

Sixteen Lessons from 1 Corinthians for the Graduating Seniors

1 Corinthians 1:18, For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lesson #1 Do not be intimidated!

- You will run into many new acquaintances outside the church that might be hostile toward Christ.
- You might have a few college professors who will poke fun because you for believing in Jesus.
- You will run into many atheists, humanists, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, cults and foolish people who will be intimidate you for trusting in Christ.
- Do not be intimidated!

1 Corinthians 2:2, For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Lesson #2 Do not take your focus off Jesus.

- The death, burial and resurrection needs to be at the forefront of the minds of every Christian.
- There will be many distractions which will come your way.
- How will I make it through college?
- Look at all these young singles!
- Should I consider marriage to this person?
- What kind of career path should I choose?
- Don't take your focus off the death, burial and resurrection of Christ!

1 Corinthians 3:16, Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Lesson #3 Do not forget Who is in you!

- Many times when people get away from home for the first time, they take on a completely different identity.
- They might think since nobody knows me and nobody is looking that they can do what they want.
- They may sometimes feel all alone because they are out of their regular spiritual environment.
- Do not forget Who is in you, the Holy Spirit!

1 Corinthians 4:17, For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

Lesson #4 Do not forget the consistency of the teachings!

- Paul taught the same things in every church.
- There are many denominations out there, teaching many different things about many important issues.
- Once saved always saved, predestination, dispensationalism, baptismless-salvation, tongues, miracle workers, moral relativism and many other issues.
- There will be a temptation to mingle with the denominations and to tell you it does not make a difference.
- Hopefully you will try to seek out a church family who is following the Bible.
- Don't forget the consistency of the teachings of the church through the Bible!

1 Corinthians 5:6, Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.

Lesson #5 Do not allow sin in your life!

- Often there is a tendency for young people to lean toward youthful lusts when venturing into the world.
- Drug experimentation, sex, immoral music, fowl language and those things of the like, typically seep in when dealing with certain new freedoms.
- Little sins corrupt the whole individual.
- It may seem like a little sin down here on earth, but heaven wept with sadness.
- Do not allow sin to enter your life!

1 Corinthians 6:11, And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

Lesson #6 Do not forget what Christ has done for you!

- If you have entered Biblical covenant with Jesus Christ some amazing things have occurred in your life.

- You have been washed of your sins and are pure and clean in the sight of God.
- You have been set apart from the rest of the world to walk a walk worthy of the One that called you.
- You have been justified by Jesus' mercy prior to appearing before the throne seat of God.

1 Corinthians 7:23, You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

Lesson #7 Do not become slaves of men rules!

- The verse is found in a passage that Paul differentiates between the rules of man and the commands of God concerning marriage.
- *1 Corinthians 7:6, But this I say by way of concession, not of command.*
- *1 Corinthians 7:10, "...I give instructions, not I, but the Lord..."*
- There will be many who will portray their opinions or personal preferences as the commands of God.
- Though some traditions can be good, wise and safe, they are just that, personal preferences.
- You must continue to study, growing in reasoned relationship with God.
- Do not become the slaves of men, but of God.

1 Corinthians 8:2, If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know

Lesson #8 Do not think you know it all!

- If you are like most teens from the past that wore the tassel atop their heads, you might think that you have attained a great standard of knowledge. You have not!
- Just because some of you might be heading off to college or trade school, it does not qualify you as a possessor of great wisdom.
- You have been sheltered from many of the hard lessons of life.
- Don't just charge into the struggles alone, thinking you can master them by your great cerebral powers.
- Don't be afraid to admit that you might not have had the answers.
- Seek and trust the advice of your older comrades in Christ.
- Do not think that you know it all!

1 Corinthians 9:23, And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

Lesson #9 Do not forget to share Christ!

- Do not think that your entrance into the adult world exempts you from the greatest calling in life that you have...the sharing of Christ with others.
- God will be taking you to many different places in this world, leading you to all sorts of people that you have not even met. Most of them will not have a saved relationship with Jesus.
- If you have been saved by the blood of Christ, you should be compelled to lead others to Him who saved you.
- Be a fellow-partaker in the gospel through your words, your deeds and your blessings.
- Do not forget to share Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:12, Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Lesson #10 Do not lower your guard!

- As mentioned before, the life of the adolescent Christian is relatively sheltered.
- If you thought the teen years were tough concerning temptation, you have a big surprise with what is waiting for you.
- With the new freedoms that you have come a greater responsibility to stay on guard against temptation.
- The road to destruction is filled with the souls of those young people that did not keep watch against the wiles of the devil.
- Do not lower your guard!

