

(1st Corinthians Introduction)
“Faith In A Morally Confused Culture”

~INTRO~

(1 Cor. 16:13-14) NKJV

*“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.
Let all that you do be done with love.”*

LET'S CATCH A GLIMPSE...

- Of where this came from.
 - So we can understand it for ourself today.

(1st Corinthians)...

- Was written for a specific church – (1 Cor. 1:2) NKJV
 - But it's lessons are for all Christian's.

WHY?

- Because when a church grows...
 - Believers should mature
 - People should be added
 - And teaching truth should hold people from drifting

In (Romans)...

- We learn *The Gospel According to Grace*.
 - **Christianity is explained** by what God has done for us.

In (1 Corinthians)...

- **Christianity is applied** & we learn how to live out faith.

(1st Corinthians)...

- Was written by the Apostle Paul to a church with problems!
 - The Corinthian-Church was gifted, growing, & passionate.
- BUT it was divided...
 - AND they were confused about important issues.

IF I COULD GURANTEE YOU...

- A 100% positive return on an investment in this world...
 - Would you take it?

(Ps. 32:8) NLT

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*The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.
I will advise you and watch over you.”*

HERE’S THE POINT...

- If we apply what we’re about to learn...
 - Our life will change.

THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH STRUGGLED WITH:

- Division (chp.# 1–3)
- Sexual sin (chp.# 5–6)
- Confusion about marriage / freedom / conscience (chp.# 7–10)
- Disorder in worship / immaturity with spiritual gifts (chp.# 11–14)
- Confusion about the resurrection (chp.# 15)

#1 – THE RIGHT STANCE

SPIRITUAL ALERTNESS (v.13)

- **Watch** (Grk: *grego-re-o*) = **Stay awake**, give attention, be active.
 - So we’re NOT overtaken by *spiritual drift*.

(Matt 26:41) NKJV

- This is the same word Jesus used = “*Watch and pray*”

HERE’S THE LESSON:

- *Spiritual drift* gets us.

(Luke 22:54-57) NKJV

- a) Following Jesus at a distance (v.54)
- b) Warming yourself at the enemy’s fire (v.55)
- c) Denying Jesus (v.57)

(1 Cor. 16:13)...

- **Stand fast** = (Grk. *Stay-ko*) to hold your ground...
 - With the objective truth of the Gospel.
 - Guard your heart – desires
 - (Prov. 27:20b) NLT

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- Guard your habits – practices
- Build your life on truth

(Prov. 23:2) NKJV

#2 – THE RIGHT PATH

Be brave = Literally “*to act manly*”

- This is speaking about **courage**.

(Phil. 4:13) NLT

“*... I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*”

(Isa. 40:29) NLT

“*He give power to the weak and strength to the powerless.*”

Be strong = Allow yourself to be strengthened by God

(Eph. 6:10) NKJV

“*... be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*”

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO US?

- Because deliverance gets you out of Egypt...
 - But it's discipleship that gets Egypt out of you.

#3 – THE WAY FORWARD

PAUL CONCLUDES...

- With **love** (v.14)

- *Watching* without love = Paranoia
- *Standing fast* (truth) without love = Legalism
- *Courage* without love = Pride
- *Strength* without love = Aggression

~ IN CLOSING ~

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OUR LESSON IS...

- *Love* is the right use of truth.