



**Title:** Life Together for the Gospel (First Corinthians #11)

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

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**Intro:** In an age of individualism and insecurity, Paul's bold and humble exhortation to the Corinthians to follow his example in Christ gives us a glimpse of what life together should look like for a Gospel-centered community.

*"The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us." -Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Life Together, p.26)*

### I. PAUL'S POINT

1. Follow my example of following Christ.
2. We need admonishing.

### II. TWO TRUTHS

1. We Must Fight To Actually Live Out The Gospel In Our Lives.

#### Information ≠ Sanctification

The Corinthians were puffed up with knowledge but living lives contrary to the Gospel. We are very much like that.

2. We Must Give Ourselves To One Another In Gospel-Centered Community

#### Challenges:

1. Pace of our lives
2. Our default is consumerism
3. Frailty and the fear of man: Hurts & Insecurities

### III. SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE TOGETHER

1. We must see one another through the lens of the Gospel.
  - Hebrews 10:14—Christians are all in process, becoming who we actually are.
  - Don't hold on to what Jesus has carried away.
2. Connection and relationship are easy for some and hard for others.
3. Our individual default is the comfortable and familiar.
4. We spend most of our energy on the trellis rather than the vine.

*"The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So everybody must conceal his sin from himself and from the fellowship. We dare not be sinners. Many Christians are unthinkable horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous. So we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy. The fact is that we are sinners!" -Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Life Together, p.110)*