

First Love

Lesson 1

1 Corinthians 1:1-17

Bible Text English Standard Version	Observations What does the text say?	Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?	Applications What does it mean to me?
<p>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</p> <p>1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p> <p>4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>			
<p>Summary:</p>			

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<p>1 Corinthians 1:10-17</p> <p>A Church Divided Over Leaders</p> <p>10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,[a] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 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.”</p> <p>13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.</p>			
<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>a: 1 Corinthians 1:10 The Greek word for <i>brothers and sisters (adelphoi)</i> refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family.</p>			
<p>Summary:</p> 			

As believers, we are called to be holy, set apart for a God-filled life. God equips us, yet we fall short. Reflect on the following verses. What new insights do you have on God's call to be holy?

Romans 12:1

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

II Timothy 1:8-9

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, **9** who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

Hebrews 12:10

10 For they [our fathers] disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

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Space for Grace

Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Looking back over your life, is there a story that God brings to mind where He called you to be set apart for Him?
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit, produce a new work of creativity.
- Explain in your own words what it means to be holy, or offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God.

Prayer Requests
