



Series Overview and Guides

2017-2018 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 4

APRIL—MAY 2018

Objective

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

We follow God's ways.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."
—1 Corinthians 11:1

"Paul was suggesting that he attempted to pattern his own life after the inoffensive behavior of our Lord, sometimes refusing to take advantage of the liberties that properly belonged to him in order to satisfy the demands of the kingdom. The Corinthians were to do the same"

—Paige Patterson,
The Troubled Triumphant Church

Premise

why we are studying this

We live in a world where unity is assumed to require a lessening of holiness; that is, standards must be lowered if unity is to be experienced. The opposite is actually true. It is in following the holy God that we experience astonishing communion. We also inhabit Christian communities where holiness is used as an unholy bludgeon rather. Instead, God calls us to agape love as the greatest possible expression of right.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

—1 Corinthians 12:12-13 NASB

"Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

—1 Corinthians 13:13 HCSB

"The great reason that Christian thought fastened on *agape* is that *agape* demands the exercise of the whole man...*Agape* has to do with the *mind*: it is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which we deliberately live."

—William Barclay,
New Testament Words

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 this second part of the book (Ch 11-16).

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
—Corinthians 12:27 NRSV

"The unifying member in the spiritual body is Christ. As the Head (Eph. 1:22; cf. 1 Cor. 11:3) He possesses the body and sovereignly expresses His will. His command is that love should prevail among the members (John 15:12). This was the force which would maintain unity within the diversity."

—David K. Lowery
1 Corinthians (Bible Knowledge Commentary, Vol 2)



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this study guide is based on the sermon and personal study notes of

Dr. M. Wayne Braudrick
Senior Pastor, Frisco Bible Church

and is developed by the Frisco Bible Curriculum Team:

Writers:

Ken Bergstedt, AJ Rinaldi, Randall Satchell, Steve Wilson

Editors:

AJ Rinaldi, Randall Satchell

Layout and Design:

Steve Wilson

SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

SERMON ACCESS ONLINE



You can watch the related sermons at www.friscobible.com/sermons or by scanning the QR code.

On the **Sermons** page, filter by Series and select **God's Way**.

PERMISSION

You are welcome to copy and distribute this study guide for your personal or group study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Frisco Bible Church
8000 Sanctuary Drive
Frisco, TX 75033
972.335.8150
contactus@friscobible.com
www.friscobible.com

SERIES 4 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 11:1-16

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Six hierarchical truths are laid out as a means of exposing how poorly the Corinthians follow. Paul exposes two things to honor (God & angels) and four things to appreciate (sex differences, hierarchies, interconnection, & nature).

OBJECTIVE

We follow God's way of gender honor.

HIERARCHY

"Organizations and people need hierarchy. While there is no doubt that some hierarchies are better designed than others, an interesting test is what happens when there is little or no consensus about who has more—and less—power. [Deb] Gruenfeld and [Lara] Tiedens describe a series of studies showing that when such agreement is absent (so the nature of the formal or informal pecking order is not clear), members become less committed to their groups, less productive and effective."

—Bob Sutton

Hierarchy is Good. Hierarchy is Essential. And Less Isn't Always Better

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we will imitate Christ as Paul did, and that we will appreciate and honor the differences God has created between men and women.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 1: God's Way of Sexual Honor

1. In 1 Corinthians, Paul addresses ten issues within the church at Corinth:

Divisions	1:10-17; 3:1-23
Sexual immorality	5:1-13; 6:12-20
Lawsuits with brethren	6:1-11
Marriage & divorce	7:1-17
Meat sacrificed to idols	8:1-13
Freedom & responsibility	9:1-11:1
Order in the church	11:2-16
Selfish agape feasts	11:17-34
Loveless use of gifts	12:1-14:40
Confusion about resurrection	15:1-58

- Which of these are still difficulties within the church today?
 - How are they manifested?
2. In 11:1 Paul encourages the Corinthians to imitate him as he imitated Christ. Read each of the passages below and briefly discuss how they illuminate Paul's statement.
- Philippians 4:11-12
 - Colossians 1:9-12
 - 2 Timothy 2:2
3. Read 11:2-16 together. Even though some of the customs mentioned by Paul may sound strange to us in the 21st century, how does this text honor God's created order?
4. What are some ways the church benefits from differences between men and women?
5. Paul describes a hierarchy in which the church fits. What are some ways that organizations benefit from hierarchy? Consider the quote in the sidebar.
6. How does the connection between men and women help to glorify God?
7. What can you do to be gracious and loving to people who are suffering from gender confusion?



SERIES 4 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul walks through the ruination of the Agape Feast at Corinth and then lays out the restoration plan whereby the Lord's Table can be enjoyed as God desires.

OBJECTIVE

We remember the Lord & His people.

