

August 21–27

1 Corinthians 1–7

“Be Perfectly Joined Together”



Overview

1 Cor 3:1-3

Bruce R. McConkie

"Ancient Corinth was a city of debauchery, lewdness, and evil. Even by pagan standards the Corinthians were notoriously sensual and immoral....

"In this climate of evil, Paul had raised up a congregation of saints who forsook the world that was Corinth and sought for a better life in the Cause of Christ. But these new and in some cases only semi-converted saints soon reeked with troubles." (DNTC, 2:309)

No Divisions Among You

1Cor 1:10-13

Why was it clear to Paul that the Church at Corinth was divided?

Why is it so important that members of Christ's church "be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"?

Brigham Young

"If we were one, we should then prove to heaven, to God our Father, to Jesus Christ our Elder Brother, to the angels, to the good upon the earth, and to all mankind that we are the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we are not one, we are not in the true sense of the word the disciples of the Lord Jesus." (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young, pg. 355)

Spencer W. Kimball

“Our challenge today is to be a light unto the world.... If [all the] members of the Church would live the gospel principles, all the errors of the world would evaporate. The world would come to us, and we would change the frustration of the world to the peace of the gospel.”

(Church News, Feb. 26, 1972)

No Divisions Among You

1Cor 3:5-10

What is need in order for a seed to grow and increase?

What do you think Paul means by “every man take heed how he buildeth” on his foundation of faith?

What actions would cause us to not build properly on the foundation of faith?

Brigham Young

“We can... organize according to the best plans and patterns and system that we can get for the present... but we cannot make a man or a woman yield to the will of God unless they are disposed to. I can plant, I can water, but I cannot give the increase; I cannot cause the wheat and corn to grow. It is true I can break up and prepare the ground and cast the seed therein, but I cannot cause it to grow, that can only be done by the people having willing hearts, ready minds, and a disposition to go forth with a firm determination and a willing hand to build up the kingdom.” (JD, 17:154)

Holy Ghost Essential for Spiritual Growth

1Cor 1:21-24

In what way are we able to grow in our understanding of the gospel?

Bruce R. McConkie

"As Paul said of those in his day, that 'in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God' (1 Cor 1:21), so say we of all those in our day who seek God by study and research alone.... God is and can be known only by revelation; the wisdom of the wise does not make him manifest, and all the conjecture and debate as to how this or that ancient name-title should be translated is as naught compared to one plain inspired utterance." (The Promised Messiah: The First Coming of Christ, pg. 100)

Holy Ghost Essential for Spiritual Growth

1Cor 1:25-28

What had the Saints in Corinth noticed about those who accepted callings in the church?

Why do you think God uses the weak things of the world to bring about His work?

Brigham Young,

“We will acknowledge that we are very ignorant, and that the Lord has taken the weak things of the world to confound the wisdom of the wise. He has picked up the poor of the earth and brought them together, because they seek after him; while the hearts of the rich and the proud, the high and the noble, are lifted up, and they cannot hearken to the principles of the Gospel and receive them and obey them. They feel themselves too good; they know too much; while the poor and needy... are the ones who naturally seek after the Lord.” (JD, 14:37)

Holy Ghost Essential for Spiritual Growth

1Cor 2:1-5

Why do you think Paul would say, “I determined not to know any thing... save Jesus Christ, and him crucified”?

How does Paul describe himself as a teacher?

Then how is able to teach them about Christ?

Why is it important that our understanding of the gospel comes from the Spirit and not from a “wise” man or woman?

Harold B. Lee

“We must always keep in mind that the greatest weapons that can be forged against any false philosophy are the positive teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“We constantly impress upon all who go out as true ambassadors of the kingdom of God to follow the wise counsel of the apostle Paul, one of the ablest defenders of the faith of all time. In his declaration to the Corinthians he has given us his counsel if we would be as powerful as he in our ministry. This was his secret in combating evil: ‘And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I am determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.... That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God’ (1 Cor. 2:1-2,5).

