

# *Saints Can Overcome*

*A Study of I Corinthians*



**GULF SHORES**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Gulf Shores, AL*

***BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE***

*Prepared by Ray Reynolds*



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 Gulf Shores, AL

Study Guide for I Corinthians

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*This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for use in Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Steven Guy, Dr. Edgar Elliot, Gleason L. Archer, Jerry Davidson, Irving L. Jenson, Mark Copeland, J. Vernon McGee and various other sources.*



**GULF SHORES**  
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## Study Guide for I Corinthians

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### Author of I Corinthians:

Paul, the apostle (**I Corinthians 1:1, 16:21**), formerly Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 8-9**) identifies himself as the author of this letter. There is little doubt he penned this epistle.

#### Date of I Corinthians:

It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it in the spring of 57 AD in the city of Ephesus (**I Corinthians 16:8**) during his third missionary journey (**Acts 19:1-41**). This was shortly before the Jewish feast of Pentecost (**I Corinthians 16:8**). It could have been written as early as 55 AD, but definitely during his three years in Ephesus, and coincided with his tenure at the school of Tyrannus (**Acts 19:9-10**).

#### Theme of I Corinthians:

The entire book is about maturity and dealing with difficult church issues. The problems at Corinth had reached the ears of Paul and the brethren in Ephesus. This message came from two sources: 1) the household of Chloe (**I Corinthians 1:11**), and 2) a personal letter (**I Corinthians 7:1**), delivered by Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (**I Corinthians 16:17**). Paul recommends these men to the leadership of the church (eldership) to help the church seek balance. It is doubtful that they had elders, so Paul may be suggesting these three men to the congregation for ordination and sends his blessings (**I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9**).

#### Audience of I Corinthians:

The intended audience is the church in Corinth. Corinth was situated on the Isthmus of Greece (called Achaia in the Bible) between the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea (above the Mediterranean Sea). It was around 50 miles east of Athens. It was a newer city, with a population of less than half a million people from all kinds of cultures, mostly pagan. The temple of Venus (Aphrodite), was located there and it hosted 1000 priestesses dedicated to prostitution in the name of religion. The church was established during Paul's second journey (**Acts 18:1-18**).

### The Geography of Corinth:

The city of Corinth is located on a narrow strip of land in Southern Greece (the "Bridge of Greece"). The city of Corinth was one of the main cities providing the ancient world with commerce. Ships from the east (Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt) would port in Cenchreae. Ships from the west (Italy, Sicily, and Spain) would port in Lechaem. To avoid Corinth, traders had to make a 200 journey around Peloponnesus (Cape Maelea). The flat terraces of land behind the city rose about 1,500 feet above the skyline.

### The History of Corinth:

The city of Corinth in New Testament times was an ancient city (at least 800 BC). Corinth was destroyed in 146 BC but rebuilt thanks in part to Julius Caesar in 44 BC. The city was repopulated with Italian freed slaves, displaced Greeks, and other diverse cultures. The Roman government was located in nearby Achaia (**Acts 18:12**). Corinth was a leading city of Greece for both political and commercial reasons. It had the temples of Apollo, Aesculapius, Dionysus, Isis, Aphrodite, etc.

### The Beginning of the Church in Corinth:

The Jews in Corinth were planted there because of the Dispersion. In Asia Minor there were many Jewish settlements, but this one seems to be unique. Luke records the early background of the church in **Acts 18**. Paul makes a very important contact with a man named Aquila and his wife Pricilla. Every Sabbath day he preached in the synagogue to both Jews and Greeks. Paul is rejected by the Jews and he decides to shift his focus to the Gentiles (**Acts 18:6-8**). Paul receives a vision that he should stay awhile in Corinth (1 1/2 years). He was instrumental in their growth and success.

### The Work of the Church in Corinth:

The Bible and historical evidence prove the existence of a large congregation in Corinth. The work seems to be successful because of the message of God's grace to all people. The conversion of Titius/Titus (aka Justus) is a very important step. Paul did extensive work among the Gentiles after his rejection by the Jews (**Romans 16:23**). Paul would move to Ephesus from Corinth (**Acts 19**). The correspondence between Paul and the Corinthians.

### The Dilemmas of the Church in Corinth:

The church suffered a setback with Paul's trial before Gallio. Gallio was governor of all of Southern Greece and brother of Seneca, a Roman philosopher. Historians have documented evidence that Gallio became proconsul in the Summer of 51 AD. The Jewish leaders hoped to separate themselves from the Christians. Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, is beaten for his association with Paul (**I Corinthians 1:1**). The church faced many heresies and conflicts. There were also several acute cases of "preacheritis" in the New Testament, and Corinth bears no exception to this dilemma. There is a Apollos party, a Cephas party, a Paul party, and a Christ party. The influence of Gnosticism is also seen in this congregation.

### The Maturity of the Church in Corinth:

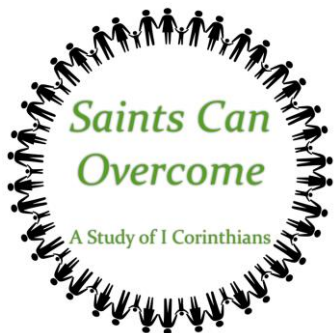
The church benefited when it was led by stable mature leaders. The congregation succeeded when Priscilla and Aquila were there leading them. Paul, Apollos, Peter, Titus and Timothy were also effective, but they needed stability. The church would have matured faster with good shepherds. It seems from **I Corinthians 1-4** that they had no elders. The three men in **I Corinthians 16:17** were sent to supply what was lacking (**Titus 1:7**). The church would have matured faster with solid preaching and effective shepherding. It seems that Apollos was discouraged with the brethren there, maybe for this reason (**I Corinthians 16:12**). Paul tells them in **I Corinthians 16** Timothy will bring the next letter, but it was Titus who ended up going. Were the Christian missionaries avoiding this city and these brethren? If so, why? The church became a mature church when they heeded Paul's advice. This book was his "best shot" for the saints of God.

