



perfectly united

studies in 1 Corinthians 1-4

SCPC term 1 2008

sunday 3rd february 2008

study 1 one calling 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

KEY VERSE FOR SERIES: I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. **1 Corinthians 1:10**

Welcome to 1 Corinthians—a book we'll be journeying through together for most of the year. It's a rich and challenging book and we can pray confidently that our great God will use it to challenge us all towards living out our calling under the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's pray for that! The intro to the study booklet, along with the info given at the meeting last Wednesday will give you a little bit of background, but nothing beats reading and re-reading the letter. Reading Acts 18 will also give you the background on the planting of the church in Corinth.

The opening study is fairly straight—just a couple of notes this week!

some notes on questions

Q2. Comparing the opening verses (their calling in Jesus) to the rest of the letter (how they're going living out that calling) - we're confronted with the HUGE GAP between who the Corinthians are called to be (holy) and what they are (worldly). They are called to be the church of God in Corinth, but in reality there's way too much Corinth in the church.

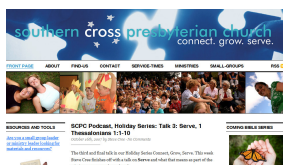
Q3. As we saw in Romans "let God be true, and every man a liar" (3:4) - the problems in Corinth are not because God has failed to give them what they need to live out their calling—but their corrupt use of his gifts.

Q5. If the focus isn't constantly on Jesus... problems in churches will abound!

digging deeper: notice in the Ephesians passage—just as we saw last year in Romans 12 —Paul constantly applies the gospel to a whole church family—rather than just individual Christian experience—which cuts across our individualistic way of thinking... church matters to God!

a word from Pete: Remember that as this is the first time you'll be getting together after a long break it's an excellent opportunity to get really clear in your group about everybody's expectations for the year ahead. As the leader, you should be emphasizing things like punctuality (starting and finishing "on time"), preparation (coming with something to say), prayer (an unseen but powerful expression of love), privacy (things shared in the group should not be shared in any other context unless permission is granted) and other things starting with 'P'. Also make sure you allow members of the group to express opinions about how 'group life' should happen – how often will you aim to get together, what sorts of things would people like to do together etc. Try to value each person's perspective and even set some dates if possible. Have a great week!

small group bible study leaders' notes



remember that once the talk goes up on the website you can always post a question/observation by leaving a comment—it's easy to do and then others will also be able to see the response when it goes up and leave their thoughts too.

coming events
church camp: fri/sat 15-16 feb
o-week outreach at uni: 18-23 feb
SCPC AGM: wed 12 mar