

ST.PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

AUTHORSHIP AND AUDIENCE OF 1 CORINTHIANS

The authorship of I Corinthians is attributed to Paul the apostle of Jesus Christ who received a call directly from God himself on his way to Damascus.

Paul's original name was Saul and he originated from the province of tarsus.

Paul's letter was addressed to the Corinthian community among whom Paul had founded a church.

AIMS OF WRITING PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

Paul received a verbal report from a member of Chloe's family about divisions in the church. Paul therefore wrote to encourage unity in the Corinthian church since people had been divided along personalities like Paul, Peter, Apollos and Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians to encourage them to expel the young men who had committed incest from their church fellowship and to condemn incest as a sin before God.

Paul wrote to encourage the Corinthians to use their bodies to glorify God instead of uniting their bodies with prostitutes.

He wanted to advice the Corinthians who were taking fellow Christians to pagan courts to choose one wise person from the church to settle their disputes.

Paul wrote in order to encourage the Corinthians who wanted to marry to go ahead and marry since it was not a sin before God.

Paul wrote to encourage those who were unmarried to remain as they were since celibacy was a gift from God.

Paul wanted to teach the Corinthians the source and purpose of the different spiritual gifts since they did not know that the spiritual gifts were given by God.

Paul wanted to assure the Corinthians that Jesus had resurrected from death and that Christians would also resurrect from death.

He wanted to encourage the Corinthians to respect the Lord's Supper by examining themselves before taking part in it and waiting for one another during the celebration.

He wrote to encourage the strong believers to forego eating food offered to idols for the sake of weaker brothers in faith who thought that by eating such food it was wrong.

He wanted to warn believers about idol worship by reminding them how God had punished the Israelites because of idolatry.

He wanted to show how he surrendered his apostolic right for the sake of the gospel.

He wanted to encourage women to continue veiling their heads during church worship since it reflected glory to their husbands.

He wanted to encourage them to properly use their freedom instead of using their freedom to sin or lead others into sin.

He also wanted to emphasize love as the greatest and most important spiritual gift of all.

He wanted to encourage Corinthians to spare some money and offer it to fellow believers in Jerusalem who were badly off.

PROBLEMS THAT EXISTED IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

There was a problem of divisions in the church of Corinth based on divisions like those following Peter, Paul, Apollos and Jesus Christ.

There was a problem of lawsuits among fellow Christians. They could take fellow Christians to pagan courts of law to settle their small cases.

There was a problem of incest when the young man who was a believer had sexual intercourse with a step mother.

There was prostitution among Christians. Some believers used to join their bodies with prostitutes which was a disgrace.

There was a problem of unveiling of heads by women during public worship. Some women could go for church worship without covering their heads which ashamed their husbands.

Some Christians were judging human leaders yet it was only God to judge mankind.

There was misuse of the Lord's Supper where some believers could eat it without examining themselves.

There was misuse of spiritual gifts where some Christians considered the gift of speaking in tongues as the most important of all spiritual gifts and boasted over those with other spiritual gifts.

There was a problem of disorder during public worship when some Christians could speak in tongues without interpreters.

There was a problem of doubting Jesus' resurrection because false preachers had undermined it.

There was a problem of doubting resurrection of believers because of the false teachings of the Greeks on resurrection.

There was also divorce whereby some married Christians were divorcing their partners yet marriage was supposed to be permanent.

There was idol worship when some Christians participated in pagan feasts and were tempted to sin.

There was backsliding of believers in faith especially those who were weak in faith on the issue of food offered to idols.

Some Christians were trusting in human wisdom instead of trusting in divine wisdom.

SOCIAL EVILS/IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH OF CORINTH

There were divisions in the church of Corinth. Christians were divided basing on personalities and doctrinal grounds.

There was trusting in human wisdom instead of trusting in divine wisdom which undermined the spread of the gospel.

There was judgment of human leaders by Christians in Corinth yet it was only God who was supposed to judge mankind.

There was incest in the church. There was a young man who had sexual intercourse with the step mother which was sinful.

There was prostitution in Corinth. Some believers were joining their bodies with prostitutes which undermined God's glory.

There were law suits against fellow Christians. Christians failed to settle their own disputes instead they used pagan judges.

There was divorce among married couples. Some were divorcing their partners yet marriage was supposed to be permanent.

There was worship of idols and participating in pagan feasts which led some Christians in the church to sin.

There was backsliding of Christians in their faith especially those who were weak when they saw strong Christians eating food offered to idols.

There was misuse of the Lord's Supper when some believers were over drinking and eating yet at times they could not examine themselves.

Some Christians in Corinth were drunkards which was a disgrace to Jesus Christ their saviour and Lord.

There was misuse of spiritual gifts in the church when those who spoke in tongues were showing off and could speak without interpreters which created disorder in the church.

Some women failed to cover their heads during worship of God which disgraced their husbands.

THE SPLINTER GROUPS/PARTY FACTIONS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

The divisions in the church of Corinth were based on personality grounds for example, some people claimed to follow Paul, some followed Peter, some followed Apollos and others followed Jesus Christ.

Some people followed Paul because of the following reasons;

Paul was the founder of the church at Corinth.

Paul was an Apostle of the gentiles.

Paul baptized some Christians like Gaius, Crispus, Stephanus and his family.

Paul preached a simple gospel which was easy for the ordinary people to understand.

Some followed Peter because of the following reasons;

Peter was the head of the apostles of Jesus Christ.

Peter was among the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ.