### Key Verses of I Corinthians:

**I Corinthians 1:10, 3:16-17, 6:12-20, 9:24-27, 10:13, 10:23, 12-13, 15:58, 16:1-4**

### Outline:

- 1) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Unity (Chapter 1)*
- 2) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Sensitivity (Chapter 2)*
- 3) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Immaturity (Chapter 3)*
- 4) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Humility (Chapter 4)*
- 5) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Purity (Chapter 5)*
- 6) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Immorality (Chapter 6)*
- 7) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Sexuality (Chapter 7)*
- 8) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Liberty (Chapter 8)*
- 9) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Priority (Chapter 9)*
- 10) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Conformity (Chapter 10)*
- 11) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Loyalty (Chapter 11)*
- 12) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Spirituality (Chapter 12)*
- 13) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Charity (Chapter 13)*
- 14) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Stability (Chapter 14)*
- 15) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Authenticity (Chapter 15)*
- 16) *Saints Can Overcome Problems Regarding Sincerity (Chapter 16)*



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## Study Guide for I Corinthians

### *Lesson #1 = Saints Can Overcome... Problems Regarding Unity (I Corinthians 1)*

Introduction: We are beginning a new series on the book of I Corinthians. The church in Corinth had many issues but we must remember that the apostle Paul called them "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems. I think we can learn from Paul's wisdom. We need to stop looking at our struggles and start searching for solutions. Today we will talk about how to overcome problems regarding unity. Open your Bible to **I Corinthians 1**. Let's read and study together...

#### Discussion:

### ***I. What Is The Problem?***

- Division over vision.  
**I Corinthians 1:1-9, Proverbs 29:18, Hosea 4:6**
- Division over people.  
**I Corinthians 1:10-17, Matthew 16:18, Romans 16:16**
- Division over message.  
**I Corinthians 1:18-31, Romans 1:16, Galatians 1:8**

### ***II. How Can We Overcome It?***

- Define the church as a person.  
**I Corinthians 1:2, 10:32, 11:22, 12:28, 14:4-5, 14:12, 15:9, 16:19**
- Define the church as a place.  
**I Corinthians 4:17, 11:18, 14:19, 14:23, 14:28, 14:34-35**
- Define the church as a thing.  
**I Corinthians 6:4, 7:17, 11:16, 14:33, 16:1, 16:19**

### ***III. What Can We Learn?***

- What is the first problem Paul deals with in this epistle? Why?
- Who reported this problem to him?
- Why would they report this problem to him?
- Why did Paul address the problem? What would have happened if he had not?

Conclusion: I want this lesson, and this series of lessons, to inspire and encourage all of us. We have got to stop looking at our struggles and start looking at solutions. The problem with the divisions in Corinth is that they could have been solved, if they would only look inside their hearts. The crux of the book will be chapter 13. Saints can overcome problems with unity! God can help us! Is your heart divided? Are you seeking unity within the body of Christ? We must remember that we are saints. We can overcome.



# GULF SHORES

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Study Guide for I Corinthians

*Lesson #2 = Saints Can Overcome...*

*Problems Regarding Sensitivity (I Corinthians 2)*

Introduction: Whether we like it or not we live in a politically correct society. People are often overly sensitive about people and subjects. In 2015 the University of New Hampshire published a “*Bias-Free Language Guide*” that identified 4,812 problematic words and politically incorrect words. This was NOT a joke, but meant to correct poor language choices (it has now been removed from the website). Unfortunately, other universities have followed this same pattern. Who determines what is politically correct? Is it possible to be too sensitive? Today we will talk about overcoming extreme sensitivity. Let’s read and study together...

Discussion:

## ***I. What Is The Problem?***

- Dealing with political ignorance  
**I Corinthians 2:1-8, I Samuel 8:10-22, Daniel 10:1-12:13**
- Dealing with spiritual arrogance  
**I Corinthians 2:9-13, Isaiah 64:4, Romans 8:9-11**
- Dealing with carnal foolishness  
**I Corinthians 2:14-16, Isaiah 40:13, Proverbs 1:7**

## ***II. How Can We Overcome It?***

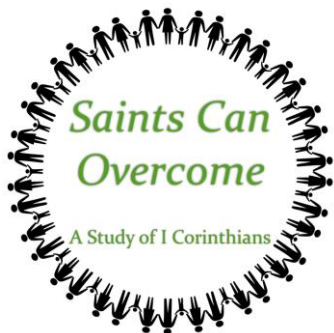
- Seek the wisdom of God  
**I Corinthians 2:1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, Isaiah 64:4**
- Seek the wonder of God  
**I Corinthians 2:4-5, 8-9, 6:12-20, 10:14-11:1, Matthew 5:16, 6:33**
- Seek the ways of God  
**I Corinthians 2:3, 15, 3:16, 6:19-20, Romans 8:5-17, Isaiah 55:8-9**

## ***III. What Can We Learn?***

- Why is Paul so concerned about this natural man?
- What are the differences between the natural man and the spiritual man?
- How can we know the mystery of God?
- Why does the church have such a problem with unity?
- What can we do to deal with this problem in the church today?

Conclusion: The problems in Corinth could be solved if they would seek the will of God. The crux of the book will be chapter 13: LOVE is the answer. Not just loving ourselves, or others, but loving God! Jesus said, “*If you love me, keep my commandments*” (**John 14:15**). Saints can overcome problems with sensitivity. We need to redirect our hearts to think about God first. Is your heart divided? Are you seeking the will of God? We are Saints. We can overcome.





