



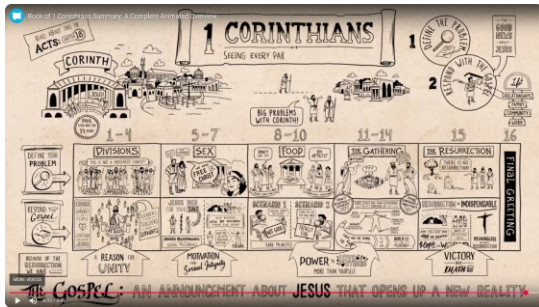
STUDIES IN 1 CORINTHIANS 5-7

Written by Andy Buchan One Hope Community Church, March 2026

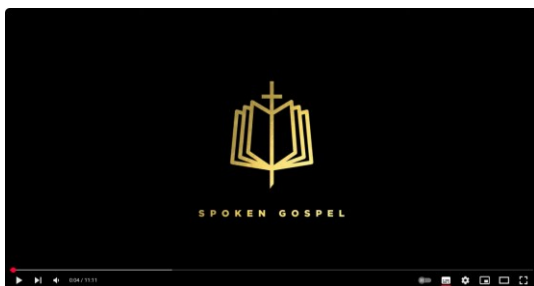
1. Worldliness in the Church (5:1-13)
2. Grace & Grievances (6:1-11)
3. Sex, Lies, & Redemption (6:12-20)
4. The Beauty of Marriage (7:1-16)
5. Living as You are Called (7:17-24)
6. The Gift of Singleness (7:25-40)



OVERVIEW MATERIAL / VIDEO RESOURCES



[Bible Project 1 Corinthians Overview.](#)



[Spoken Gospel - 1 Corinthians](#)

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

[1 Corinthians for You](#) - Andrew Wilson (Good Book Company)

[The Message of 1 Corinthians: Life in the Local Church](#) - David Prior (The Bible Speaks Today)

[Married for God](#) - Christopher Ash (IVP).

[7 Myths about Singleness](#) - Sam Allberry (Crossway)

[Single Ever After](#) - Danielle Trewick (Good Book Company)

[Unpacking Forgiveness](#) - Chris Brauns (Crossway)

WEBSITE

considerjesus.au has more resources.

HELP, I'M LEADING A BIBLE STUDY!

What a privilege that is! It can seem daunting. It is best to think of yourself as a 'facilitator' of a discussion by asking the questions provided in these studies. You don't have to be a Bible expert! Ask God to help you be faithful in this task and that his Spirit would help your group understand what he is saying to them through it.

TOP TIPS:

- Start with the opening question/s for discussion, then read the first part of the passage and work your way through the questions.
- Try asking everyone in the group to contribute.
- Share around the reading of passages and ask for just one answer from each person, to share the opportunity to answer.
- Think of it as sharing in **a process of discovery** together.
- Remember that God's word is living and active – powerful to change us from the inside out (Hebrews 4:12).
- Prioritise **application** as the goal.
- Leave time to pray!

WHICH BIBLE VERSION?

One Hope Community Church uses the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) along with the English Standard Version (ESV). You will find people using various other English translations too (i.e. NIV, NLT, and NKJV). Comparing them can prove to be very helpful. You could print copies of the passage to have everyone looking at the same version.

More expanded versions (like the *Amplified* or *The Message*) can prove *distracting* rather than helpful when reading with a group. Similarly, the notes in a study bible or a commentary can be helpful for individual study, but it is best practice to avoid referring to them in a group setting. Have a go at answering the questions yourself!

STUDY ONE

WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13



Opening Question: *Judgment.* When is it appropriate for Christians and when is it not?

Read 1-5

- Describe this situation in Corinth and Paul's response to it.
- This was a public, persistent, and unrepentant behaviour. What does it mean to 'hand over' (or 'deliver') someone to Satan?
- Why do you think it is easier to tolerate unrepentant sin than challenge it?

Read 6-8

- Have you ever used yeast in cooking? What did you learn about it?
- Describe the effect of unrepentant sin continuing in this community.
- How is this Corinthian problem a modern problem too?

Read 9-13

- What does Paul's instruction here tell us about the Corinthian church and how they were conducting themselves?
- What point does he make that broadens the scope of this problem?
- What is the difference between God's judgment and our own?
- How do you respond to the accusation that Christians are judgmental?

Summary applications:

- How can we put the principles here into practice today?
- How might you take sin more seriously?
- What are the goals of biblical church discipline (for the individual and for the church)?

Pray together

STUDY TWO

GRACE & GRIEVANCES

1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11



Opening Question:

When you were growing up, how did your family resolve arguments? Is that similar or different for you today?

Read 1-4

- What's been happening in Corinth?
- What is Paul's concern for them?
- How might the witness of the church be impacted by their behaviour?
- Paul mentions that believers will one day 'judge the world' and 'judge angels.' How does this future responsibility change how we should view a small disagreement today?