Peter was a Jew, brought up under the Jewish culture therefore fellow Jews supported him.

Some people followed Apollos because of the following reasons;

He was an eloquent preacher.

He was highly educated.

He had knowledge of the Old Testament scriptures and interpreted them well.

He was a Jew and a follower of the Jewish culture therefore fellow Jews supported him.

Some people followed Jesus because of the following reasons;

Jesus Christ was the son of God.

Jesus was the messiah who had died for their sins.

Besides the divisions based on personality, other divisions came as a result of the Lord's Supper and spiritual gifts.

REASONS/CAUSES FOR DIVISIONS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

Divisions were caused by differences in personalities of the apostles that is Paul, Peter and Apollos.

The lack of faith in Jesus Christ among the Corinthians led to divisions in the church.

Christians thought that human leaders were competitors not knowing that they were working as partners.

The failure to realize that all human leaders were working to expand the kingdom of God caused divisions among the Corinthians.

The high level of spiritual immaturity among believers caused divisions.

The Corinthians were living according to worldly standards for example they were still men of the flesh hence led to divisions.

The Corinthians were ignorant of the one who died for them which led to disunity in the church of Corinth.

The failure to understand that the church leaders were building on the same foundation Jesus had started led to divisions among the Corinthians.

The multi-racial nature of the church and discrimination based on tribal grounds led to divisions that is Jews and gentiles.

The belief in human wisdom as opposed to divine wisdom led to divisions in Corinth.

Lack of love for one another among the believers in Corinth caused divisions.

Failure to understand who sent the church leaders and for whose ministry they were working for led to divisions in the church of Corinth.

Paul's absence in the church led them to divisions as he was not there to guide them.

The pagan background of Christians in Corinth led to divisions among them.

The greed during the celebration of the Lord's Supper among believers caused divisions.

The difference in social status when some believers were poor yet others rich led to divisions.

The pride of those who spoke in tongues caused divisions in the church.

The ignorance of the source and purpose of spiritual gifts led to divisions in the church.

The misuse of spiritual gifts by some believers in Corinth caused divisions in the church.

The impatience of the believers who could not wait for the follow believers to celebrate the Lord's Supper together led to divisions.

DANGERS OF DIVISIONS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

Divisions were based on personalities of individuals like Paul, Peter, Apollos and Jesus Christ.

Divisions in the church threatened true fellowship with God who saved them from their old life.

Divisions affected the spiritual growth of the Christians and therefore, they were still babies in Jesus Christ.

Divisions led to the quarrels among Christians which further reflected their spiritual immaturity.

Divisions could hinder the expansion of the church since non-believers could be discouraged from joining the church due to divisions.

Divisions were dangerous because they made people to become sinners.

Divisions made people to be judged as they judged God's servants not knowing that God is the only Judge.

Divisions made Christians to fail to see the one in whose name they were baptized because they were identifying themselves with human leaders.

Divisions threatened the unity which was emphasized in the Christian church.

Divisions in the church of the Corinth made Christians to substitute Jesus Christ their saviour with human leaders.

They made the Corinthians to defend human leaders instead of defending Jesus Christ who died for them.

Divisions made the Corinthians to divide Jesus Christ which was very dangerous.

Divisions made them to sin and therefore they were unfit for the kingdom of God.

Divisions caused backsliding in the church.

Divisions hindered the spirit of love for one another because of the quarrels and pride.

Divisions made the Corinthians to trust more in human wisdom than the true wisdom of God.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON DIVISIONS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

Paul is glad that he did not baptize any of them since they could boast of their baptism being superior except a few.

Paul affirms that he preached the good news using the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul rebukes the Corinthians by calling them men of flesh with sinful and worldly thinking.

He brought the idea of Christ being God's wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

He gives a warning to those who were threatening the unity of the church saying that anybody who destroys God's temple will be destroyed since Christians are a temple of the Lord.

Paul reminds them that if anyone considers himself wise by worldly standards should be a fool.

According to Paul being considered to be wise in the world is nonsense before God.

Paul uses the example of a plant through which he says that he planted the seed, Apollos watered them but its only God who makes them to grow.

Paul also uses the example that all apostles were servants of God called up to do God's work.

Paul taught that the apostles were equal before God doing the same task for God.

Paul discouraged them in boasting of human leaders since they were co-workers but instead they should boast in the Lord.

Paul says that the judgment of God's servants is baseless since it is God who will judge them.

Paul promised to visit them soon so as to remain firm.

Paul also promises to send Timothy to continue encouraging them in Christian principles.

Paul taught that all apostles preach the same word of Christ, so no one should judge them.

Paul taught that it was Christ who died on the cross but not any of the apostles.

According to Paul, all the apostles would be rewarded at the end of time according to their work.

On the Lord's Supper, Paul said that they should wait for one another before eating.

Paul said that all those who want to enjoy the Lord's Supper should first eat at home.

He said that believers should first examine their attitude before joining the Lord's Supper.

On spiritual gifts Paul said that all gifts come from the same spirit.

Still on spiritual gifts, Paul said that the church is a body with different parts each working for the same body.

Paul says that the gift of preaching is better than the gift of speaking in tongues.

Paul encourages Christians in Corinth to have the gift of love.

Paul advised the Corinthians to be careful builders as he had laid foundation.

Paul said that the apostles preached the message of the risen Christ not their own.

Paul said that the foundation had been laid already and anybody who builds on it should be careful.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM PAUL'S TEACHING ON DIVISIONS IN CORINTH

Christians should be united in Jesus Christ who is the Lord and saviour.