# GULF SHORES

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Study Guide for I Corinthians

**Lesson #3 = Saints Can Overcome...**

**Problems Regarding Immaturity (I Corinthians 3)**

**Introduction:** This Sunday morning series on I Corinthians is entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in the Corinth... Paul called them "saints" (I Corinthians 1:2). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on positive things. Today we will talk about how to overcome problems regarding sensitivity. Today is Mother's Day! If anyone knows a thing or two about learning how to overcome, or handle, immaturity, it is our mothers! Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 3. Let's read and study together...

Discussion:

## **I. What Is The Problem?**

- Denying the spiritual leading of God  
I Corinthians 3:1-4, Matthew 18:3, Hebrews 5:14, I Peter 2:2
- Denying the spiritual work of God  
I Corinthians 3:5-15, Ephesians 4:14-15, II Peter 3:18
- Destroying the spiritual temple of God  
I Corinthians 3:16-23, 6:14-20, Ephesians 2:19-22, I Peter 2:4-10

## **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

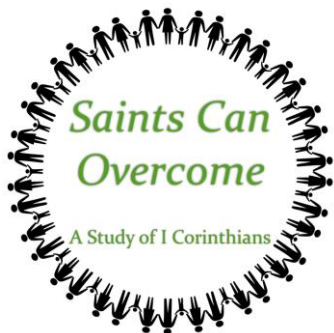
- Accept the need for meat  
I Corinthians 3:2, 13:11, Hebrews 5:12, 14, 6:1-4, I Peter 3:15
- Accept the need for meaning  
I Corinthians 3:6, 9, 16-17, John 3:3, 5, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 8:12-17
- Accept the need for meekness  
I Corinthians 3:4-6, 11, 18, 21-23, 11:1, Galatians 5:16-23

## **III. What Can We Learn?**

- What prevented Paul from speaking to the Corinthians as to spiritual people?
- What manifested their carnality and immaturity?
- Who was more important, he that planted, or the one that watered?
- If those converted by preachers are lost, will the preachers be lost? Why or why not?
- What sort of building is the church? How is that important?

**Conclusion:** The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to grow up and act like mature Christians. Saints can overcome problems with immaturity. We need to redirect our focus toward growth. Are you a mature Christian? Are you patient with immature Christians? Are you seeking the will of God or yourself? We are Saints. We can overcome.





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Study Guide for I Corinthians

*Lesson #4 = Saints Can Overcome...*

*Problems Regarding Humility (I Corinthians 4)*

Introduction: This Sunday morning series on I Corinthians is entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called them "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on positive things. Today we will talk about how to overcome problems regarding humility. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 4. Let's read and study together...

Discussion:

## ***I. What Is The Problem?***

- Pride takes the focus off the work of God.  
**I Corinthians 4:1-5, Matthew 5:16, 7:1-6, Romans 2:1, II Timothy 4:6-8**
- Praise takes the focus off the weakness of man.  
**I Corinthians 4:6-13, II Corinthians 12:7-10, I Timothy 1:5, II Timothy 3:12**
- Pain takes the focus off the witness of Christ.  
**I Corinthians 4:14-21, 11:1, 16:3,5,12, II Corinthians 12:14, 13:2, Romans 1:10, 15:32**

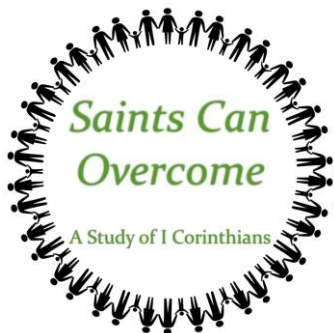
## ***II. How Can We Overcome It?***

- Humility will help our condition.  
**I Corinthians 4:5, Deuteronomy 8:16, II Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 18:27, 147:6**
- Humility will help our compassion.  
**I Corinthians 4:6-7, Proverbs 11:2, Philippians 2:1-11, Colossians 3:12, I Peter 3:8**
- Humility will help our connection.  
**I Corinthians 4:6-7, Ecclesiastes 7:8, Isaiah 66:2, Luke 18:14, James 4:10**

## ***III. What Can We Learn?***

- What one phrase is used repeatedly in this chapter to describe some at Corinth?
- What choices did Paul leave them as to how he might come to them?
- How did their lack of growth contribute to other problems?
- Why does the church have such a problem with immaturity?
- What can we do to deal with this problem in the church today?
- How can the church become humble?

Conclusion: The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to let go of their pride and be filled with humility. Saints can overcome problems with humility. We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you a humble Christian or are you full of selfish pride? Are you seeking the will of God? We are Saints. We can overcome.



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Study Guide for I Corinthians

**Lesson #5 = Saints Can Overcome...  
Problems Regarding Purity (I Corinthians 5)**

Introduction: This Sunday morning series on I Corinthians is entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called them "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on positive things. Today we will talk about how to overcome problems regarding purity. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 5. Let's read and study together...

