



## THE LIVING GOSPEL

### COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

#### **Announcements**

**1) Next Starting Point is February 25. RSVP available here:**

<http://mercycharlotte.com/startingpoint/>

**2) Community Group Sunday is March 5. Community Groups will meet together to begin a season of prayer as we move toward Easter.**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*This study guide is to help individuals and groups learn and apply the truths of Scripture to where you are in life right now. To get the most from this study guide, work through it on your own before gathering with your community group.*

This week we begin a study called The Living Gospel, an in depth look at 1 Corinthians. Through the entire book, Paul's exhortation to the church at Corinth provides us great insight into our calling and equipping as believers of Christ. Paul founded the church at Corinth, as recounted in Acts 18:1-17. Corinth, in modern day southern Greece, was a port city of significant influence and wealth during Paul's time. It was a center of commerce and trade that served much of the known world at that time. It is fair to say that Corinth could be considered as influential as New York or Los Angeles in today's world. Corinth also was a mecca for sin and destruction. Throughout the book, Paul highlights the sins that plagued the city, including fighting among believers (1:11), sexual immorality (1 Cor. 5), hypocrisy, racial divides, and the persistent pursuit of worldly wisdom and leaders (1:18-29).

As Paul addresses the church at Corinth, he first confirms the believers as empowered messengers of the gospel. Paul begins his exhortation with the reminder that a believer only gains Christ through grace. The story of God's grace and redemption through Christ is the

gospel. He then explains how the gospel changes a believer's way of life and thinking. This idea is the key to the entire book. It comes up again, specifically, in 1 Corinthians 10:31 which states, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." As believers, we must remember that God calls us to be the saints and glorify Him in everything we do.

### **REFLECTION**

**1) What are some ways you view your purpose in life to this point?**

### **BIBLE STUDY**

*The following questions will help you work through the passage.*

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

**2) In verses 1-3, what do we learn about Paul and the themes of 1 Corinthians?**

**3) What does it mean for us to sanctified?**

**4) How does this help transform your understanding of your purpose in life?**

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-7**

**5) How is the Church of Corinth being sanctified according to the passage?**

6) How does sanctification affect our lives today?

7) What does Paul desire for the people in Corinth?

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:8-9**

8) What promise and hope does Paul explain in these verses?

9) How does Paul's call to the Church of Corinth to pursue sanctification in community shape your worldview?

### **PRAYER**

*Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. This is a great opportunity to pray through Paul's encouragement in 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, and be thankful for all Christ has done in our lives.*

1. Thank God that he gives authority to us through the Spirit to be ambassadors of His grace and Truth. (vs. 1-3)
2. Thank God for the reminder of Christ's finished work. Pray this will be a the center of our word and deed. (vs. 4-7)
3. Thank God for His calling and your new identity in Christ. (v. 8-9)