Christians should follow Jesus Christ since he is the one who died for their sins.

Christians should have faith in Jesus Christ because they were baptized in his name.

Christians should boast about what Jesus has done for them instead of boasting what religious leaders have done for them.

Christian religious leaders should preach one gospel about Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christian religious leaders should be careful when building on the foundation of the church so as to avoid God's judgment.

Christian religious leaders should baptize new converts in Jesus' name.

Christians should work as servants of God and partners in building God's kingdom instead of competing against one another.

Christians should leave judgment of human leaders to God alone since he is the ultimate judge.

Christians should trust in divine wisdom instead of trusting in human wisdom which is total foolishness before God.

Christians should believe in God's power because it is what saves the sinful mankind.

Christians should have spiritual maturity instead of behaving like spiritual babies when they get divided.

Christians should live according to God's standards instead of behaving like men of the flesh.

Christians should accept all anointed men of God because they are all servants of God.

Christians should do God's work well because they will be rewarded in heaven by God.

Christians should guard against dividing the church of Christ which can bring judgment upon them.

Christians should accept to be fools by worldly standards and wise before God.

Christian religious leaders should visit the churches they could have established so that they can remain firm.

Christians should wait for one another before they start enjoying the bread and body of Jesus Christ.

Christians should first examine themselves before taking part in the Lord's Supper.

Christians should respect all spiritual gifts since they all come from the same spirit.

Christians should practice love for one another and value it as the greatest and most important spiritual gift.

CAUSES OF DIVISIONS IN THE MODERN CHURCH

Some divisions in the Church today emerge as a result of differences in doctrinal issues like Baptism.

The commercialization of Church services by some Church leaders accounts for the divisions in the modern Church.

Differences in political ideologies by different Christians' accounts for the divisions in the Church today.

Corruption and embezzlement of Church funds by some religious leaders causes divisions.

The divisions have emerged due to absence of miracles in some Churches hence making some people to leave them in such for miracles.

Foreign influence especially from America on some religious leaders has led to divisions for example Bishop Senyonjo who ended up sympathizing with homosexuality.

The conservative nature of the main stream Churches has caused divisions for example the Catholic Church upholds the principle of not ordaining women as Priests.

Some Church leaders and Christians today are discriminative in nature for example they tend to favor the rich at the expense of the poor.

Some Church leaders live unexemplary lives which cause divisions in the Church for example Pastor David Kiganda who divorced and remarried.

Some divisions in the Church come as a result of discipline in the Church especially if a church leader introduces a new style of worship that contradicts the original form of worship

Divisions in the Church come as a result of power struggles between different religious leaders for example Pastor Aloysius Busingo and Pastor Joseph Sserwadda.

Some divisions emerge as a result of differences in the system of worship.

The education background of some religious leaders accounts for divisions today where Christians may end up conflicting with their leaders due to low levels of education.

Some divisions come as a result of lack of knowledge among Christians especially concerning the Scriptures.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE CONTRAST BETWEEN HUMAN WISDOM AND DIVINE WISDOM. 1:18-31, 2:1-16

Paul says that to the Jews, wisdom was found in the law.

He says that to the Greeks, wisdom was philosophical debate.

Paul says that what happened on the cross turned upside down to what both Jews and Greeks accepted as wisdom.

Paul says that human wisdom is nothing compared to the wisdom of God.

Paul says that in the wisdom of God the world did not know him.

Paul teaches that God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Paul says that the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom.

Paul notes that the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Paul shows that people were taking the gospel to be a new wisdom that is why they compared who is wiser among all the preachers.

Paul teaches that people were not saved by human wisdom but by the divine wisdom which is Jesus Christ.

Paul says that God's wisdom helps one to understand the crucified Christ.

On the other hand, human wisdom can easily blind one to understand this fact of the crucified Christ.

The wisdom of the Jews was in the law which cursed any person who was crucified.

Paul shows that human wisdom could not permit the Greeks to believe in Jesus Christ because to them he was an ordinary man.

Paul says that man's wisdom is foolishness before God and what appears to be foolishness before man is God's wisdom.

Paul says that the gospel he preached to the Corinthians was that of the cross.

Paul says that he did not preach the gospel by using human wisdom.

Paul says that it is because of the cross that mankind received salvation.

Paul says that true wisdom is revealed to mankind who has faith in the risen Christ.

Paul says that divine wisdom is the salvation of man in the suffering, death, resurrection and glorification of Jesus Christ.

Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit enlightens them to understand even the deep things of God which the human mind cannot understand.

Paul says that a Christian with divine wisdom takes the cross to be victory other than defeat.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS OF PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE CONTRAST BETWEEN HUMAN AND DIVINE WISDOM TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should have faith in Jesus Christ so as to receive salvation.

Christians should depend on divine wisdom in order to attain eternal life.

Christians should seek for divine wisdom which helps them to overcome worldly temptations.

Christians should apply divine wisdom in order to understand God work and purpose.

Christians should believe in God's saving power through his son Jesus Christ.

Christians should have faith in divine wisdom than human wisdom.

Christians should consider Jesus' cross as a sign of victory from the power of death.

Christians should pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon them so as to enlighten them on God's deeper things.

Christians should seek for true wisdom instead of being enslaved by the law.
Christians should seek for divine wisdom so as to be saved by Jesus Christ.
Christians should believe in divine wisdom since human wisdom is foolishness before God.
Christians should carry the banner of the cross and invite other people under it.
Christians should believe and accept Jesus as the son of God.
Christians should listen to the words of the religious leaders since they originate from divine wisdom in order to attain heavenly things.
Christians should strive to distinguish between human wisdom as opposed to divine wisdom.
Christians should use divine wisdom to preach the gospel to others as Paul did instead of using their human wisdom.

