

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Christian Fellowship (1 Corinthians 16:15-24)**

Date: **February 25, 2018**

After spending two years studying this epistle to the church in Corinth, we are wrapping up our time in 1 Corinthians this week as we look at Paul's closing remarks in 1 Corinthians 16:15-24. The letter has offered some strong rebukes to the Corinthians related to division, sexual immorality, idolatry, and church worship. Earlier in chapter 16, we saw that, despite these strong rebukes, Paul and the church had a profound love for one another rooted in Christ. The love that Paul has for the church as well as the love that he desires them to have for one another comes up again in this week's passage. In these closing remarks, we are reminded of the importance of authentic church fellowship. As Christians, we are not meant to walk the Christian life alone. We are meant to walk with Christ in the context of Christian community and one-another love. Love must mark our relationships with each other, our relationships with other churches, and our relationship with Christ himself.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 16:15-24 and ensure that you've listened to the sermon from Sunday.
 - a. In verse 15-16, Paul speaks of Stephanas and his household. How is the church expected to treat these fellow saints? What do we learn from this example?
 - b. What does it look like to be subject to our leaders and to those who help in the work and labors (v. 16)? How can we cultivate a submissive spirit to those in leadership over us?
 - c. In verse 16, Paul mentions Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus. Who were these men? What is Paul's reaction upon receiving these men that were sent to him from the Corinthian church? What does this teach us about Paul's relationship with the churches that he ministered to?
 - d. Paul says that these men refreshed his spirit as well as the spirits of the Corinthians (v. 18). What does he mean by this? How can we refresh one another in the Lord?
 - e. The churches of Asia sent greetings to the church in Corinth (v. 19). What does this teach us about what our disposition should be toward other local churches?

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- f. In verse 20, Paul writes, “Greet one another with a holy kiss.” What was the cultural significance of this act? Is this command still binding on us today? Why or why not? What do we learn from this command?
- g. In verse 21, Paul writes, “I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.” Why did he say this and what does it mean? What does this teach us about how Paul typically wrote his letters?
- h. Paul warns that those who do not love the Lord are accursed. What does it mean to be accursed? What does it mean to love the Lord? How can we tell if someone does not love the Lord?
- i. The final statement in verse 22 is a prayer that reads, “Our Lord, come!” This is a translation of the word “Maranatha.” What do we learn from Paul’s example in this short prayer?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why is it important to submit to our leaders (v. 16)? What does this practically look like? How can we cultivate a more submissive spirit?
3. Paul was very concerned that the Corinthians have a strong love for one another and so he commanded them to practically show it by greeting one another with a holy kiss. What can we do to express love to one another today? What are some practical ways we can show love to one another in the church?
4. Paul issues a serious warning in verse 22. What is it? How can we tell if someone does not love the Lord? How can we assess our own love for the Lord?
5. Paul begins his letter in 1:3 with a prayer for God’s grace and then closes his letter in 16:23 with another prayer for God’s grace. What does this teach us about our need for God’s grace? Why must we regularly pray for God’s grace in our lives? Without the grace of God, where would we be?