

**SLOW FOOD: 1 CORINTHIANS**  
**CHAPTERS 5-12, 14 AND 16 (37 STUDIES)**

**Introduction.** For 1 Corinthians 1-4, 13 and 15, and an introduction to the letter as a whole, see the previous item on the TISCA website.

**5:1-5** Is Paul overreacting to a one-off situation? Is the way he deals with it applicable to the community I belong to? *Ezra 10:1-6; 1 Tim 1:20, 5:19-20.*

**5:6-8** How does the sacrifice of Christ on the cross deal with the 'old yeast' in my life? *Rom 8:1-4; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Gal 5:9.*

**5:9-13** To what extent should I be judgmental about (a) my non-Christian friends and acquaintances (b) my Christian brothers and sisters? *Jn 17:14-19; 1 Cor 15:33; 2 Thess 3:6.*

**6:1-8** How helpful is Paul's guidance when deciding whether to deal with a sensitive matter 'in house' rather than in the public arena? *Mt 18:15-17; Lk 22:30; 1 Cor 2:5.*

**6:9-11** Consider a Christian's identity in the past, the present and the future. Am I failing to live up to my identity in any respect? *Acts 20:35; Rom 6:6; 12:3; Gal 2:20.*

**6:12-20 (I)** Is Paul's attitude to sex outside marriage outmoded? *Job 31:1-4; Mt 5:27-30; 1 Thess 4:3-8.*

**6:12-20 (II)** 'I can't just run away from temptation!' Can't you? *Gen 39; Prov 5; Jas 4:5-7.*

**7:1-7** What special demands does marriage make on a man or a woman? *Gen 2:24; Prov 31:10-31; Eph 5:22-33.*

**7:8-11** Is the Bible's teaching on divorce a counsel of perfection? *Gen 2:18; Mal 2:10-16; Mt 19:3-9.*

**7:12-16** If the basis of the Christian gospel is reconciliation and hope, how could this work out when one partner in a marriage is a believer and the other isn't? *2 Cor 4:6; Col 1:20; 1 Pet 3:1-2.*

**7:17-24** How does God's call in Christ affect my view of my 'calling' in ordinary life? *Exod 21:2-6; Mk 5:18-20; 1 Cor 1:26, 6:20.*

**7:25-31** How is my view of engagement, marriage and my life's work affected by Paul's teaching on the transience of earthly existence? *Job 1:21; Ps 103:15-17; 2 Cor 4:16-18.*

**7:32-40** Are my earthly concerns distracting me from kingdom priorities? What if anything can I do about it? *Dt 25:5; Lk 10:38-42; Lk 14:18-20.*

**8:1-6** Am I proud of my theological knowledge? Has this become a substitute for the love of God? *1 Cor 2:1-3; 1 Cor 13:12; Eph 1:4.*

**8:7-13** How much attention should I pay to someone else's qualms of conscience? *Ezek 34:16; Mk 7:15, 20; Heb 12:12-13.*

**9:1-12a** Should I always take the 'perks' that I'm entitled to from my job? *Dt 24:19; Mt 10:10; 2 Cor 12:13; Col 3:23-24.*

**9:12b-18** Am I offering the gospel completely free of charge? Is there a risk of misunderstanding here? *Isa 55:1; Acts 8:20; Rev 22:17.*

**9:19-23 Am I being inconsistent if I use different approaches to different groups?**

*Acts 17:16-31; Eph 3:10; 1 Pet 4:10.*

**9:24-27 Am I spiritually unfit?** *Song 1:6; Phil 3:14; Heb 12:1.*

**10:1-5 Do I take my Christian privileges for granted?** *Dt 8:2-3; Ps 78:35-37; Heb 6:9-12.*

**10:6-13 Are my temptations abnormal?** *2 Tim 2:22; 1 Pet 5:9; 2 Pet 3:17-18.*

**10:14-22 How seriously should I regard non-Christian spiritual 'forces'?**

*Dt 32:15-18; Lk 11:20-26; 1 Jn 4:4.*

**10:23-11:1 How can I live my life today for the glory of God?**

*Rom 14:13-19; Phil 2:21; Col 3:17.*

**11:2-16 When Paul is pronouncing on an ethically neutral issue (e.g. whether women should be veiled in church) how does he balance Scripture, church tradition and social conventions?** *Gen 1:27-28; 2 Chr 8:21; Mt 15:3-8; 2 Cor 8:21; Col 2:8; 1 Th 5:21. Fee notes the 'notorious exegetical difficulties' of this passage.*

**11:17-22 Indiscipline is often a case of some people getting away with it to the disadvantage of others. How can I deal with it?** *1 Sam 2:12-17, 3:13; Tit 2:1-10.*

**11:23-34 What's the point of attending the Lord's Supper?** *Lk 24:30-31; Acts 2:42, 46.*

**12:1-11 Are some Christians more 'spiritual' than others? Do I need more of the Holy Spirit?** *Lk 11:13; Jn 14:12-17; Acts 2:38; Rom 8:9-11; Eph 5:18-21.*

**12:12-20 Am I jealous of those who have more obvious gifts than I do?**

*Prov 14:30; Rom 14:4; Gal 5:25-26; Jas 3:13-18.*

**12:21-26 Am I self-sufficient? Do I care about what others are feeling?**

*Rom 15:1-7; 2 Cor 2:16b, 3:5; Phil 4:10-16.*

**12:27-31a Am I a good team player?** *Eph 4:1-16.*

**14:1b-12 Do I aim at clarity in communication, or do I insist on speaking my own private language which leaves other people baffled?** *Dan 2:19-23, 47; Jn 10:6-7, 16:29. Ch 14 is concerned with the relative value of prophecy and tongues-speaking in the church at Corinth, which may not be of general relevance. Even so, it may raise significant issues.*

**14:13-25 If I am engaged in teaching young minds, is my own sufficiently adult in terms of mature rational thinking (see esp v20)?** *Acts 26:1-8, 24-25; Eph 1:17-20, 4:13-14.*

**14:26-40 What degree of chaos am I prepared to tolerate in my teaching? Is everybody able to concentrate on the matter in hand (see esp v33)?**

*Prov 22:6; Acts 19:32, 21:34, 40-22:2; Tit 3:1-2, 8-10.*

**16:1-9 Does the Lord expect me to leave all my future plans with him?**

*Prov 16:3; Jer 10:23; Acts 16:6-7; 18:21.*

**16:10-14 Whether I am diffident like Timothy, or in-your-face like Apollos, how do I stay balanced?** *2 Sam 10:12; Dan 10:19; 1 Cor 13:4-7.*

**16:15-24 Paul ends as he began, with the grace of Christ. Is that my be-all and end-all?**

*Mic 7:18-20; 1 Cor 1:3-4; Rev 22:20-21.*

**Review. 'Paul really and truly listened to the communities to which he wrote' (Conrad Gempf *How to like Paul again*). Can I follow him in this?**