PAUL'S CONCERN ON DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH

Paul's concern on discipline in the church involves three major issues namely;

An incestuous person (1 Corinthians 5:1-13)

Prostitution

Law suits or legal disputes (1 Corinthians 6:1-11)

PAUL'S TEACHING ON INCEST 5:1-13

He completely discourages people from getting involved in the act of incest because even the pagans would be guilty of it.

He condemns the Corinthians for being proud of such an incestuous act in the church.

He says that they should be filled with sadness that incest was taking place in the church.

He advises the Corinthians to expel the incestuous man from their church fellowship.

He says that although he was not with them physically he had already passed judgment on this young man spiritually.

He says that such a man should be handed to Satan for his body to be destroyed and his spirit be saved on the Day of Judgment.

He passes judgment on the incestuous man because his act was so terrible.

He says that a little bit of yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise.

He advises the Corinthians to remove the old yeast of sin so that they would be entirely pure.

He reminds them of the Passover festival that was ready for celebration and Christ the Passover lamb had been sacrificed for them.

He advises them to celebrate the Passover festival with the bread of purity and truth instead of having bread with the old yeast of sin and wickedness.

He says that he had written a letter to them discouraging them from associating with immoral people.

He clarified that the immoral people he meant were Christians who continued to live an immoral life but not pagans.

He discourages them from even sitting down to eat with an immoral Christian.

He outlines other forms of immoralities like greed, idolatry and theft.

He says that it was none of their business to judge pagans because it's only God who will judge them.

He encouraged them to judge members of their own fellowship instead of judging the pagans.

Question: "Hand this man over to Satan so that his sinful nature may be destroyed on the day of the Lord". 1 Cor.5:5-6.

Examine the circumstances which made Paul say this to the Corinthians.

Paul made this statement because he had heard about sexual immorality among the Corinthians which they had kept quiet about.

There was sexual immorality among the Christians at Corinth which was so terrible that even the pagans would be guilty of.

Paul made the statement because a man was having sexual relations with his step mother.

Paul wondered how the Corinthians could be proud of such an immoral act.

Instead they were to be filled with grief or sadness.

The Christians at Corinth had failed to expel such a man from their fellowship.

Paul said that such a man must be handed over to Satan so that his body is destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the lord.

He said that a little yeast makes the whole batch of dough raise.

Paul said that they had to remove the yeast of sin so that they may be pure.

Paul wanted the Corinthians to ex-communicate this man.

Paul said that Christians were to celebrate the Passover not with bread having old yeast.

He said that they were to celebrate the Passover with the bread of purity and truth.

Paul referred the Corinthians to the earlier communication he had made to them not to associate with immoral people.

Paul's concern was to call upon Christians to judge members of their own fellowship but not outsiders.

Paul's concern was because the Corinthians continued to associate with immoral people like the man who had committed incest yet he warned them against this.

Paul's statement was intended to bring the man to repentance before the return of Jesus Christ so that he would be saved but not condemned in the final judgment.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS OF PAUL'S TEACHING ON INCEST TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should condemn incest because it is a sin before God.

Christians should ex-communicate evil doers from their fellowships.

Christians should condemn all kinds of evils like greed, idolatry and theft to prevent them from spreading within the community.

Christians should live holy lives as they wait for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Christians should be pure and holy instead of involving in moral acts.

Christians should correct fellow believers who might go wrong so that they are saved.

Christians should point out the evils among them instead of keeping quiet about them.

Christians should check their behaviours and morals as they celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Christians should obey and observe the commandments of God.

Christians should pass the judgment to members of their fellowship in case of evil doing.

Christians should be careful when interacting with immoral people because one sinful person may end up spoiling the whole community.

Christians should associate with only moral people to avoid the weaker brothers from backsliding in faith.

Christians should respect their parents including step mothers instead of abusing them.

Christians should repent their sins to God in case of involving in evil acts.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON PROSTITUTION 6:12-20

He says that he had freedom to do anything but not everything was good for them.

He says that in doing anything, they were not to become slaves to prostitution.

He condemns the use of their bodies for sexual immoralities.

Instead they were to use their body to serve the Lord since he was the creator.

He reminds them that their body is part of the body of Christ so they were not to join Jesus' body to that of prostitutes.

He says that a man who joins his body with a prostitute becomes physically one with her and the two become one.

He encourages them to join their bodies with that of Christ because it makes them spiritually become one with Christ.

The act of sexual immorality was condemned because it's a sin against one's own body.

He says that other sins a person commits do not affect his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his body.

He says that the body of a Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in Christians given to them by God.

He advises Christians in Corinth to use their bodies for God's glory.

He reminds them that their bodies do not belong to them but belong to God.

He reminds them that they were bought for a price by God giving in his own son Jesus in order to save them.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON LAW SUITS AGAINST FELLOW CHRISTIANS 6:1-11

Paul wondered why those who had a dispute with one another took it to the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints.

Paul reminded the Corinthians that the saints will judge the world.

He said that by judging the world, they should be capable of judging smaller matters among themselves.

He also reminded them that the saints will judge the angels, so judging the things of this world is nothing.

He advised them to live in harmony since such conflicts reflected disharmony.

He called upon them to exercise a sense of maturity in handling their matters as believers.

