



2017-2018 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 2

Series Overview and Guides

OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2017

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

We live according to the holiness and unity we have in Christ.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment."

—1 Corinthians 1:10 NASB

"With all of us the resources of body and mind were drawn out thin. One shining, incalculable asset remained – the tight, warm friendship of men together in misfortune. While we remained together hope could not be quenched. The whole, in terms of spirit and resolution, was greater than the sum of its parts"

— Slavomir Rawicz,
The Long Walk

Premise

why we are studying this

We live in a fractured age, where anything that purports to unify people is viewed with mistrust and even anger. Such paranoia even exists in our churches – just as it did in Corinth. This letter addresses our problems, breaks our pride, and persistently points us to the unifying solution of following the Triune God.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"And when everything is subject to Christ, then the Son Himself will also be subject to the One who subjected everything to Him, so that God may be all in all."

—1 Corinthians 15:28 HCSB

"Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you

As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;

That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend

Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.

I, like an usurp'd town to another due, Labor to admit you, but oh, to no end;

Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,

But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.

Yet dearly I love you, and would be lov'd fain,

But am betroth'd unto your enemy;

Divorce me, untie or break that knot again,

Take me to you, imprison me, for I,

Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,

Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me."

— John Donne, *Holy Sonnets*
(Westmoreland Manuscript #14)

Theme

what the study is about

God, existing in perfect unity, calls His people to emulation. He shows us that our unity in Jesus is a fact, and teaches us to apply that unity in our divisions, our sinful disobedience, our marriages or singlehood, and our moral freedom. The result of living out our unity in Christ is holiness, using our God-given powers for good. This holiness is expressed through a life of worship – which is the subject of the second part of the book (11:2-16:24).

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

—1 Corinthians 10:17 ESV

"All for one and one for all, united we stand, divided we fall!"

— Alexandre Dumas
The Three Musketeers



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERIES 2 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul lays out the big ideas for this letter:

- Who Christians are – brothers, sanctified, saints, called, one church under one Lord
- What God gives – grace, peace, His words, knowledge, gifts, strength, fellowship
- What will happen – the resurrected Lord and Messiah Jesus will be revealed, Christians will be made blameless

OBJECTIVE

We attack our problems with God's real provisions.

GRACE

We use the word grace so often, we may forget what it really means. John Milton read "grace" in 1 Corinthians 1 as something real and vibrant for his own life. So, in *Paradise Lost* he described it this way:

"love without end
and without measure, grace..."

PRAYER

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 1: One for All

1. The objective of this study of 1 Corinthians 1-10 is, "That we live according to the holiness and the unity we have in Christ."
 - What distracts believers from living a life of holiness?
 - Why is there so much dis-unity among Christians?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3. Describing believers such as himself, Sosthenes, and the Corinthian church, Paul uses the terms *brothers*, *sanctified*, *called*, and *saints*. How does this shed light on the Bible's perspective on unity?
3. In verse 2, Paul emphasizes that all believers are under Jesus Christ as Lord, "both their Lord and ours." How does focusing on the Lord Jesus help solve the issue of disunity among believers?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 together.
 - According to these verses, what has God given to the church at Corinth, and subsequently to us?
 - How do these aspects of the Christian life lead us to holiness and unity?
 - Why is grace given the preeminent place in verse 4, and even prayed for in verse 3?
5. How can we help maintain unity in our church, and increase the unity in our community and our world?
6. How can we use our powers for good in a way that shows our unity in Christ?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:10 – 3:4

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul walks through the organizational health God engenders and expects in His churches. He exposes the nonsense and incompatibility of divisiveness in the church of the Triune God.

OBJECTIVE

We are one in the Lord.

FRISCO BIBLE CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT

We are a redeemed community doing the great commission by the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

HALLMARKS OF A HEALTHY
ORGANIZATION

- Minimal politics
- Minimal confusion
- High morale
- High productivity
- Low turnover

—Patrick Lencioni
The Advantage

PRAYER

Pray regularly for diligence and growth in your own spiritual life, and in the lives of those in your group.

