

# Talk It Over 45: Bible Study Edition

Teaching Series: *Messy Church*

Message: *Conflict Resolution* — Todd Petkau

Passage: 1 Corinthians 1

Date: June 1-2, 2019

## How to use Talk It Over

This version of *Talk It Over* is designed for groups whose primary focus is studying the Word of God. There is lots of depth in information and questions about the principle passage of the weekend message. This study is designed to be done in 30 to 60 minutes.

## The Main Idea

The church may be the bride of Christ, but it's pretty messy. In 1 Corinthians, Paul addresses problems in the church with the reminder that we are called to a different kind of life.

## Warm Up Questions (choose 2 or 3)

**Q1: What odd or bizarre advice have you been given? Did you try it? Did it work?**

**Q2: Tell of some crazy church traditions you've come across!**

**Q3: What is one irrational fear you have (or had)?**

## Dig a Little Deeper

Throughout 1 Corinthians 1, Paul is calling the Corinthian church to live and think differently from the culture around them. He addresses multiple problems the church faces throughout the book, many of which are still relevant today. Yet Paul seems to believe it's not only *possible* to live differently than those around us, but *expected*.

**Q1: Paul addresses multiple issues facing the church of Corinth. Which of these stand out as still relevant to today's churches?**

1. Rival leaders & divided loyalty (and big personalities!)
2. Casual attitudes towards sex and marriage
3. People buying into worldly wisdom & philosophy and bringing it into the church
4. Tension around the roles of men & women in the church
5. A lack of genuine love for each other
6. Denial of the resurrection of Jesus
7. Flaunting of spiritual gifts and experiences
8. Problems with money and the church offering.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

**Q2: Verse 6 Paul mentions how the “testimony about Christ was confirmed among you.” What a powerful statement! How has the testimony of Christ been confirmed in your life? (How has the power and transformative work of Christ been obvious in your life?)**

**Q3: Paul tells the Corinthians their church is “not lacking in any gift” in verse 6. Do you feel that remains true in today's church? What gifts do you have? Are there any gifts you wish you had?**

**Q4: We know that the Corinthians were kind of messed up: dealing with incest, suing each other in the courts, turning their faith into a competition and drunken communion were some of the issues at hand! Yet verse 8 calls the Corinthians “blameless” or “faultless.” What does it mean to be messed up... yet blameless? Would you want to join this church? How easy/difficult do you find it to love a church so messed up?**

## Next Steps

In chapter 1, Paul's focus isn't on all the many issues the Corinthians face, but rather he zooms out on the bigger picture: they're starting to look and sound the same as the world around them. To Paul, this is the core issue. He reminds them you can't look good to the world and to God at the same time. Selfish ambition has no place in the kingdom of God.

### Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

**Q1: Paul says God's wisdom is foolishness to the world. What are some ways God's wisdom seems absurd to our culture today?**

**Q2: In today's world, how can the church stand out as different from the culture at large? In your opinion, would that attract or repel people? In what ways can we be inclusive, open and invitational? At what point does that dilute God's ways or compromise your beliefs?**

**Q3: 1 Corinthians 1:26 asks us to consider our callings: what does that mean for you? How can we consider our callings?**

**Q4: Paul seems to believe it's not only *possible* to live differently than those around us, but *expected*. How have you found it "easy" to live differently from the culture at large, and how has it been difficult?**

*Pray that we might have the "mind of Christ," and that we as a church would exemplify Paul's commands to live in unity, testifying to Christ's power in our lives and in our congregation.*

## Reading Coming Up

Riverwood has embarked on a quest together: to become intimate with Scripture—and with the Good News story that started In the Garden of Eden and continues to this day—by **reading** Scripture. This quest will be 1000 days long so if you miss a day you can catch up and if you start late you can just keep going from where everyone else is. The reading list is available on the Riverwood app but you can also get the monthly bookmark at any of the Welcome Centres in our various worshipping communities. It is recommended that you read from a modern Bible translation. If you do not have a Bible and cannot afford to buy one, stop by the Welcome Centre in your worshipping community and they can help you get one.

### Here are the readings for the coming week:

June 1: 1 Corinthians 1

June 2: 1 Corinthians 2

June 3: 1 Corinthians 3

June 4: 1 Corinthians 4

June 5: 1 Corinthians 5

June 6: 1 Corinthians 6

June 7: 1 Corinthians 7

June 8: 1 Corinthians 8