



Standing Firm in the Faith

I CORINTHIANS 16

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.”



The resurrection of Jesus from the grave is the essential truth of the Bible and Christianity. It is the bedrock of the teaching of Scripture. The Apostle Paul states, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Cor. 15:14)

Paul is clear about the gospel.
But the Corinthian believers
are very confused about
their faith.

**“Some from Chloe’s household
have informed me” (1 Cor. 1:11) —**

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- You haven’t matured in your faith**
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- A man sleeping with his fathers wife
- One brother taking another to court
- There is rampant sexual immorality

Just because a person is a
believer doesn't mean they
have their life together.

What it does mean is that when
the Holy Spirit is living within us,
we have the power to change.

In the second half of 1st Corinthians,
Paul is answering numerous questions
that the church members asked
about in a letter that they wrote...

**“Now for the matters you wrote
about” (1 Cor. 7:1) —**

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- **Is it ever OK to get a divorce?**
- **Does God call people to be single?**
- **What about food sacrificed to idols?**

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- What's love got to do with it?
- Should I be speaking in tongues?
- Did Jesus really rise from the dead?
- Why are you asking us for money?
- Is Pastor Apollos ever coming back?

1 Corinthians 16

¹ Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

1 Corinthians 16

⁵After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you — for I will be going through Macedonia. Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

1 Corinthians 16

¹⁰ When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am. No one, then, should treat him with contempt. Send him on his way in peace so that he may return to me. I am expecting him along with the brothers. Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

1 Corinthians 16

¹³ Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;

be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the Lord's people. I urge you, brothers and sisters, to submit to such people and to everyone who joins in the work and labors at it. I was glad when Stephanas,

Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

1 Corinthians 16

¹⁹ The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.

If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

1st Corinthians chapter 16
reminds us that this is a letter.
It's full of miscellaneous thoughts
and practical loose ends.
*(We're reading someone
else's mail.)*

Verses 1-12 deal with
generosity & future plans.

Verses 13-24 deal with
commands & closing thoughts.

1) Generosity

**Paul goes much deeper on this topic
in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9*

- Paul is trying to combat selfishness.
- Giving is a unifying force.
- Giving ought to be systematic,
personal, and private. (v. 2)

2) Future Plans

- Paul plans a return visit (through Macedonia) after leaving Ephesus.



MACEDONIA

Rome

Byzantium

BITHYNIA

MYSIA

TURKEY

GALATIA

Antioch

Lystra

Tarsus

SYRIA

CYPRUS

Jerusalem

Thessalonica

Philippi

Troas

ASIA

Ephesus

Athens

Corinth

ACCAIA

2) Future Plans

- Paul plans a return visit (through Macedonia) after leaving Ephesus.
- Show Timothy appropriate respect!
- Paul & Apollos are working together on the timing of a return visit.

3) Commands (v. 13)

- Be on your guard / Keep watch!

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- Stand firm in the faith
 - Be courageous
 - Be strong

- Do everything in love

4) Closing Thoughts (vv. 19-24)

- You're not alone—you belong to a new family
- I've been dictating this, but I want you to know that it's me
- Everyone is loved, but not everyone is saved

I love you!

v. 24