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 2: Hallmarks of Health

1. If someone asks you "What do you like about Frisco Bible Church?" what do you say?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 together. Which ideas in this passage are echoed in FBC's Mission Statement (at left)?
3. How do divisions and rivalries in the local church prevent her from fulfilling her mission?
4. According to 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 what should be our primary focus? How can each of us help the church keep focused on the right things?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. Healthy churches keep telling the truth as found in God's Word. Why should this be a central focus of our teaching throughout the church?
 - From where does the wisdom to do this come?
 - How is such wisdom gained?
6. Healthy churches produce mature, and maturing, disciples. What are the spiritual disciplines which help believers to mature? What are you doing to grow spiritually?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 3:5 – 4:21

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul walks through the Christian relationship with God as Father, Rewarder, and Chastiser. He builds the idea on these subsets:

- It's all about God.
- Testing reveals rewards.
- Churches are living temples of the living Lord.
- Human reasoning is upside-down.
- We are responsible for faithful stewardship.
- God corrects like a good parent.

OBJECTIVE

We repent and reform before the Father.

RESOURCES

Consider watching [The Gospel in Four Minutes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K48-Li7lIfA) by Dare 2 Share Ministries. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K48-Li7lIfA>)

Take advantage of the Frisco Bible Church S.H.A.P.E. survey to learn where you might fit within the service opportunities at FBC. To start, visit <http://www.friscobible.com/internal-service-team>

PRAYER

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 3: It's Alive!

1. In 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, Paul explains the differing roles believers play in leading others to a saving faith in Christ. The exhortation is for us not to get discouraged or sidetracked based on our planting, watering, or reaping the fruits of evangelism.
 - In what ways does this point illustrate the need to recognize different roles within the church?
 - What is your role at Frisco Bible Church? If you haven't found your role, consider completing the S.H.A.P.E. survey (see resources at left).
2. God promises to reward each of us according to how we fulfill our roles. How should this influence our perspective on service both within and outside of the church?
 - Why are people who cause division in the local church in serious trouble with God?
 - How would you know if you were in a conversation that could be divisive? How would you respond?
 - What role does pride play in the act of divisiveness?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-23.
 - How can we pray for you?
4. Remember, the annual theme is "Use Your Powers for Good."
 - What are you currently doing, or planning to do, to use your powers for good?





ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul walks us through the ridiculous pride that calls sexual immorality anything other than what it is – wrong. We must speak truth because we love and exalt chastity (not to be confused with abstinence in marriage) throughout the body of Christ. This of course relates only to the household of faith, since one cannot expect people who lack the Spirit to live by the Spirit’s guidance in scripture.

OBJECTIVE

We exalt chastity.

THE CHALLENGE OF OUR AGE

This secular spirit of our age presents a great challenge to the Christian church. Will the church of the Lord Jesus Christ lose her biblical conviction, clarity, and courage, and blend into the spirit of the age? Or will she hold fast to the word of life, draw courage from Jesus, and unashamedly proclaim his way as the way of life? Will she maintain her clear, counter-cultural witness to a world that seems bent on ruin?

—*The Nashville Statement*
CBMW.org

PRAYER

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 4: Immobilizing Immorality

1. Outside of marriage between a man and a woman, the shifting line of sexual behavior can go from the socially acceptable to the grotesque and unthinkable.
 - How has the cultural line between moral and immoral sexual behavior shifted over the years?
 - In what ways can Christians avoid falling into unbiblical sexual behavior?
2. How can believers appropriately encourage one another toward sexual purity and the biblical view of sexuality?
3. While we cannot expect people who do not have the Spirit of God indwelling them to live according to the guidance of the Spirit through the Scriptures,
 - How can our lives demonstrate biblical truths as being good for society in general?
 - What principles can you use to help an unbeliever see the value of sexual purity?
4. If someone within the church is living in an unbiblical way, what should the church and its leadership do?
5. The absence of leaven was a sign of purity among God’s people from the very beginning of the Passover, when God rescued His people from otherwise hopeless bondage in Egypt. For Christians, leaven was commonly used by Jesus and Paul as a metaphor for evil which can subtly contaminate purity. (Read Ex. 12:14-20, Matt. 16:5-12, Gal. 5:7-9, and 1 Cor. 5:6-8.)
 - What are some sources of “leaven” in our culture today?
 - If one’s predominant influence, moment-by-moment and day-by-day, is the surrounding culture more than the Word of God, what do you expect to be one’s own view of *any* behavior?
 - Have you ever stopped to consider how much “leaven” you are exposed to from the world around you? Jesus commanded us, “Beware.” How can you be more aware, and more wary?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 6

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul shows that our long-term calling to glorify God is logical, healthy, appropriate, and wonderful. We must focus on that and avoid the short-sightedness that leads us to instead embarrass the Lord.