He advised the Corinthians to settle their own disputes instead of taking them to the ungodly for judgment.

Paul advises the Corinthians to appoint wise men from their fellowship to settle such cases.

He expressed fears that conflicts would continue to exist unless they used their own leaders from their fellowship.

Paul says that their inability to judge small cases may render them incapable of judging the world.

He said they should stop cheapening Jesus since they were baptized in his name.

He said that they were children of God and they should show this in their behavior.

Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were brothers and sisters, so they had to practice love for one another.

Paul says that the mere fact that they had law suits among themselves meant that they had completely been defeated.

He said that pagan courts involve pride which they should try to avoid.

He reminds them that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul equated their behaviour of law suits to other acts of indiscipline like sexual immorality, theft and drunkenness which would hinder them from inheriting God's kingdom.

Paul reminds them that some of them were wicked but they were washed and sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He said that they should see themselves as special from pagans because they were sanctified by the Lord Jesus.

Paul discourages them from taking fellow Christians to pagan courts to be judged to avoid exposing their weaknesses to the corrupt pagans.

He said that it would be better for one to be wronged than wronging others.

He said that they had been dedicated to God by Jesus Christ.

Paul said that the Corinthians had been put right with God by the Lord Jesus Christ

He was surprised how they could take their cases to people (pagan judges) who had no standing!

RELEVANCE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should settle their own disputes instead of taking them to pagan courts.

Christians should practice love for one another.

Christians should choose members from their fellowship to judge their cases.

Christians should judge small and big cases among themselves since they will judge the world.

Christians should live holy lives free from wicked acts like sexual immorality and slandering so as to inherit the kingdom of God.

Christians should reconcile with one another in case of misunderstandings instead of exposing their weaknesses to pagan courts.

Christians should forgive fellow Christians who might go wrong instead of taking them to pagan courts.

Christians should repent of their sins before God who is merciful and forgiving.

Christians should guard themselves against being tempted by sin.

Christians should do things that bring glory to God.

Christians who are lawyers and judges should reflect their religious background when judging cases so that they are not corrupted by worldly men.

Christians in the judiciary should pass on fair judgment.

Christians should be prepared to judge the world and the angels.

Christians should be in position to follow Christian principles.

Christians should guard themselves against being tempted to sin because they have been purified from sin.

Christians should be dedicated to God and should also have faith and trust in God.

Christians should accept to be wronged instead of wronging others.

Christians should protect Christian values by maintaining unity amongst themselves.

Christians should work for peace and harmony among themselves instead of promoting conflicts.

Christians should serve God all the time in their endeavours.

PAUL'S TEACHING ABOUT MARRIAGE 7:1-40

He says that a man does well not to marry.

He says, I would prefer that all of you were as I am.

Paul says that celibacy is a gift from God.

He says that someone who became a Christian while unmarried should stay that way.

In view of the imminent return of Jesus Christ, it is better for the person who is not married to stay that way.

He says an unmarried man concerns himself with the Lord's work but a married man concerns himself with worldly matters because he wants to please his wife.

He says that an unmarried woman concerns herself with the Lord's work.

He says that he would rather prefer widows to remain single as he was.

He thought that the world will soon end so it would be better not to marry at all.

He says that those who chose not to marry did better.

He says that concerning the present distress, it is better for a man to stay as he is.

Since there is little time left, married men should live as though they were not married.

A person who marries does well but one who does not marry does even better.

He says unmarried life saves people from everyday troubles that married people would have.

He says that every woman should have a husband and every man should have a wife hence advocates for monogamous marriage.

He indicates that marriage is a gift from God.

He recommends permanent marriage relationship not divorce.

He says married couples should fulfill each other's needs hence should not deny each other sex.

He says that it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

For the widows who cannot manage single life, he says they should remarry.

If a Christian man has a wife who is not a believer and agrees to continue in marriage, they should continue married.

He says that if engaged couples feel they want to marry, they should marry.

He says that widowed women should marry only Christians.

He says that married couples should abstain from sex only during prayer through mutual agreement.

Paul says that whoever divorces his wife should remain single or else be reconciled to his wife.

He says that those who give their virgins for marriage do well but those who do not do better.

RELEVANCE OF PAUL'S TEACHING ON MARRIAGE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should practice and encourage monogamous marriage.

Christians should preach sex practice only in marriage hence the unmarried should abstain from sexual intercourse.

Christians should respect the celibates like nuns, catholic priests, brothers and bishops.

Marriage should be between a man and a woman

Forgiveness and reconciliation should be embraced in case there is separation of couples.

Christians should have permanent marriages since Paul discouraged divorce.

Christians who do not have self-control should marry instead of burning up with passion.

Christians should allow re-marriage of widows if they feel like.

Christians should encourage believers married to unbelieving partners to convert them.

Christians should have self-control to overcome sexual immorality.

Christians should preach about the expectation of Parousia.

Christian married couples should meet each other's sexual needs except during prayers.

Christians should stay as celibates in order to do the work of God.

Christians should live in the same state as when one was called by God to serve him.

Married Christians should have moments of prayer and fasting and during this time should abstain from sexual intercourse.

Married Christians should live in peace and harmony instead of having marriages full of conflicts.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH 8:1-13

Paul taught that Christians should believe that there is one God and also other gods.

He says that to Christians with strong faith idols do not exist.

According to Paul, idols are man-made hence they have no effect on faith.

According to Paul, God is creator of man, so they should worship only God.

According to Paul, a Christians is not made perfect because he has eaten or not eaten food offered to idols but when he has faith.