Discussion:

## ***I. What Is The Problem?***

- Compromise encouraged incest in the church.  
**I Corinthians 5:1-5, Ephesians 5:3, II Timothy 2:22, I Thessalonians 4:3**
- Complications encouraged inaction in the church.  
**I Corinthians 5:6-8, II Corinthians 2:1-11, Exodus 12:15, James 1:15**
- Conflict encouraged impurity in the church.  
**I Corinthians 5:9-13, 15:33, Ephesians 5:11, 27, Philippians 2:15, II Thessalonians 3:6**

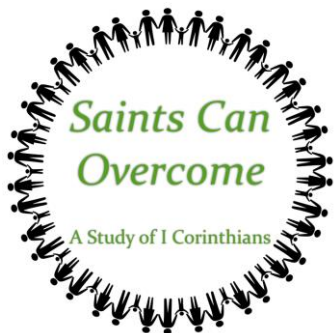
## ***II. How Can We Overcome It?***

- Purity keeps us sanctified in relation to our God.  
**I Corinthians 5:4, Romans 15:16, I Thessalonians 3:4-8, I Peter 1:14-16, 2:9**
- Purity gives us self-control in relation to ourselves.  
**I Corinthians 5:6, 7:5, 9, Galatians 5:23, Ephesians 5:22-23, II Peter 1:6**
- Purity helps us stabilize in relation to others.  
**I Corinthians 5:9-11, 6:9-11, Romans 13:14, Ephesians 5:3-5, I Timothy 1:9-11**

## ***III. What Can We Learn?***

- What was the nature of the immorality that existed in the church at Corinth?
- What was the attitude of the church in this regard? Why?
- Why does a church "deliver such a one" to Satan? How can this take place?
- Why should a church be diligent in exercising church discipline?
- How can practicing church discipline help the purity of the church?
- Why does the church have such a problem with purity?

Conclusion: The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to learn the benefits of holiness. Saints can overcome problems with purity. We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you seeking things that corrupt you or purify you? Are you seeking the will of God? We are Saints. We can overcome.



# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Study Guide for I Corinthians

### *Lesson #6 = Saints Can Overcome...*

### *Problems Regarding Immorality (I Corinthians 6)*

Introduction: This Sunday morning series on I Corinthians is entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called them "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on positive things. Today we will talk about how to overcome problems regarding immorality. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 6. Let's read and study together...

#### Discussion:

#### **I. What Is The Problem?**

- Immorality leads to worthless lawsuits.  
**I Corinthians 6:1-11, Matthew 5:40, 18:15-20, 23:23, Romans 12:18, Hebrews 12:14**
- Immorality leads to weak licenses.  
**I Corinthians 6:12-14, 10:23, Proverbs 22:22, John 15:19, 17:14-16, Ephesians 4:22-24**
- Immorality leads to worldly living.  
**I Corinthians 6:15-20, John 3:5, 17:22-23, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 8:11, 12:1-2**

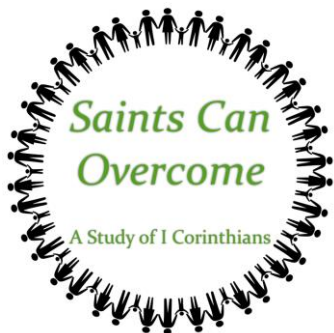
#### **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

- Morality helps us to focus on the final judgment of God.  
**I Corinthians 6:2-3, 11, Matthew 5:39-42, 19:28, 25:41, Revelation 2:26, 20:11-15**
- Morality helps us to fear the finality of the word of God.  
**I Corinthians 6:13, Leviticus 18:20, Proverbs 6:32, Jeremiah 13:27, Malachi 3:5**
- Morality helps us to fill our lives with the fruit of the Spirit of God.  
**I Corinthians 6:9-10, 16-18, 10:8, Matthew 3:8, John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:22, 5:5, Hebrews 13:4, James 4:4, Jude 7, Revelation 2:22, 21:8**

#### **III. What Can We Learn?**

- What kind of lawsuits were brought before the courts? Why?
- How could this problem lead to more immorality?
- What were some of the Corinthians before they became Christians?
- What is the body of one who is a Christian? Why is that important?
- What then should we do with our bodies? Why?
- What would have happened if the Corinthian Christians had led immoral lives?

Conclusion: The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to learn the benefits of good moral living. Saints can overcome problems with immorality. We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you seeking things that bless you or curse you? Are you seeking the will of God? We are Saints. We can overcome.



# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Study Guide for I Corinthians

### *Lesson #7 = Saints Can Overcome...*

### *Problems Regarding Sexuality (I Corinthians 7)*

Introduction: We are in a series entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called the brethren "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on positive things. Today we will talk about how to overcome problems regarding sexuality, which ties in to the previous 2 chapters. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 7. Let's read and study together...

#### Discussion:

#### ***I. What Is The Problem?***

- The world embraces divorce.  
**I Corinthians 7:1-16, Malachi 2:16, Matthew 5:31-32, 19:1-12, Romans 7:2-3**
- The world embraces division.  
**I Corinthians 7:17-24, 14:33, Galatians 3:27-28, Romans 16:7-18, I Timothy 4:3**
- The world embraces desire.  
**I Corinthians 7:25-40, Galatians 5:19-21, James 1:15, I John 2:16, Jude 16-19**

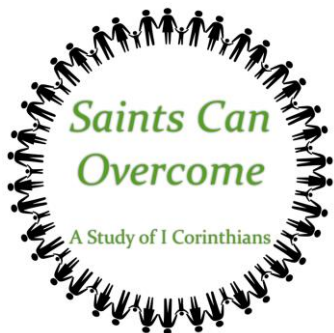
#### ***II. How Can We Overcome It?***

- Christians must exercise discipline (self-control).  
**I Corinthians 7:5, 8-9, 9:25, Galatians 5:23, II Timothy 3:3, II Peter 1:6**
- Christians must exercise discretion.  
**I Corinthians 7:19, 24, Matthew 7:1-5, James 5:20, I Peter 4:8, Jude 22-23**
- Christians must exercise determination.  
**I Corinthians 7:37, Job 31:1-7, Romans 7:1-6, Ephesians 5:5-6, Hebrews 13:4**

#### ***III. What Can We Learn?***

- What are Paul's instructions to married Christians?
- What are Paul's instructions to the unmarried and widows?
- What are Paul's instructions to Christians married to unbelievers?
- Why was sexuality such an issue in Corinth?
- Why are we afraid of talking about, or discussing, things of a sexual nature?
- What underlying principle is governing Paul's instructions in this chapter?
- What advantage does the single person have over the married?