OBJECTIVE

We live for the long-term glory of God.

RIGHTS

When I was a little boy, my mother took me up to our church in Toronto for a business meeting. Some difficulty arose between the brethren. I can remember one man springing to his feet and with clenched fists saying, "I will put up with a good deal, but one thing I will not put up with, I will not allow you to put anything over on me; I will have my rights!"

An old Scotch brother...leaned forward [and said], "But you did not mean that, did you? Your rights? If ye had your rights, you would be in Hell, wouldn't you? And you are forgetting – aren't you – that Jesus didn't come to get His rights. He came to get His wrongs, and He got them."

—H.A. Ironside, *1 Corinthians*

PRAYER

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 5: Open Your Eyes!

1. 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 is very explicit in its teaching. Read this passage and discuss the following
 - What is the big idea pertaining to Christians and legal issues?
 - Who will Christians one day judge?
 - Fundamentally, why is it wrong for a believer to take another believer to court? Specifically, what does Paul call this course of action?
 - According to Paul, what is the best way for believers to settle legal disputes?
 - Why does Paul lay out the expectation that believers should essentially "rise above" the legal system in matters pertaining to inter-church relationships? (Hint: Read verse 11 again!)
2. In verse 11, Paul uses three words to describe our status before God.
 - What are these words? Discuss their meaning.
 - Compare this passage with Philippians 2:3-8. How should our position as believers affect our attitude and actions when wronged by others?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.
 - Discuss the difference between that which is permissible, or lawful, and that which is helpful.
 - Give specific examples. If you are willing, share some personal testimonies regarding this issue.



SERIES 2 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 7:1-40

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul establishes the high view of marriage and the marriage bed seen in Jesus' dialogues. Using scripture and his own reason, the apostle establishes the principle that every relationship is to be held in service to the Lord.

OBJECTIVE

We highly value marriage and singleness under Christ.

THE CENTRALITY OF JESUS

The thing for which to watch is the way in which Paul consistently relates every subject and problem to the centrality of the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Most of the problems and difficulties of the Corinthian church arose from their losing sight of him and his Headship. The enemy of our souls encourages that same peril today.

—Derek Prime
Opening Up First Corinthians

PRAYER

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 6: The Divine Romance

1. Read 1 Cor. 7:1-9 together. Paul lays out one important reason for marriage. What is that reason?
2. How does this passage inform our view of sexuality—both in and outside of marriage?
3. What is the benefit of agreeing to abstain for a time from sex to pray? In what ways is this similar to fasting?
4. Read verses 6-16. Paul himself was single, and he clearly states throughout the chapter that singleness has high value. How can the church effectively support singles, whether never-married, divorced, or widowed?
5. In verses 17-24, Paul lays out the big idea that as one becomes a believer they should "bloom where planted." Essentially, the new Christian does not gain a right or a reason to change their marriage, social status, employment, or even physical condition. What should change is one's attitude.
 - Describe that new attitude.
 - While Paul uses examples such as slavery and circumcision to make his point, in what ways does this apply to us today?
 - What should be the primary focus of every believer—then and now?
6. One of Paul's concerns about marriage is that husbands and wives worry about pleasing each other over and above serving the Lord.
 - In what ways can married couples maintain a proper focus with Christ at the center?
 - Discuss why this is important to the marriage as well as the individuals?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 7

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul lays out the other-centered ethic that Christianity so beautifully balances with freedom in Jesus.

OBJECTIVE

We are other-centered.

KNOWING GOD

Accumulating all the facts about God that one can will not result in the most realistic knowledge of Him. One must also love God. If a person loves God, then God knows (recognizes) him in an intimate way and reveals Himself to him (see 1 Cor. 2:10; Matt. 11:27). Consequently, it is really more important that God knows us than that we know Him. When He knows us intimately, He will enable us to know Him intimately.

Logically not only will God enable those who love Him to know Him better, but He will also enable those who love Him to understand other subjects as well. Paul said this to establish the priority of love over knowledge in determining our behavior in various situations.