Paul advises Christians not to take their freedom for granted but always use their conscience.

A strong Christian in faith can eat food offered to idols but should always put into consideration the weaker brethren.

Those strong in faith should keep away from food offered to idols for the sake of the weaker brothers.

He says that eating food offered to idols would be like putting God to a test as the Israelites had done and God punished them for this.

He says that eating food offered to idols would block the pagans from converting to Christianity.

Paul teaches that God hates idols.

He says, if food is eaten without prior knowledge that it was offered to idols, Christians should not fear.

If a person saw a Christian eating food offered to idols, he/she will not see a difference between their gods and the Christian God.

According to Paul, eating may cause those with weak faith to backslide.

Paul warns that they cannot share a meal at the Lord's Table and at the same time on the table of demons.

He says if food makes a believer to sin, it should not be eaten.

According to Paul, what is eaten should bring glory to God's name.

According to Paul, if invited by pagans to eat, one should eat without asking questions.

Paul encouraged the believers that even when buying in the market they should buy without asking questions.

If one told you that their food is offered to idols then don't eat the food for the sake of the one who told you.

He says that he was a free man but lived a life of self-discipline in order not to stumble others.

He discourages them from eating any kind of food if it would make his brother weak in faith to sin against Jesus.

He challenges them to judge for themselves whether it was right to take part in the Lord's Supper and at the same time take part in idol feasts.

He encouraged them to exercise self-discipline if they were to win a reward in heaven.

He used himself as an example of a person who sacrificed his right in order to get rid of being a stumbling block to the spread of the gospel.

He called upon them to imitate him just as he had imitated Jesus.

LESSONS THAT CHRISTIANS IN UGANDA TODAY LEARN FROM THE ABOVE TEACHING

Christians with strong faith should guard against misleading others.

Christians should be exemplary when dealing with one another.
Christians should have faith in God.
Christians should pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to guide them in their decision.
Christians should exercise their freedom responsibly.
Christians should worship only one God instead of worshipping idols.
Christians should respect other people's feelings.
Christians should use common sense in finding out what is proper for them.
Christians should attract pagans to Christianity.
Christians should do what glorifies God.
Christians should be ready to forego their rights for the sake of others.
Christians should consult their leaders in case they are in problems
Christians should exercise the aspect of love for one another.
Christians in the market should buy goods like foods freely.
If invited to a party Christians should eat food after giving thanks to God without asking questions.
Christians should only be partners with God instead of being partners with both God and idols.
Christians who are strong in faith should help the weaker brothers in faith instead of boasting over them.
They should copy the example of Paul Justas he had imitated Jesus Christ.
Christians should sacrifice their rights and privileges in order to win people to God.
They should at times give up certain foods and drinks for the sake of those who may feel that such things defile them.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE RIGHTS OF AN APOSTLE IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH 9:1-27

He used himself as an example of the responsibility of Christian freedom.
He says he had the right of being an apostle because he had seen the risen Lord although others doubted it.
He says he had the right to be a free man, freed from the demands of the Jewish law and the restrictions of the life of a Pharisee.
But he decided to submit himself to the demands of the law in order to win people to Christ.
He says that he had the right to be catered for by the Christians just like the other apostles.
He decided to work for himself by making tents in order to earn a living so as not to be a burden to the church.
He says he had the right to have a wife and move with her like other apostles but he lived a celibate life.
He had the right to be given food and drink for his work but he decided to meet his personal needs.
He had the right to earn a living from the church but decided to work for himself.
He says that even the Lord had commanded that those who preach the gospel should get a living from it but he decided to forego it.
He asked the following questions to show how much he had sacrificed his apostolic rights; what soldier pays for his own expenses in the army? What farmer does not eat the grapes from his vine yard? What shepherd does not drink the milk from his sheep?
However he was not writing to claim for them.
He says he would first die so as to claim for his rights and freedom.
He decided to endure everything so as not to be a stumbling block to the spread of the gospel.
He says his priority was to preach the gospel without claiming for his privileges or rights.

He says he preached the gospel as a matter of duty not as a matter of free choice where he could expect to be paid a salary.

He says it would be terrible for him if he did not preach the gospel.

He says that he gets his pay as a privilege of preaching the gospel without charging for it nor claiming for his rights or privileges.

He says he did not enjoy his rights and privileges because he wanted to win people to the kingdom. He made himself everyone's slave so as to win them to God.

He says he was among the Jews; he lived like a Jew in order to win them to God.

When he was among the gentiles he lived like a gentile in order to win them to God.

When he lived among the weak in faith he lived like them in order to win them to God.

So he became all things to all men so that he could save them by whatever means possible.

He compares the self-discipline he went through with the discipline that an athlete must follow so as to win a prize.

He says he disciplined himself for the sake of winning a heavenly reward in glory with Jesus Christ.

He compares his discipline with the discipline of a boxer who does not waste his punches anyhow.

He says that he trained himself like an athlete but not for a race but for a spiritual prize.

RELEVANCE OF THE TEACHING TO CHURCH LEADERS TODAY

Church leaders should subsidize on what the church gives by working for themselves.

They should get their own means of preaching the gospel like Paul who was a tent maker.

They should endure hardships they experience while serving God.

They should get rid of acting like stumbling blocks to the spread of the gospel.

They should preach the gospel to all people just like Paul preached the gospel to both Jews and gentiles.

They should be humble before the people they serve just like Paul humbled himself to different categories of people.

They should be exemplary to the people they serve just like Paul lived by example.