Conclusion: Relationships are tough. Marriage is sacred. Divorce is painful. The sexual problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to learn the benefits of holiness. Saints can overcome problems with sexuality. We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you choosing worldliness or godliness? Are you seeking God's will? We are Saints. We can overcome.



# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Study Guide for I Corinthians

**Lesson #8 = Saints Can Overcome...**

**Problems Regarding Liberty (I Corinthians 8)**

Introduction: We are in a series entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called the brethren "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on positive things. Today we will talk about overcoming problems regarding liberty. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 8. Let's read and study together...

Discussion:

## **I. What Is The Problem?**

- The culture was full of idolatry.  
**I Corinthians 8:1-8, Exodus 20:3, Joshua 24:14-15, Psalm 106:19-22, Isaiah 42:8**
- The church was consumed by image.  
**I Corinthians 8:7-9, Deuteronomy 4:23, Judges 10:13-16, 17:6, 21:25, Proverbs 21:2**
- The community was full of imagination.  
**I Corinthians 8:10-13, Genesis 8:21, Luke 1:51, 16:13, II Corinthians 10:5**

## **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

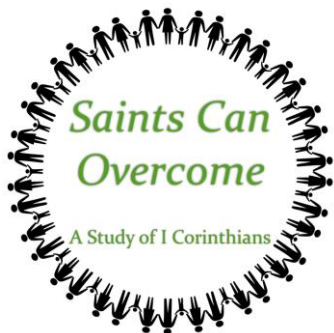
- Liberty focuses on love, not our own knowledge.  
**I Corinthians 8:1-3, 7-8, 13:1-13, John 13:34-35, Romans 2:1, 12:10, 13:8, II Timothy 2:19**
- Liberty focuses on the lost, not our own independence.  
**I Corinthians 8:4-6, 9-11, 6:12-20, Mark 10:45, II Corinthians 13:14, Romans 14:3, 13**
- Liberty focuses on the larger picture, not our own spirituality.  
**I Corinthians 8:12-13, Isaiah 45:23, Romans 14:1-23, Philippians 4:6, I Timothy 4:4**

## **III. What Can We Learn?**

- Why are we given liberty on some things in the church?
- How can a person abuse their liberty in Christ?
- Why is it so difficult for us to violate our own consciences?
- Why is it wrong to violate the conscience of another person?
- How can we sin against our brothers? How can we sin against Christ?
- How far should we be willing to go out of our way for our brethren who are weak in faith?
- Why should we set our liberty aside and think about our brethren first?

Conclusion: Why would we choose to force our own liberties and freedoms on others? The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to learn the true benefits of freedom. Saints can overcome problems with liberty. We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you choosing worldliness or godliness? Are you seeking the will of God? We are Saints. We can overcome.





# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Study Guide for I Corinthians

*Lesson #9 = Saints Can Overcome...*

*Problems Regarding Priority (I Corinthians 9)*

Introduction: We are in a series entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called the brethren "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on more important things. Today we will talk about overcoming problems regarding priorities. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 9. Let's read and study together...

Discussion:

## ***I. What Is The Problem?***

- The absence of a godly mentor  
**I Corinthians 9:1-6, Job 36:12, Proverbs 29:18, Hosea 4:6, Matthew 9:36**
- The abuse of a godly man  
**I Corinthians 9:7-18, Deuteronomy 25:4, Luke 10:7, Romans 1:16, I Peter 3:16**
- The anxiety of a godly mission  
**I Corinthians 9:19-27, 8:9-13, Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, Acts 16:3, 18:18, 21:24-26**

## ***II. How Can We Overcome It?***

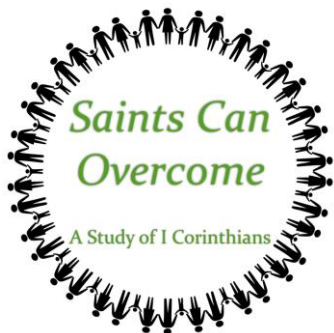
- The role of man vs. the role of God  
**I Corinthians 9:1-2, Proverbs 29:23, Matthew 23:12, Luke 14:11, James 4:10, I Peter 5:6**
- Physical rewards vs. spiritual rewards  
**I Corinthians 9:8-18, Matthew 6:24, Mark 10:29-30, Luke 16:13, Ephesians 3:20**
- A temporal crown vs. an eternal crown  
**I Corinthians 9:24-27, I Thessalonians 2:19-20, II Timothy 4:6-8, Revelation 2:10**

## ***III. What Can We Learn?***

- What two things helped to verify Paul's apostleship?
- What were two things that the apostles had the right to do?
- What arguments does Paul make to justify preachers receiving support?
- Why did Paul choose not to accept financial support, even though he had Scriptural reasons?
- Why was Paul willing to make himself a servant to all men? What does that mean?
- What two athletic events did Paul compare with the Christian life? What did he say?
- Why was Paul so concerned about exercising self-control?

Conclusion: Where are your priorities? We have to take our eyes off of ourselves. We put the "I" in idolatry. The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to learn to re-think their priorities. Saints can overcome problems with idolatry. We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you choosing righteousness or unrighteousness? Are you seeking the will of God? We are Saints. We can overcome.





# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Study Guide for I Corinthians

### *Lesson #10 = Saints Can Overcome...*

### *Problems Regarding Conformity (I Corinthians 10)*

Introduction: We are in a series entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called the brethren "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on more important things. Today we will talk about overcoming problems regarding conformity and giving in to the world. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 10. Let's read and study together...

