

3. In order to properly understand each verse in 1 Corinthians 14, what must we do?

-We must understand whether God and Paul are teaching about a correct use of the gift or a wrong use of the gift.

4. Why should we desire to be able to teach the Word of God?

-To be able to teach the Word of God to ourselves as well as to others is the most important work in all of eternity.

5. Are there any verses in the Bible that teach us that we must pray to God in another tongue or in a language other than our own?

-No.

6. Are there any verses in the Bible that teach us that we

must pray a prayer that we do not understand?

-No.

7. What is the problem of exalting one spiritual gift over another?

-We are exalting one Christian and by doing this, we are pushing other Christians down.

8. What is the problem with trying to use a spiritual gift that you have not been given?

-You may use the gift in your flesh, and not in the Holy Spirit.

-1 Corinthians chapter 15 talks about the problem of the resurrection.

-The resurrection of Christ is one of the most important truths in all of eternity.

-The Christians in Corinth, however, did not have a problem with the resurrection of Christ.

-Concerning the resurrection, what was the problem of the Corinthian Christians?

-They were confused regarding the resurrection of Christians.

-As a foundation, God and Paul begin by teaching once more about the resurrection of Christ.

-This was a teaching that Paul had already taught them when he in Corinth on his second missionary journey.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

1-Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

2-By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

-Even though the Corinthian Christians had many problems, God and Paul are still calling them brothers and sisters.

-Even though our brothers and sisters in Christ may have many problems, what should we remember?

-That they are still a part of God's family and our family.

-Does 1 Corinthians 15:2 teach us that we can lose our salvation?

-No.

-It is by God's power that we are saved, and it is by God's power that we are kept saved.

-We keep our salvation because Christ holds on to us, and not because we hold on to Christ.

-We hold on to Christ because He is already holding on to us.

-The blood of Christ is more powerful than sin and anything else in all of eternity.

-What, then, is 1 Corinthians 15:2 teaching us?

-It teaches us that there are people who say that they believe in Christ, but they do not.

-Jesus said in Mark 7:6, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

-In Matthew 7:22-23, Jesus said this: "Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

-Only those who truly believe in Christ hold firmly to the Word of God.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

3-For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4-that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

-In these verses, Paul writes that he is passing on to the Corinthians that which he received, that is, the Word of God.

-This is that which all Christians should do, that is, pass on to others the Word of God which we have received.

-God through Paul is simply teaching the Corinthians one more time that which they had already been taught.

-What are the Scriptures that are mentioned two times in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4?

-The Old Testament which speaks many times of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

-Why does the Old Testament speak many times of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ?

-God wants us to know that He planned the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ from eternity past to teach us of His love for us and His eternal desire to save us all.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:5-7

5-And that [Christ] appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

6-After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

7-Then he appeared to James, then to all the

apostles.

-How else do we know for sure that Christ rose from the dead?

-He appeared to Peter, to the twelve apostles, to more than 500 brothers and sisters in Christ, to James (the brother of Christ), and to all of the apostles.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:8-10

8-And last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

9-For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10-But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

-Paul persecuted the church, yet he knew that his sins were forgiven by the death and blood of Christ.

-While Paul did not forget that his sins were forgiven, he also did not forget all that God had saved him from.

-How should all Christians, like Paul, understand our sin?

-While we should not forget that the death and blood of Christ has completely paid for our sins, we should also

not forget all that God has saved us from.

-It is the grace of God alone that has saved us from all of our sin.

-By remembering the grace of God which has saved us from all of our sin, we can remain thankful for all that God has done for us.

-By remembering the grace of God which has saved us from all of our sin, we will remain deeply in the arms of Jesus.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:11

11-Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

-The teaching of the early church was founded on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

-The teaching of the church today should also be founded on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

-Now that God and Paul have taught us once more about the resurrection of Christ, we will now learn about the resurrection of Christians.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:12

12-But if it is preached that Christ has been raised

from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

-It seems that some of the Corinthian Christians were saying that even though the Lord Jesus was resurrected, there is no resurrection of the dead for people.

-This belief comes from false religions which teach that our souls sleep or simply disappear after death.

-This verse, however, teaches us that because Christ was resurrected and is now alive, this proves that resurrection from the dead is possible.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:13-14

13-If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

14-And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

-If there were no resurrection of the dead, then Christ would still be in the grave.

-How would anyone who is still dead be able to save us?

-Why would we want to tell anyone about a savior who was dead and still in the grave?

-If there were no resurrection of the dead, then our teaching of Christ and our faith are useless

-Why would anyone want to believe in a dead Christ?

-How could a dead Christ give us eternal life?

-If there was no resurrection of the dead, we would still be the slaves of sin and death and hell.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:15

15-More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

-If there was no resurrection of the dead, then Peter, James, Paul, all of the apostles, and more than five hundred brothers and sisters would be liars.

-If there was no resurrection of the dead, then Christ Himself would be a liar.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:16-17

16-For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

17-And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

-If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then sin is more powerful than God.

-If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then we are all still slaves of sin.

-If Jesus did not rise from dead, we will also never rise from the dead.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:18-19

18-Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

19-If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

-When the Word of God talks of "fallen asleep," does this mean that after people die, their souls go to sleep?
-No.

-In the Bible, "fallen asleep" means physical death.

-If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then all who have believed in him are dead and lost.

-If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then all of us are lost and we have no hope.

-If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then our hope in Christ is nothing.

-But Jesus did rise from the dead.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:20

20-But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

-How is the resurrection of Christ the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep or died?

-Because Christ rose from the dead, He is the first to be resurrected, after which all Christians will be resurrected.

-When their crops were ripe, God asked Israel to bring the first fruits of the harvest to Him as an offering.

-After the first fruits were brought in, Israel could then continue and complete the harvest.

-This is a picture of Christ who offered Himself to the Father as the first fruits, so that the harvest of all Christians could be completed.

-Christ was the first fruit of resurrection, and all Christians whose physical bodies have died have also been resurrected.

-As the first fruits were necessary for the entire harvest, so is Christ's resurrection is necessary for the resurrection of all Christians.

-As the first fruits demanded that the rest of harvest be completed, what does Christ's resurrection demand?

-That all Christians be resurrected as well.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:21-23

21-For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

22-For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

23-But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

-Because of Adam, all people are born with sin and must die.

-Because of Christ, we who are Christians have been given eternal life.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:24-26

24-Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

25-For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26-The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

-After having destroyed all of the enemies of God, Christ will give the kingdom of the world to God the Father.

-There will be no more sin, no more evil, and no more death.

-Later on, we will study more about the end times.