They should have self-discipline so as to win many people to the kingdom of God and win themselves a prize.

They should work hard to win people to the kingdom of God just like Paul who worked hard and won many people to God.

They should sometimes work as volunteers in church projects just like Paul who preached the gospel without any pay.

They should follow the example of Paul by being celibates.

They should target heavenly wealth that is permanent instead of earthly wealth that is temporary.

Christians should support church leaders when carrying out their work of spreading the gospel.

Church leaders should respect the different cultures they encounter as they preach to draw people to the kingdom of God.

Church leaders should bring themselves to the level of those they are preaching to so as to win them to God.

Church leaders should consider preaching as a duty that they have to accomplish.

PAUL'S WARNING AGAINST BACKSLIDING 10:1-13

Paul was passing a warning to the Corinthians that even the Christians who feel that their faith is strong may find that temptations are stronger than they think.

Paul reminds the strong Christians in faith of their ancestors who were put to death by God because of sinning against him despite his care and providence.

Paul says that these things occurred as examples to keep Christians from setting their hearts on evil things as the ancestors did.

Paul discourages Christians from being idolaters as some of the Israelites had been.

Paul discourages them from committing sexual immorality as the Israelites did and in one day twenty three thousand of them died.

Paul discourages them from putting God to test as some of the Israelites did and were killed by snakes.

Paul advises Christians to be careful that they are not tempted to fall into sin.

Paul says that God is faithful and he will not let them be tempted beyond what they can bear.

Paul says in case of being tempted God will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Paul says that no one should think that he will not be tempted in his own life.

Paul says that the man who is sure that nothing from paganism can still influence and harm him must be careful.

Paul says that if a believer joins in a feast with pagan relatives and friends he must be on guard against unexpected temptations.

Paul says that one may eat the food with a clear conscience but he may be tempted to go home from the feast to take part in heavy drinking with pagans.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON ORDER IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

Order in public worship covers three areas namely;

Covering of heads by women. 1 cor. 11:2-16

The conduct of the Lord's Supper. 1 cor. 11:17-34

The gifts of the spirit. 1 cor. 12:1-31, 13:1-13, 14:1-39

PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE ISSUE OF HEAD COVERING/VEILING OF HEADS BY WOMEN 11:2-16

Paul says that the head of every man is Christ and the head of the woman is man and the head of Christ is God.

Paul says that every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonours his head who is Christ.

Paul says that every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her husband.

Paul says that if a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off and this is a disgrace to a woman.

Paul says that since it is a disgrace for a woman to cut off her hair, then she should cover her head during worship.

Paul says that a man ought not to cover his head since he is the image and glory of God.

He says that a woman should cover her head because she is the glory of the man.

Paul says that man did not come from woman but, woman from man.

Paul says that for this reason and because of the angels, the woman ought to cover her head.

Paul says that in the lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

Paul says that as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman, but everything comes from God.

Paul challenges the Corinthians to judge for themselves whether it was proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered.

Paul says that if a man has long hair it is a disgrace to him, but if a woman has long hair it is her glory.

Paul says that long hair is given to a woman as a covering.

THE PROBLEM OF THE LORDS'S SUPPER IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

The Lord's Supper was a communal meal or feast which was to nourish Christian fellowship. It was also called a love feast. However, the true meaning of the feast had been lost among the Christians at Corinth in the following ways;

The Corinthians became divided during the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the basis of the rich and the poor.

The rich Corinthians had lost the act of sharing what they brought to the feast with the poor.

The Corinthians took the Lord's Supper to satisfy themselves without having concern for others.

The Corinthians took part in the Lord's Supper without sincere repentance of their sins.

Some Christians had a tendency of fighting and grabbing food during the feast.

There was lack of love for one another during the Lord's Supper.

Some Christians were too greedy and ended up over eating to satisfy their physical hunger.

Some Christians came to celebrate the feast when they were hungry and therefore became impatient instead of waiting for others.

Some Christians got drunk during the celebration of the feast.

Some Christians took part in Lord's Supper and at the same time took part in idol feasts by drinking from the cup of demons.

Their conduct of the Lord's Supper was done in an unworthy manner and they were guilty of sinning against the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The actual meaning of the Lord's Supper had lost value among Christians since it was abused.

The way they celebrated the Lord's Supper differed from what Paul taught concerning sharing the meal.

The abuse of the Lord's Supper was despising the church of God.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE LORD'S SUPPER 11:17-34

Paul gives an example of Jesus Christ who on the night was betrayed, took bread and when he had given thanks he broke it and said "this is my body which is for you, do this in remembrance of me".

Paul says that after supper, Jesus took the cup saying "this is the new covenant in my blood, do this in remembrance of me".

Paul teaches that whenever they eat the bread and drink the blood they proclaim the Lord's death until his coming.

Paul says that whoever eats the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Paul says that anyone who eats on the bread and drinks of the cup without recognizing the body of the lord brings judgment to himself.

Paul advises Christians to examine themselves before participating in the meal.

Paul says that if they examined themselves first they would not come under God's judgment.

Paul shows that some of them were weak and sick and others had fallen asleep because of their failure to recognize the body of the lord.

Paul advises the Corinthians to wait for each other when they come to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Paul advises those who are hungry to first eat at home so that when they meet together it may not result into judgment.

Paul advised the Corinthians to take the Lord's Supper as a holy meal.

Paul advised the Corinthians to avoid fighting for what they had brought.

According to Paul, what was supposed to feed the soul was being used to feed their desires.