#### Discussion:

#### ***I. What Is The Problem?***

- Weakness in temptation  
**I Corinthians 10:1-13, Exodus 14:19-24, Numbers 9:15-23, 25:9, Deuteronomy 32:3-4**
- Wisdom of the world  
**I Corinthians 10:14-22, 8:4, Romans 2:28-29, 12:5, I Corinthians 12:12, 26-27**
- Worrying about image  
**I Corinthians 10:21-33, 6:12, Matthew 5:16, Acts 16:3, 18:18, 21:24-26, Colossians 3:23**

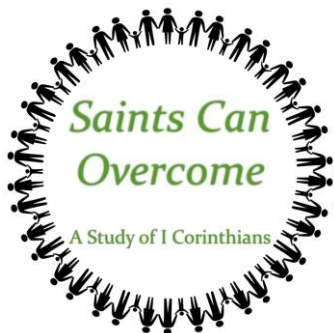
#### ***II. How Can We Overcome It?***

- Believe in God's deliverance  
**I Corinthians 10:13, Psalm 18, 40, 91, 116, Romans 8:28-31, 12:1-2, James 1:2, 14-15**
- Receive God's knowledge  
**I Corinthians 10:15, Genesis 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, I John 2:16**
- Conceive God's plan  
**I Corinthians 10:23-24, 31-33, 9:24-27, Acts 10:15, Romans 14:1-6, I Timothy 4:4**

#### ***III. What Can We Learn?***

- What Old Testament account illustrates the possibility of apostasy?
- What attitude is most likely to precede one's fall?
- What promises do we have that should encourage us in times of temptation?
- What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper? What do the emblems symbolize?
- Why should we be concerned about causing our brethren to stumble?
- Why does the church have such a problem with liberty?

Conclusion: Sometimes things end in disaster. Sometimes there is a happy ending. However, most stories have the same beginning... making a choice. We must take responsibility and be held accountable for what we choose. This is a fact of life. The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. Saints can overcome problems with conformity. We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you choosing to conform or transform? Are you seeking the will of God? We are Saints. We can overcome.



# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Study Guide for I Corinthians

### *Lesson #11 = Saints Can Overcome...*

### *Problems Regarding Loyalty (I Corinthians 11)*

Introduction: We are in a series entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called the brethren "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on more important things. Today we will talk about overcoming problems regarding loyalty. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 11. Let's read and study together...

#### Discussion:

#### **I. What Is The Problem?**

- Improper conduct during worship  
**I Corinthians 11:1-16, 14:40, Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 1:18**
- Improper conduct during communion  
**I Corinthians 11:17-32, Isaiah 53:5, John 6:33-35, 48-51, Acts 2:40-47, 20:7, Jude 12**
- Improper conduct during fellowship  
**I Corinthians 11:33-34, 4:19, 6:12, 19-20, 10:7, 15:32, Romans 14:13-17, Philippians 3:19**

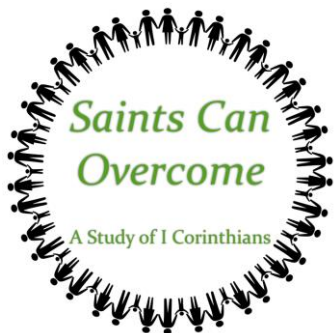
#### **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

- Be loyal to God when you worship  
**I Corinthians 11:3, 7, 16, 14:40, Matthew 5:16, John 4:21-24, Hebrews 10:24-25, 12:28-29**
- Be loyal to God when you take the Lord's Supper  
**I Corinthians 11:17-32, Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-39, John 13-17**
- Be loyal to God when you participate in fellowship  
**I Corinthians 11:33-34, 14:26, Acts 2:42, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 13:16, James 2:1-7**

#### **III. What Can We Learn?**

- What does Paul commend to the church in Corinth? Why?
- How is his commendation proof that good can be found in any situation?
- What is the proper order of authority? Why is this important?
- How did Paul feel about eating common meals in the assemblies?
- What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper? How should one observe the Lord's Supper?
- How can we avoid the judgment of God when taking the Lord's Supper?
- What is God's purpose in judging His children?

Conclusion: How is your loyalty to Christ? The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to learn re-examine their allegiance to Christ. Saints can overcome problems with their loyalty (**Matthew 6:24**). We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you choosing to follow the ways of God or the ways of the world? Are you following Jesus? We are Saints. We can overcome.



# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Study Guide for I Corinthians

*Lesson #12 = Saints Can Overcome...*

*Problems Regarding Spirituality (I Corinthians 12)*

Introduction: We are in a series entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called the brethren "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on spiritual things. Today we will talk about overcoming problems regarding spirituality. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 12. Let's read and study together...

Discussion:

## **I. What Is The Problem?**

- Spiritual gifts led to confusion about safety  
**I Corinthians 12:1-31, Romans 12:1-9, Jeremiah 23:1-4, I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9**
- Spiritual gifts led to confusion about service  
**I Corinthians 12:1-31, Romans 12:1-9, Mark 10:45, Ephesians 4:11-16, Colossians 3:23-25**
- Spiritual gifts led to confusion about signs  
**I Corinthians 12-14, Romans 12:1-9, Acts 1:5, 2:1-36, Hebrews 2:3, I Peter 4:10-11**

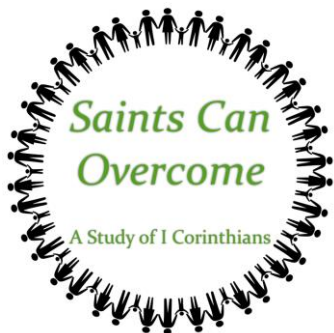
## **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