Read 5-8

- Paul suggests it is better to 'lose' a worldly argument than to 'lose' your Christian witness. In what specific situations today might 'taking the hit' actually be the most Christ-like thing to do?"
- Who might we be able to take a dispute to for support? What would a good process of restoration involve?
- What attitude does Paul encourage in such cases?
- Would this apply in every situation? (i.e. a civil dispute vs criminal conduct)

Read 9-11

- In what ways are we deceived about sin? How does the world try and convince us these behaviours are 'no big deal'?
- What good news is provided for the Corinthians here?
- What does it mean to have been washed, sanctified, & justified? (think *past gone, purpose changed, and status secure*).

Summary Applications:

- How do these verses challenge you personally?
- What godly steps might you take if you had a grievance with another believer? (See Matthew 18:15-17)
- How does reflecting on your past help with your present and future challenges?

Pray together: Spend some time praying for our church and our families.

If time allows, share the 'Grace and Grievances Flowchart' with the group (two pages)

THE "GRACE & GRIEVANCES" FLOWCHART



STEP ONE: HEART CHECK

Can I overlook this minor offence out of love?

Proverbs 19:11, Matthew 5:58-42 & 1 Peter 4:8
Process: Seek God's wisdom. Uphold justice.

IF YES - forgive & move on

IF NO - Go to step two



STEP TWO: PRIVATE MEETING

Go to the person privately

Matthew 18:15

Rules: In-person only. No venting to others. Goal is reconciliation, not winning. Honest dialogue.

Resolved: forgive & restore

Unresolved: Go to step three



STEP THREE: PRIVATE 'COURT'

Bring along 1 or 2 wise, trusted believers

Matthew 18:16, 1 Corinthians 6:5

Rules: Use "I feel" statements, pray together, and consider the "Paul Test" (Am I willing to be wronged for the sake of the Gospel?). Be ready to show grace.

Resolved: Forgive and restore

Unresolved: Go to step four



STEP FOUR: CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Involve Church Elders and/or your Pastor.

Matthew 18:17

Process: Document your previous actions. Formal steps of church discipline may apply here. Pursue the goal of peace together.

Resolution: Follow the steps in Matthew 18:17, see the CRCA church order for appeals process

Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. - Ephesians 4:31-32



NAVIGATING CONFLICT WITH GRACE

Conflict is a reality of life, but for the believer, it is also an opportunity for grace. Even the Apostle Paul knew the heartache and complexities of personal conflict in his ministry (see Acts 15:37-40). However, conflict does not have to result in lasting division.

The *Grace & Grievances Flowchart* moves us beyond the temptation of negativity and gossip toward the goal of biblical faithfulness, forgiveness, and reconciliation. It prioritises private dialogue over public venting - safeguarding both the individuals and the mission of the church. Just as Paul eventually found reconciliation with Mark (2 Timothy 4:9-11), this framework provides us with a hopeful roadmap to restore what is broken and honour Christ in our differences.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- **Power Differential:** If there is a significant “power gap” or an opposite-gender dynamic, seek advice *before* Step 2. You may need to bring a third party earlier for safety and accountability. If the issue involves a leader, elder, or pastor – speak to our Safe Church representative or a trusted Christian leader in the church.
- **A link to One Hope’s Code of Conduct, Complaint Form and Child Protection** contact is published at the end of our newsletter each week.
- **Medium Matters:** Digital communication (text/email) lacks tone and empathy. The flowchart strictly requires *in-person* dialogue to prevent misunderstandings.
- **The “Paul” Test:** Keep asking: “*Is my 'right' to be right more important than the reputation of Jesus?*” (1 Corinthians 6:7).
- **Is what happened to you against the law?** Illegal/criminal behaviour should be reported to the police (Romans 13:1-7).

PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLICAL RESTORATION



These five principles serve as the engine for our *Grace & Grievances* process.

1. Seek God’s **WISDOM** to ensure your heart is right

James 1:5

2. Uphold **JUSTICE** to ensure everyone is safe

Micah 6:8

3. Speak the **TRUTH** in love to bring clarity

Ephesians 4:15

4. Extend **GRACE** to allow for mistakes

Colossians 3:13

5. Pursue **PEACE** because we are one body in Christ

Matthew 5:9

STUDY THREE

SEX, LIES, & REDEMPTION

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20



Opening Question: In our surrounding culture, what are the common 'lies' used to describe the purpose of sex?

Read 12-13

- How were the Corinthians trying to justify their worldly and immoral behaviour?
- "If it feels good, just do it" - where do we encounter this concept today?
- How does 'all things are lawful' become a trap?

Read 14-17

- What was happening in this church in Corinth?!
- What encouragement and instruction does Paul refer to here?
- The Corinthians thought the body was in a sense, 'unspiritual.' This says otherwise. Why is our connection to Christ's body relevant?
- According to these verses, why is it impossible for a Christian to have a 'casual' sexual encounter?

