

*RBCPC*  
*2011 Study Series*



*New Testament*

*Week #6*  
*Study Guide*

**1 & 2 Corinthians**

Posting date: May 11, 2011

[www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/](http://www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/)

## **Overview**

These two “epistles,” or letters, were written by the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. In the first, he addresses many problems in the church in hopes that they might correct them and re-align their spiritual practices with the gospel. In the second letter, Paul reveals his heart to the people and defends his authority as an apostle of Jesus.

## **Scripture Study – Key Passages**

Open your Bible and read the following scripture:

### ***1 Corinthians 1:10-12***

1. What is Paul's concern for the church in Corinth?
2. Why is it important that the church be “united in mind and thought?”
3. Do you think it is possible for a church to be “united in mind and thought?” Why or Why not?
4. How might this scripture help church leaders today as they deal with differences on current issues among the community of believers?

### ***1 Corinthians 12:12-22***

1. How does Paul define a “spiritual gift?”
2. What is a person supposed to do with his/her “gift?”
3. Why does Paul compare the different gifts with parts of the human body?
4. How does this scripture reinforce the above discussion on “unity?”

### ***1 Corinthians 13***

1. Why does Paul compare love with spiritual gifts?
2. Which does Paul say is more valuable? Why?
3. How do the attributes of love compare to the attributes of God?
4. How does this scripture reveal the importance of love in your own relationship with God?

### ***2 Corinthians 13:3-4***

1. Why do the Corinthians need proof of Paul's authority? What other influences might be at work in Corinth?
2. Why is it important for the Corinthians to recognize Paul's authority?
3. What kind of power does Paul say he has?
4. What kind of power does Paul promise for the believers in Corinth?
5. Why would they want this kind of power?

## **Key Themes:**

1. 1 Corinthians: Divisions in the church are destructive and contrary to the gospel.
2. 2 Corinthians: Reconciliation and defense of Paul's apostolic authority.

## **Reflection**

Keeping in mind the supreme role of love in your relationship with God, how might you use the gifts God has given you to strengthen and encourage: your church, your community, and your family relationships?

## **Prayer**

### **2 Corinthians 6:3-10**

*We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. <sup>4</sup> Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; <sup>5</sup> in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup> in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; <sup>8</sup> through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup> known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*

1. Using Paul's example, ask God to help you to always serve Him whether people praise or despise you.
2. Ask God to increase your capacity to love someone with whom you have a conflict.
3. Pray that, although your heart may ache, you will always have a heart full of thankfulness and joy.

## **Homework**

Read **1 Corinthians 13**, in preparation for the sermon on May 14/15, "The Love Chapter."  
Mark words, or phrases that stand out to you.

## **Notes & Reflections:**

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