- Realize that every person has a God-given touch  
**I Corinthians 12:1-11, 3:16, 6:19, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 8:9, II Corinthians 6:16**
- Realize that every person has God-given talents  
**I Corinthians 12:12-26, Matthew 25:14-30, John 15:1-8, James 2:17-19, 4:17**
- Realize that every person has a God-given testimony  
**I Corinthians 12:27-30, 1:10, Luke 22:48, Acts 1:8, 5:42, Ephesians 4:3, 11-16, 5:1-6**

## **III. What Can We Learn?**

- What do we know about the miraculous spiritual gifts?
- How are these miraculous spiritual gifts different from the fruit of the Spirit?
- Who determined who received what gift? Why?
- How were each of these spiritual gifts beneficial to the church in the first/second century?
- Which of the spiritual gifts were the most important to the church? Explain.
- Was there anything wrong with the Corinthians desiring the "best gifts"? Explain.
- Why should we be so concerned about the spirituality of the church?

Conclusion: How is your spirituality? The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to learn re-examine their own spiritual walk with God. Saints can overcome problems with their spirituality. We need to redirect our focus toward Jesus Christ. Are you choosing to talk, walk, or balk? Are you submitting to the will of God? We are Saints. We can overcome.



# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Study Guide for I Corinthians

### *Lesson #13 = Saints Can Overcome...*

### *Problems Regarding Charity (I Corinthians 13)*

Introduction: We are in a series entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called the brethren "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on spiritual things. Today we will talk about overcoming a lack of charity in our lives. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 13. Let's read and study together...

#### Discussion:

#### **I. What Is The Problem?**

- Without love... spiritual gifts are nothing.  
**I Corinthians 13:1-2, 12:1-3, 27-31, Leviticus 19:18, John 14:15, Acts 8:9-24, I John 3:11, 23**
- Without love... good works are nothing.  
**I Corinthians 13:3, John 3:16, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:1, 6, James 2:17, 19-20, 26**
- Without love... great faith amounts to nothing.  
**I Corinthians 13:4-13, 16:14, John 13:24-25, II Corinthians 5:7, Ephesians 4:2-3**

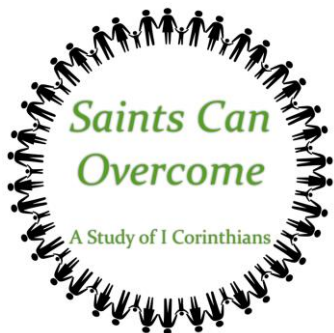
#### **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

- Love is always in action, not bound  
**I Corinthians 13:1-3, Proverbs 10:12, Luke 6:31, Romans 12:9-10, I Peter 4:8**
- Love is mature, not imperfect  
**I Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13, Proverbs 17:17, John 15:13, Colossians 3:14, I John 4:18-19**
- Love is an eternal gift, not temporary  
**I Corinthians 13:8b-13, Deuteronomy 10:12-19, 11:13-22, Matthew 22:37-39**

#### **III. What Can We Learn?**

- How are we nothing without love? Why does it profit us nothing if we do not have love?
- What are the characteristics of love? Which are positive? Which are negative?
- What is the main difference between love and spiritual gifts?
- What does "that which is in part" refer to in this context?
- Why is complete knowledge and complete revelation found in love?
- Is love the result of maturity? Can we mature without love? Explain,
- What illustrations does Paul use to show the temporary nature of spiritual gifts?
- Why must we realize that true, genuine Christian love is greater than any other gift?

Conclusion: The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to re-examine their own charity. We can overcome our problems when we redirect our focus toward the love of God, the message of Jesus Christ, and the Spirit-filled life. Remember the love of God (**John 3:16**). Are you choosing love? Are you sharing God's grace and mercy? We are Saints. We can overcome.



# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Study Guide for I Corinthians

*Lesson #14 = Saints Can Overcome...*

*Problems Regarding Stability (I Corinthians 14)*

Introduction: We are in a series entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME." Before addressing the problems in Corinth... Paul called the brethren "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**). He knew they could overcome their problems if they focused on spiritual things. Today we will talk about overcoming stability issues. Please open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 13. Let's read and study together...

Discussion:

## **I. What Is The Problem?**

- Entertainment superseded worship  
**I Corinthians 14:1-19, Exodus 20:2-6, Isaiah 29:13, John 4:21-24, Hebrews 12:28-29**
- Immaturity superseded maturity  
**I Corinthians 14:20-25, 2:6, 3:1-3, Romans 15:14, Ephesians 4:13-15, Colossians 2:6-7**
- Objections superseded order  
**I Corinthians 14:26-40, Romans 13:1-14, Philippians 2:3, I Timothy 2:1-5, I John 4:12**

## **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

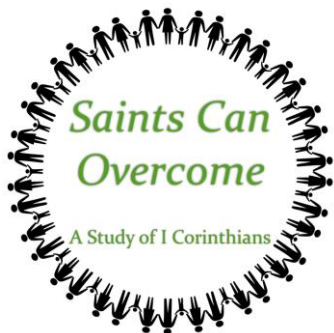
- Love provides the foundation for stability  
**I Corinthians 14:1, 2:9, 4:21, 8:1, 3, 13:1-13, 16:14, 22, 24, Mark 12:29-31, Luke 6:35**
- Paul provides the blueprint for stability  
**I Corinthians 14:12, 8:1, II Corinthians 13:10, Romans 4:20, 15:4, Ephesians 4:11-12**
- Organization provides the structure for stability  
**I Corinthians 14:40, 12:1-11, 16:1-4, Acts 2:42-46, 5:42, 20:7, Ephesians 4:11-16**

## **III. What Can We Learn?**

- What were the Christians in Corinth encouraged to pursue and desire? Why?
- What is the value of prophesying? Why did they do it?
- What is necessary for speaking in tongues to be of value in the assembly?
- Why was it so important to have a speaker and an interpreter?
- What is the ultimate purpose of speaking in tongues?
- How were the unbelievers and visitors to the assembly to view speaking in tongues?
- What restrictions does Paul place on speaking in tongues in the assembly? Why?
- What restrictions does Paul place on women participating in the assemblies? Why?
- Why should things be done "decently and in order"? What is the reasoning behind it?