—Dr. Thomas Constable
Notes on First Corinthians

PRAYER

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 7: The Others

1. How is the issue Paul was addressing in 1 Corinthians 8 relevant today?
2. What does it mean to “exercise our freedom” as found in Christ? Where and when can we do so liberally?
3. Why is it important that we not always blindly exercise our freedom?
4. Discuss what a Christ-centered, other-people-focused life looks like.
 - Is it different as we relate to believers versus unbelievers?
 - Why or why not?
5. What kind of actions and attitudes on our part might influence unbelievers to investigate our faith?
 - Some passages to consider:
 - 2 Corinthians 4:3-5
 - Galatians 5:22-26
 - Philippians 4:4-7
 - 1 Peter 3:15-16
 - Titus 3:1-11



SERIES 2 | SESSION 8

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul establishing amazing balance where servants of Christ are appreciated and well treated, while they are completely willing to be mistreated. He exemplifies this calling in his personal daily discipline.

OBJECTIVE

We are disciplined servants.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

I once had supper with Bill, an influential pastor of a large well-known church. At the time, we were just starting Frisco Bible, so I asked him what he would change about the early years of his church.

Bill dropped his head and said, “We worked everybody too hard without showing appreciation for their efforts. We frankly just took advantage of our staff – both paid & volunteer.”

—Wayne Braudrick
'All for One, One for All' series notes

PRAYER

Take time to pray for those who serve your church on a regular basis, both volunteers and staff.

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 8: Hard-Core Servanthood

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9 together. In what ways does chapter nine reveal some of the unique challenges of serving in vocational ministry?
2. In verses 1-18, there is a tension between two competing principles, and Paul is striking a balance.
 - What are those principles?
 - How does he balance the tension?
3. How do we “muzzle the ox” today? In other words, in what ways do we unfairly or inconsiderately take advantage of our pastors and church staff?
4. Expressing appreciation to a church staff member or volunteer doesn’t have to cost a lot. However, failing to express appreciation could have a high cost.
 - Why is showing appreciation important?
 - How have you expressed appreciation to the staff or volunteers at your church?
 - If it has been a while, consider writing a thank you note this week to someone who has had an impact on you spiritually. Be as specific as you can about what you are thankful for.
 - Supporting your local church financially is also important. If you do not regularly do this, pray for guidance in how to start and maintain this as part of your worship.
5. What is the most important goal for us when we are “using our powers for good”? (Hint: Re-read verse 23)
6. In what ways can we “become all things to all people”? Discuss specific examples you have used, seen, or heard about.
7. Discuss the “big idea” Paul is getting at in verses 24-27.
 - What is it?
 - What are the ramifications for those in ministry—vocational or volunteer?





ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 10:1 - 11:1

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul wraps this section of the letter with a thorough consideration of Christian freedom. He discusses: learning from the past, success, syncretism, edification, serving others, and glorifying God.

OBJECTIVE

We use our freedom to glorify God.

OBJECTIVE

Endued we are with such a liberty of will as is free from all outward compulsion and inward necessity, having an elective faculty of applying itself unto that which seems good unto it, in which it is a free choice. Notwithstanding, it is subservient to the decree of God, both in regard of the object it chooseth and in regard of that vital power and faculty whereby it worketh, infallibly complying with God's providence and working by virtue of the motion thereof. But surely to assert such a supreme independency and every way unbounded indifferency... is plainly to deny that our wills are subject to the rule of the Most High, against its exaltation to this height of independency.

—John Owen
The Idol of Free Will

PRAYER

Pray for each other during this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 9: Freedom

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-12 together. The story of the Exodus is often used as a metaphor of a Christian's deliverance by God from the power of sin. What experience did Israel have with God during the Exodus that most encourages you in your walk with God?
 - God promises two things regarding temptations to sin. What are they?
 - b. When God shows you a way to escape, what is your responsibility?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - Read verses 14-22. "All for One, and One for All" is the overall objective of this series. How does celebrating the Lord's Supper help us keep this focus in our lives?
3. Read 10:23-11:1. In this session, the "boundary of our freedom in Christ is edification" (verse 23). If you are free to do something but it does not build up yourself or others, what are you supposed to do?
4. It's easy to give assent to doing whatever we do for God's glory. But sometimes we do things that will glorify God so that people will praise us. What can we do to guard ourselves against this temptation?
5. Paul wrote, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." If people copy your behavior, will there be more Christ-like living? Why or why not?
6. As a group, review the Objective, Premise, and Theme of this series (on page 1 of this study guide). Discuss what you have learned from this series, and how your life has been impacted. Pray with and for each other, that our church will live out our unity in Christ, and that each of our lives will become more and more Christ-like, and worthy of imitation.