“It is inspired wisdom that our efforts must be spent in teaching truth by the power of Almighty God, and thus we can forge the most powerful of all weapons against the vicious doctrines of Satan.” (CR, April 1972)

Holy Ghost Essential for Spiritual Growth

1Cor 3:18-20

What is Paul's admonition to any who "seemeth to be wise in this world"?

What do you think Paul means when he tells us to "become a fool, that [we] may be wise"?

Richard G. Scott

"Humility is essential to the acquiring of spiritual knowledge. To be humble is to be teachable. Humility permits you to be tutored by the Spirit and to be taught from sources inspired by the Lord, such as the scriptures. The seeds of personal growth and understanding germinate and flourish in the fertile soil of humility. Their fruit is spiritual knowledge to guide you here and hereafter." (CR, Oct 1993)

Delbert L. Stapley

“Is man so wise, so vain, and so self-centered that he does not require divine aid? The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God. Yet man, in his own considered importance and self-sufficiency, thinks he can successfully get along in life without God's help. We must remember that a man can do nothing for himself unless God directs him in the right way.” (CR, April 1970)

Holy Ghost Essential for Spiritual Growth

1Cor 2:10-14

What must be present in order for us to gain an understanding of the things of God?

Why are things of the Spirit considered foolish to the natural man?

Spencer W. Kimball

"The treasures of both secular and spiritual knowledge are hidden ones-but hidden from those who do not properly search and strive to find them.... Spiritual knowledge is not available merely for the asking; even prayers are not enough. It takes persistence and dedication of one's life.... Of all treasures of knowledge, the most vital is the knowledge of God" (The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, pg. 389-390)

Charles W. Penrose

“The Holy Spirit... reveals the things of God. We see natural things by the light of the sun. We see spiritual things by spiritual light, and he that is spiritual discerneth all things and judgeth all things, and he that is not spiritual cannot comprehend spiritual things. They are foolishness to him. And while the Saints of God, quickened by the spirit which they have obtained through obedience to the Gospel, can comprehend these things of which I am speaking and discern their meaning and signification, those that are wicked and corrupt and obey not the ordinances of God, cannot see these things nor comprehend them as they are, but they are foolishness to them.” (JD, 26:18)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“If we remove ourselves from the light of the gospel, our own light begins to dim—not in a day or a week but gradually over time—until we look back and can’t quite understand why we had ever believed the gospel was true. Our previous knowledge might even seem foolish to us because what once was so clear has again become blurred, hazy, and distant.” (CR, Oct. 2014)

Ye Are the Temple of God

1Cor 3:16-17

In what way are our bodies like temples?

Margaret D. Nadauld

“Women who are grateful to be a daughter of God... understand their stewardship over their bodies and treat them with dignity. They care for their bodies as they would a holy temple. Women who love God would never abuse or deface a temple.... How even more sacred is the body, for it was not made by man. It was formed by God. We are the stewards, the keepers of the cleanliness and purity with which it came from heaven....

“Grateful daughters of God guard their bodies carefully, for they know they are the wellspring of life and they reverence life.” (CR, Oct. 2000)

Ye Are the Temple of God

1Cor 6:17-20

What do you think Paul means by the statement “ye are not your own”?

Joseph Fielding Smith

"Paul says: 'We were bought with a price'. That price was the blood of Jesus Christ, and we are not our own. Oh, if we could only understand that by the shedding of his blood, he bought us. We belong to him. He has a right to tell us what to do and what not to do, and to command us to keep his commandments; however, we have our agency, and we act for ourselves." (CR, Oct. 1947)

Ye Are the Temple of God

1Cor 2:9

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“The promises of praise and acceptance by the world are unreliable, untrue, and unsatisfying. God’s promises are sure, true, and joyful—now and forever.

“I invite you to consider religion and faith from a higher perspective. Nothing offered in the great and spacious building can compare with the fruit of living the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Indeed, ‘eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.’

“I have learned for myself that the path of discipleship in the gospel of Jesus Christ is the way to joy. It is the way to safety and peace. It is the way to truth.” (General Women’s Session, Oct. 2017)

Next Week:

August 28–September 3

1 Corinthians 8–13

“Ye Are the Body of Christ”