AGAPE

The great reason that Christian thought fastened on *agape* is that *agape* demands the exercise of the whole man...*Agape* has to do with the *mind*: it is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which we deliberately live. *Agape* has supremely to do with the *will*. It is a conquest, a victory, an achievement. No one ever naturally loved his enemies. To love one's enemies is a conquest of all our natural inclinations and emotions...Christianity does not ask us to love our enemies and to love men at large in the same way as we love our nearest and dearest and those who are closest to us; that would be at one and the same time impossible and wrong. But it does demand that we should have at all times a certain attitude of the mind and a certain direction of the will towards all men, no matter who they are.

—William Barclay
New Testament Words

Session 2: God's Way of Communion

1. If someone asks, "How often should the church observe communion?", what would your answer be and why?
2. What are the spiritual implications of communion for you personally?
3. Describe an experience in which you celebrated the Lord's Supper in an unusual setting. In what ways did this impact you?
4. Read 11:17-22. What is the issue Paul is addressing here and why is it a problem?
5. Read 11:27-29.
 - What does it mean to take the cup and the bread in an unworthy manner?
 - What does it mean to examine ourselves prior to partaking of communion?
 - What does it mean to discern the body of Christ?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Take communion together while meditating on Paul's instruction in these verses.



SERIES 3 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul recounts how much the Spirit, with the Father & Son, provides. The Spirit directs Christians to submit to Jesus' Lordship. He grants diverse spiritual gifts for the good of all. And He baptizes us into one indivisible body.

OBJECTIVE

We use God's gifts for His glory.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are divinely given capacities to perform useful functions for God, especially in the area of spiritual service. Just as the human body has members with different capacities, so individual Christians forming the church as the body of Christ have different capacities. These help them contribute to the welfare of the church as a whole, as well as to bear an effective witness to the world. Spiritual gifts are bestowed by the sovereign choice of God and need to be exercised in the power and under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

—John F. Walvoord
The Holy Spirit at Work Today

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that God would show us how to use the gifts He has given us to serve others and to glorify Him.

Session 3: God's Way of Gifting

1. According to 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, it is clear that spiritual gifts are vital to the local church.
 - Discuss your spiritual gifts.
 - What are some ways you are using, or have used, your gifts to serve the body of Christ?
2. Read 12:12-26.
 - How do you think your spiritual gifts fit in the imagery of the body?
 - Why is it important to have all the parts working together? Refer to the passage.
3. Read verses 27-31.
 - How does exercising your spiritual gifts fit with our annual theme "Use your powers for good"?
 - Why is loving others an important part of exercising your gifts?
4. If you are not actively using your spiritual gifts, discuss how to find current opportunities to do so, and then how to get active at applying them!
5. If you do not know what your spiritual gifts are, discuss some of the ways you can find out! Ask your group or a pastor for help in this area if necessary.



SERIES 3 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 13

KEY IDEAS

OBJECTIVE

We follow God's way of love.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Christian community can make shift somehow if the 'gifts' of chapter 12 be lacking: it will die if love is absent. The most lavish exercise of spiritual gifts cannot compensate for lack of love.

—F. F. Bruce

1 & 2 Corinthians, New Century Bible series

THE GREATEST VIRTUE

The point of this beautiful classic exposition of love is this. We should value and give attention to the cultivation and practice of love even more than to that of the spiritual gifts (cf. 12:31). The gifts, as important as they are, are only partial and temporary. As love is the greatest of the virtues that will endure forever, so the gift of tongues is the least of the gifts.

—Thomas L. Constable

Notes on First Corinthians

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we will grow in our understanding and practical living out of God's way of *agape* love.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 4: God's Way of Love

1. Review and discuss the four Greek words for "love." Which word does Paul use in 1 Corinthians 13 (and in fact throughout the New Testament)?
 - *Eros*—sexual attraction
 - *Storge*—familial affection
 - *Philia*—close friendship
 - *Agape*—a mindful choice to love regardless of feeling, deservedness, or reciprocation

2. Summarize 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 as a group. What is the main point Paul is making through the beautiful imagery of this section?

3. Read verses 4-8a. Paul paints love with both light and shadow, showing what it is and what it is not.
 - How well does this describe your Christian life? What are some things that work against us in these areas?

 - Why is this description of *agape* love so popular during wedding ceremonies?

4. In verses 8b-13, Paul comes full circle back to the discussion of gifts from chapter 12.
 - What does Paul say about gifts like prophecy, languages, and knowledge?

 - What is his reasoning?

 - Why does he say that love is the most "excellent way" (12:31)?



SERIES 3 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 14

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Corinth was apparently dealing with very selfish and messy attitudes in the worship assembly. Paul corrects with pointed, clear instruction.

OBJECTIVE

We worship with orderly passion.

PAGAN ATTITUDES

Corinth was experience-oriented and self-oriented. After being converted, they had failed to free themselves from pagan attitudes and they confused the true work of the Spirit of God with the former pneumatic and ecstatic experiences of the pagan religions.

—H. Wayne House
Tongues & the Mystery Religions of Corinth

THE ULTIMATE CRITERION

The ultimate criterion of the Spirit's activity is the exaltation of Jesus as Lord. Whatever takes away from that, even if they be legitimate expressions of the Spirit, begins to move away from Christ to a more pagan fascination with spiritual activity as an end in itself.