Conclusion: The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to learn re-examine their own stance. Saints can overcome problems with their stability. We need to start with a strong, healthy foundation. Have you built your life upon Jesus Christ? Are you on solid ground or sinking sand? Are you helping to steady other believers? We are Saints. We can overcome.





# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Study Guide for I Corinthians

*Lesson #15 = Saints Can Overcome...*

*Problems Regarding Authenticity (I Corinthians 15)*

Introduction: Our series on I Corinthians entitled: "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME" will be ending soon. I remind you that Paul wanted the "saints" (**I Corinthians 1:2**) to know that they could overcome their problems. Last week we focused on stability and how to get on solid ground. Now, we want to focus on authenticity and keeping it real. Open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 15. Let's study together...

Discussion:

## **I. What Is The Problem?**

- Confusion over what was real  
**I Corinthians 15:1-19, Matthew-John, Matthew 28:6, John 1:11-13, Acts 2:14-36, 9:5**
- Denial over what was confirmed  
**I Corinthians 15:20-34, Leviticus 23:10-11, Matthew 22:31-32, Romans 5:12, 6:3-4**
- Ignorance over what was assured  
**I Corinthians 15:35-58, II Timothy 1:12, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 10:22, 11:1, I John 5:11-13**

## **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

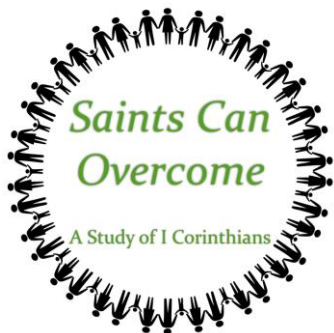
- Believe in what is proclaimed  
**I Corinthians 15:1-11, John 3:18, 14:1, 20:31, Romans 1:16, 10:17, 15:13, Hebrews 11:6**
- Verify what is believed  
**I Corinthians 15:12-34, Mark 1:15, 8:35, 10:29-30, I Timothy 4:10, I Thessalonians 2:13**
- Rejoice in what is verified  
**I Corinthians 15:35-58, 13:6, Matthew 5:12, Philippians 4:4, I Thessalonians 5:16**

## **III. What Can We Learn?**

- What are some of the key elements of the gospel?
- Why was it important that these Christians believed in the resurrection? What about today?
- What proof is offered for the resurrection of Jesus? Why is this valuable?
- Would you be a believer if Jesus had not risen from the dead? Explain.
- What will happen when Christ comes again? Explain.
- Why do some religious groups practice "baptism for the dead" today when Paul condemns it?
- What does Paul reveal about the mystery of death?
- Why is it important that we read the Bible?
- Why is it important to learn the truth?

Conclusion: The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to re-examine their own faith. Saints can overcome problems with their authenticity. We need to start being real with one another. Have you built your life upon hypocrisy? Are you full of faith? How can you show this faith to others? We are Saints. We can overcome.





# GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Study Guide for I Corinthians

### *Lesson #16 = Saints Can Overcome...*

### *Problems Regarding Sincerity (I Corinthians 16)*

**Introduction:** In this lesson we will close our series on "SAINTS CAN OVERCOME" from the study of I Corinthians. Paul wanted the "saints" (I Corinthians 1:2) to know that they could overcome their problems. This week we focus on the need for overcoming issues of false sincerity. Open your Bible to I Corinthians chapter 16. Let's study together...

#### Discussion:

#### **I. What Is The Problem?**

- Neglecting to help those in need  
I Corinthians 16:1-4, Acts 20:1-5, Romans 15:26-27, II Corinthians 9:1-2, James 2:1-13
- Neglecting to visit those in need  
I Corinthians 16:5-12, Proverbs 14:31, Matthew 25:31-46, James 1:27, 5:13-16, I John 3:17
- Neglecting to love those in need  
I Corinthians 2:9, 4:21, 8:1, 3, 13:1-13, 16:14, 22, 24, Mark 12:38-41, John 3:16, 14:15

#### **II. How Can We Overcome It?**

- Giving our money  
I Corinthians 16:1-4, Malachi 3:10, Matthew 6:21, II Corinthians 8:1-24, 9:1-2
- Giving our time  
I Corinthians 16:5-12, Romans 13:8, Ephesians 5:15-16, I Timothy 6:17-19, James 5:1-6
- Giving our words  
I Corinthians 16:13-24, Romans 15:5, I Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25

#### **III. What Can We Learn?**

- Why did Paul dedicate so much time in this book to talk about giving?
- What was the purpose of the collection? When was the collection to be taken? Why?
- What principle concerning giving is taught in this text? Why is that important?
- When did Paul plan to go to Corinth? Why is that important?
- Who would likely see them in the meantime? Why was he going there?
- What comments are made concerning Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus?
- What grave warning does Paul give in this chapter? Why does he give this warning?
- What earnest wish does Paul express in this chapter? How does this prove his sincerity?
- How does Paul close this epistle that is filled with so much rebuke for the error at Corinth?

**Conclusion:** The problems in Corinth were deep rooted, but they could be solved. They needed to put everything into a better perspective. Saints can overcome problems with their sincerity. We need to start being real with one another. Have you built your life upon hypocrisy? Are you honest and sincere? How can you show sincere faith to others? We are Saints. We can overcome.