

## Study Guide for the Week of August 3, 2008

*This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Sermon manuscripts are available at [www.spwired.com](http://www.spwired.com).*

**Monday, August 4. *Apostles of Christ – Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-21*** Last week, we read about Paul addressing division in the church, making the case that division over human leaders undercuts the Christian understanding of the church and of ministry. In today's reading, Paul explains how the church is to view him and the Apostles. How does Paul expect people to think of the Apostles? In verses 8-13, Paul describes the life of an Apostle as one of rejection, homelessness and hunger. If God were taking job applications for these kinds of Apostles today, would you apply? Why or why not?

**Tuesday, August 5. *When Immorality is in the Church – Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13*** After responding to the problem of division in the church, Paul addresses a new problem: the problem of sexual immorality. Chapter 5 begins with a specific case and Paul's response. Paul has learned of grievous sexual immorality within the church of Corinth. What specifically is the situation? According to verses 2 and 6, what seems to be the Church's attitude toward this activity? What does Paul think about their attitude? What is Paul's directive? Do you think it's harsh? Is it punishment or discipline? What relevance does this have for us today? To see Paul's later clarification about this same issue, **read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11**. What is implied about the ultimate outcome of this crisis?

**Wednesday, August 6. *Lawsuits Among Believers – Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11*** Today we get an insight to one of the relationship problems within the Corinthian church and instructions on how to handle lawsuits. The Greeks were accustomed to settling disputes in public courts and the Jews with the elders of the synagogue. Why is Paul so upset about Christians suing each other? How does Paul describe the lifestyle of the Corinthians before their conversion to Christ? How does this help you understand who you were before you knew Christ, and who you are now in Christ? What areas in your life still need to be changed?

**Thursday, August 7. *Immorality in the Church - Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20***. In verse 12, we find Paul quoting the Corinthians who were boasting they had the right to do anything. In the remaining verses of Chapter 6, Paul specifically addresses a series of problems with a final call for us to glorify God with our bodies. Why is the phrase "Everything is permissible for me" in quotation marks? Why is sexual immorality incongruous with Christian faith? How are we to view our bodies? How should we glorify God?

**Friday, August 8. *Marriage Matters – Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-16*** Chapter 7 begins with a reference to the things about which the Corinthians had written. We will see the issue of marriage, and most of the subjects addressed in the rest of our reading were questions raised by the Corinthians in a letter sent to Paul. What is Paul's concession regarding marriage in verses 1-6? How would you summarize Paul's advice to the "unmarried," the "married," and "to the rest?" What is the reason for his position on remaining single? Write a brief prayer asking the Lord to grant you wisdom and grace in dealing with questions of marriage and sexuality.