—Gordon D. Fee
The First Epistle to the Corinthians

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that God will show us ways to build each other up whenever we gather together.

Session 5: God's Way of Worship

1. Why are unclear and non-constructive comments unhelpful?
2. In 1 Corinthians 14:3, Paul lays out three objectives of good preaching (prophesying).
 - What are they?
 - Discuss the impact of each one when you listen to an effective Bible preacher.
3. Paul states that in the church we should desire to prophesy more than to speak in other languages.
 - What does he say is the benefit of this to believers (verses 12 and 19)?
 - What is the benefit to unbelievers who may be present (verses 23-25)?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26.
 - What should be the guiding principle for all our gatherings?
 - When you are in the worship service, what do you find personally enriching?
 - Since the text says to come prepared to share a Bible verse, a teaching that is new to you, or something special God has revealed to you recently, when and where would you have the opportunity to share this?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 14:40.
 - What guiding principle should rule over the assembly?
 - What could failure to follow this guideline look like?



SERIES 3 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 15:10-34

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Paul expounds on the validity and impact of the resurrection life.

OBJECTIVE

We live the resurrection life.

FIRST IMPORTANCE

Paul's readers would say, "Yes, we agree that *Jesus* was raised from the dead." Then Paul would reply, "If you believe that, then you must believe in the resurrection of *all* the dead!" Christ came as a man, truly human, and experienced all that we experience, except that He never sinned. If there is no resurrection, then Christ was not raised. If He was not raised, there is no gospel to preach. If there is no gospel, then you have believed in vain and you are still in your sins! If there is no resurrection, then believers who have died have no hope. We shall never see them again!

The conclusion is obvious: Why be a Christian if we have only suffering in this life and no future glory to anticipate? The resurrection is not just important; it is "of first importance," because all that we believe hinges on it.

—Warren Wiersbe

The Wiersbe Bible Commentary, NT

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we will live every day in light of what Jesus' resurrection means to us, both now and in eternity. Also pray for boldness to share the gospel with those whom the Holy Spirit brings into our lives.

Session 6: God's Way of Resurrection Living

1. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain." How has God's grace impacted who you are today?
 - What would you tell them? What difference does it make to you?
2. Suppose someone asked you, "What difference does it make whether Jesus rose from the dead or not?"
 - Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–19 together. List and discuss three reasons why Jesus' physical resurrection from the dead matters that Paul gives in these verses.
3. Verses 20-28 span from Genesis to Revelation.
 - In this summarized arc of history, what is the significance of Jesus' resurrection?
 - What is the ultimate outcome of God's plan for us, and for Him?
4. The fact of Jesus' resurrection also affects our lives here and now, day-to-day. Read verses 29-34 together.
 - Discuss examples from these verses of how the resurrection should affect our attitudes.
 - Discuss examples of how the resurrection should affect our behavior.
5. Resurrection living also includes sharing the gospel. If you have shared the gospel with someone recently, tell the group about your experience.



SERIES 3 | SESSION 7

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2017-2018

USE YOUR POWERS FOR GOOD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 16:1-24

KEY IDEAS

OBJECTIVE

We honor God's way of giving.

FIVE PRINCIPLES

Though Paul was giving instructions for a specific project, he shared several general guidelines for giving that are reinforced in other areas of Scripture:

- Christians should give primarily—but not exclusively—to support the needs of fellow believers.
- Every believer (“each of you”) should be involved in giving.
- Material gifts should be set aside regularly.
- All Christians should give proportionately, based on their capacity to give.
- Those who receive and distribute funds should be trustworthy and accountable.

—Gene A. Getz
Life Essentials Study Bible

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we will each recognize and respond to the Holy Spirit and the word of God, to follow God's way in all we do as we seek to use our powers for good and for God's glory.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 7: God's Way of Giving

1. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4.
 - What was the purpose of this collection? See Romans 15:22-29.
 - In what ways do we—or, in what ways can we better—serve our brothers and sisters in Christ who are struggling against physical adversity?
2. In verses 13 and 14, Paul packed five direct exhortations. “Be watchful”; “Stand firm in the faith”; “Act like men”; “Be strong”; “Let all that you do be done in love.” Discuss each one as a group:
 - What is its importance?
 - How is it relevant to yourself?
 - How is it relevant to the body of Christ around you?
3. Read verses 15-18.
 - What are the qualities of the people who deserve recognition in the church?
 - What should be our attitude toward such people?

SERIES REVIEW

Review the **Objective** and **Theme** of this series (found on page 1).

1. What have you learned through this series? What has been the most relevant to your current situation in life?
2. Of the seven lessons on God's Way (God's Way of Sexual Honor, Communion, Gifting, Love, Worship, Resurrection Living, and Giving), which has the Holy Spirit used to convict you of changes needed to your attitude or actions?