1 Corinthians 11:1, Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Lesson #11 Do not neglect godly examples!

- Your structured life of getting up in the morning for breakfast, catching a bus, sitting in a classroom, eating lunch and coming home for a little homework is being altered.
- Your after school sports routine, paper route or part-time job will not be the same.
- Your friends that have hung around you for many years will be going their separate ways and a new set of lives will come into yours.
- Life will seem a bit confusing and you will need stability.
- It would behoove you in your new chapter of life to find some godly men and women to follow as you find your bearings.
- They will help you make the transition, hold to the moral standards and reinforce the faith that is in you.

- Do not neglect godly examples

1 Corinthians 12:14, For the body is not one member, but many.

Lesson #12 Do not overlook teamwork!

- Even though you will be out of sight, please do not be out of mind.
- You are still part of this church family until you so choose to go it with another.
- When you suffer, we all suffer.
- When you rejoice, we also rejoice.
- When you stumble, we want to be there to help pick you up.
- If you go on a mission trip, we want to be there with you in spirit, in prayer and in wallet.
- Just because you might not be here among us, we are all on the same team if you are with Christ.
- Do not overlook teamwork!

1 Corinthians 13:11, When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

Lesson #13 Do not reject maturity!

- There will be many opportunities to mature in your life ahead.
- There is a tendency in the lives of young people to run wild instead of walk free.
- There will be a tendency to forget that you are to begin to put away the immature words, actions and reason.
- You must take this time to embrace personal growth in every way.
- There will be a tendency to think “I just graduated a few months or years ago; therefore I can still act like a child.”
- Use this time to progress in wise decisions that result in wise behavior.
- Do not reject maturity!

1 Corinthians 14:40, But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.

Lesson #14 Do not ignore the simplicity of worship!

- The context of this verse is relation to the sad state of behavior of the Corinthians in the worship service.

- They were doing what they wanted to do rather than keeping the worship service proper and in order.
- I pray that the simple pattern of worship that you have participated in here at the Camp Hill congregation will be appreciated enough that you will not lured into fast-growing world of the entertainment worship.
- You might get away from the church family here in Camp Hill and be drawn to the fancy bright lights, the fancy worship bands with their fancy praise teams and their fancy choirs, their glorious sound systems, entertaining plays and skits, their tall and fancy buildings, their fancy-looking \$1500 suit-wearing preacher named Max or Jimmy.
- These are not the things that make for good worship, but the simple collective songs and prayers uttered from the mouths of the others.
- Do not ignore the simplicity of worship.

1 Corinthians 15:33, Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Lesson #15 Do not be corrupted by others.

- There will be many more people that you will encounter in your days to come.
- Make no mistakes, those who you surround yourself with have the greatest influence on you.
- If they drink, if they lie, if they steal, if they tell dirty jokes, if they use filthy language, if they do drugs, if they are immoral, then they are out to corrupt your good standards.
- There are only three things you can do with people like this, 1) convert them, 2) Become like them or 3) Leave them alone.
- Do not be corrupted by others!

1 Corinthians 16:2, On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.

Lesson #16 Do not disregard generosity!

- Part of being a Christian is to be generous to others and to the work of the church.
- Many young people will leave the nest having not learned this lesson at an early age or having learned it, forgetting it down the road.
- Many young people are starting out in life not having much to their name.
- You will have many bills greeting you as you go through college, get married, have a family and enter the daily grind of the workforce.
- You might even say that later on you will give to the work of the church when you have more and the big bucks start rolling in.

- Do not be surprised if God does not roll in the blessings if you will not redistribute them.
- With your new found freedoms and responsibilities, make sure to be a blessing to others with blessings that God gives to you.
- Don't disregard generosity!

In Summary:

1. Do not be intimidated! (1 Corinthians 1:18)
2. Do not take your focus off Jesus! (1 Corinthians 2:2)
3. Do not forget Who is in you! (1 Corinthians 3:16)
4. Do not forget the consistency of the teachings! (1 Corinthians 4:17)
5. Do not allow sin in your life! (1 Corinthians 5:6)
6. Do not forget what Christ has done for you! (1 Corinthians 6:11)
7. Do not become slaves of men rules! (1 Corinthians 7:23)
8. Do not think you know it all! (1 Corinthians 8:2)
9. Do not forget to share Christ! (1 Corinthians 9:23)
10. Do not lower your guard! (1 Corinthians 10:12)
11. Do not neglect godly examples! (1 Corinthians 11:1)
12. Do not overlook teamwork! (1 Corinthians 12:14)
13. Do not reject maturity! (1 Corinthians 13:11)
14. Do not ignore the simplicity of worship! (1 Corinthians 14:40)
15. Do not be corrupted by others! (1 Corinthians 15:33)
16. Do not disregard generosity! (1 Corinthians 16:2)