Read 18-20

- Why is sexual sin an important, gospel matter that needs addressing?
- What does it look like to 'flee' sexual immorality? Why doesn't Paul say to 'stand and fight' it?
- How is God's 'owning us' better news than 'owning ourselves'?
- What does it look like to glorify God with your body?

Application Questions:

- How might you resolve to flee sexual sin?
- What comfort and hope can we point someone to who may have failed in this area?
- How can we be helpful and prayerful for one another, as well as the children, youth and young adults we know regarding biblical intergity in this area?

Pray together

STUDY FOUR

THE BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-16



Opening Questions: Hebrews 13:4a says “let marriage be held in honour among all” – how might we speak of the beauty of biblical marriage and uphold it? How might we, at the same time, communicate the value of singleness?

Read 1-5

- Noting the quotation marks most translations place in verse 1, what were the Corinthians saying about sex? Why?
- What does Paul say to that?
- Sex is often viewed as a recreational appetite (like hunger). In some circles, it has been viewed as a necessary evil for procreation. How can we speak to both situations with gospel clarity?
- People often say marriage is a 50-50 arrangement. Based on verse 4, why is 100/100 a better biblical description?

Read 6-9

- What does this teach us about the place of singleness?
- What does this teach us about the place of marriage?
- Verse 9 is pragmatic. How might this be a sign of maturity and not weakness?

Read 10-16

- Paul is careful to delineate between what Jesus taught about this in the gospels, and his understanding about how this applies to a new situation: a christian who is married to an unbeliever.
- What instructions does he give about this kind of marriage?
- How might this section help someone seeking to be married?
- How are we to understand the children of believers?

Summary Applications

- We may often idolise marriage and marginalise single people. How might we seek to resolve this problem?
- How might this change what you say to unmarried children or single friends about their future?
- For those who are married (to discuss with your spouse later): How does this speak to our married life? How might we serve one another more faithfully and lovingly in our intimacy? What is the place of prayer in our lives? How can we talk about marriage and singleness more appropriately with friends & family?
- For those who are single to consider: How can I better understand Paul’s example of undivided devotion to God?

Pray together

- Pray for those struggling in their marriages or their singleness
- Pray for the salvation of spouses and/or children you know of who need Jesus

STUDY FIVE

LIVING AS YOU ARE CALLED

1 CORINTHIANS 7:17-24



Opening Question: Describe a situation where you thought the grass was greener elsewhere.

Read 17-19

- What is the context Paul is speaking to here? (think about the chapter so far, and the situation for the church in Corinth).
- What principle can we learn from here?
- What would be a misapplication on this passage?

Read 20-23

- Slavery was common in those times. What would this message mean to a christian slave?
- How might we today become 'slaves of people' rather than 'slaves of Christ'?
- How should we consider this command to 'remain' today?
- Paul says 'you were bought with a price.' How does knowing we are 'owned' by God actually provide us with the ultimate freedom from human expectations?"

Read v 24

- What does this call to remain mean for marriages between Christian and a non-Christian? (see verses 15-16).
- This verse adds a detail: we are to remain (or abide) 'with God.' How does that change the mundane or a difficult situation into a 'calling'?

Application Questions:

- Do you treat your vocation as your identity? Discuss the impact of that thinking.
- What does 'living as you are called' mean for you? Does this mean a Christian can never change jobs or seek a better situation?
- How might you live more 'presently' and 'with God' rather than looking to greener pastures?

Pray Together

STUDY SIX

THE GIFT OF SINGLENES

1 CORINTHIANS 7:25-40



Opening Question: How does our surrounding culture portray singleness?

How does the church portray it?

Read 25-31

- What might be the 'present distress' Paul is referring to?
- If you knew life was going to change radically in the next six months, how would you live differently?
- Paul says that 'time is limited' (v29) and that the world in its 'current form is passing away' (v31). What relief does that give people in difficult circumstances?

Read 32-35

- Marriage requires a healthy anxiety for one's spouse. How does singleness allow for a different concern?
- In verse 35, Paul mentions "good order" and "undivided devotion." What do you think "good order" looks like in a life that is truly centered on Christ?
- Practically speaking, what does it look like to have "undivided devotion" to the Lord in your current stage of life?

Read 36-40

- What does it look like to be 'firm in heart' regarding the major decisions in life?
- In what ways does this section (and chapter) challenge your views on marriage and singleness?

Application Questions:

- What hope does this bring to those struggling with marriage or singleness?
- Is marriage or not being married an idol? How does this chapter help reorientate us back to finding our identity in Christ?
- What have you learnt about how the gospel redefines our earthly relationships and statuses?

In Christ, our ultimate identity is never defined by our earthly status—whether married or single—but by our belonging to the Lord. Because the time is short and this world is passing away, we are called to hold all earthly things loosely so that our hearts can be tethered firmly to the only thing that truly lasts: undivided devotion to Jesus.

Pray Together