Paul said that they were participating in the body and blood of Christ but not filling their stomachs.

Paul emphasized the respect they had to show to Jesus when celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Paul advised the Corinthians to celebrate the Lord's Supper in memory of what Jesus did.

IMPORTANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

The celebration of the Lord's Supper implies a new covenant which Jesus made with mankind and sealed with his blood.

It is a reminder of the last supper which Jesus had with his disciples.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper promotes unity and togetherness among Christians today.

The sacrament is the central aspect of the way of worship in the present church.

It is an expression of love for one another especially through sharing the body and blood of Jesus.

It is carried out by Christians in memory of Jesus' death.

It shows that Christ is alive especially through his resurrection.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper means that Christians will resurrect at one time.

The Lord's Supper acts as spiritual food aimed at maintaining spiritual life of Christians today.

The celebration points towards the heavenly banquet or feast which will be enjoyed by all believers.

It is a sign of repentance of sins or self-examination among the Christians today.

It confirms Jesus' messianic nature to Christians today.

The celebration symbolizes the coming joy and perfection in the kingdom of God.

It is a way of encouraging believers in the early church to accept martyrdom as a way of salvation.

It is aimed at looking forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ to judge the living and the dead.

The bread symbolizes Jesus' body that was crucified.

The wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus that was shed for the sins of mankind.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper shows the Christians' inner belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

It proves Jesus Christ as a suffering servant of God fulfilling the Old Testament scriptures of Isaiah 53:1-13.

It is a way of fulfilling Jesus' command to his disciples when he said "do this in memory of me."

It points to the heavenly banquet that the followers of Jesus Christ will enjoy forever after resurrection.

THE PROBLEM OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

REASONS FOR PAUL'S TEACHING ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Corinthians were misusing spiritual gifts in the church.

Christians had become divided because of spiritual gifts especially those who spoke in tongues and those who did not speak in tongues.

There was noise and disorder during worship in the use of spiritual gifts.

The Corinthians were confused about the origin and meaning of spiritual gifts.

Christians who had the gift of speaking tongues boasted over those who did not have this particular gift.

Some Christians had considered the gift of speaking in tongues as the dominant spiritual gift.

Those who spoke in tongues exercised this gift without interpreting the tongues.

Some Corinthians had started forging the gift of speaking in tongues.

Christians were discriminating fellow Christians because of spiritual gifts.

Those who spoke in tongues had failed to know that the gift of proclaiming God's word was more important than speaking in tongues.

Christians who spoke in tongues were dominating church worship hence failing to give a chance to others to exercise their spiritual gifts.

The Corinthians had failed to distinguish between the gifts that came from the Holy Spirit and those that came from the devil.

Christians were using spiritual gifts to benefit themselves instead of using them for the benefit of the whole church.

Christians had ignored the gift of love as being the most important gift.

The misuse of spiritual gifts was hindering the expansion of the church because it was discouraging non-believers from joining the church.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH 12:1-30, 13:1-13, 14:1-40

Paul teaches that there are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit.

Paul teaches that there are different kinds of service, but the same lord.

He says that there are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Paul teaches that to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good.

Paul teaches that the same spirit gives various gifts like the gift of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, speaking in tongues, miraculous powers and interpretation of tongues.

Paul says that all these gifts are the work of one spirit and he gives them to each one just as he determines.

Paul compares the different spiritual gifts to the different body parts which are many but from one body.

Paul says that if one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it, if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

He says that the spiritual gifts which were considered to be weaker are indispensable and should be treated with honour.

Paul says that Christians are the body of Christ and among them God had appointed Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, those with the gift of helping others, speaking in tongues therefore there was need for unity while making use of the different spiritual gifts.

Paul advises the Corinthians to eagerly desire for the greatest gift which was love.

Paul compares the gift of love with other spiritual gifts like faith, knowledge, speaking in tongues to show that love is kind, patient and eternal.

Paul advises the Corinthians to desire for the gift of prophecy so that the church may be edified.

Paul says that the gift of prophecy is better than speaking in tongues because one who speaks in tongues does not speak to men but to God and no one understands him, but one who prophesies speaks to men for their encouragement and comfort.

Paul teaches that those who speak in tongues should pray so that they may interpret what they say.

Paul teaches that all spiritual gifts must be used for the strengthening of the church.

Paul says that two or three people speaking in tongues should speak, one at a time.

Paul says that someone must interpret what is spoken in tongues to others.

Paul says that if there is no interpreter, the one who speaks in tongues should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

He says two or three prophets should speak and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

Paul says that if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop for God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

RELEVANCE OF PAUL'S TEACHING ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should be united as one body of Jesus Christ while making use of spiritual gifts since they all come from God.

Christians should treat all the spiritual gifts as equal because they all come from the same source which is the spirit of God.

Christians should respect all the members of the church who are gifted differently because one gifts complements the other.

Christians should use spiritual gifts for the common good of the church instead of using them for personal benefits.

Christians should strive for the gift of prophesying since it is better than speaking in tongues.

Christians should strive for the gift of love which is the most important gift.

Christians should promote the spirit of love for one another in the use of spiritual gifts.

Christians who speak in tongues should use them in personal prayer to God.

Christians should use all spiritual gifts like preaching, helping others, prophesying and speaking in tongues, healing for the benefit of the church instead of letting one spiritual gift to dominate others.

Christians should have orderly worship when making use of spiritual gifts.

Christians should use the gift of speaking in tongues to praise and worship God instead of causing confusion.

Christians should be humble because they possess the Holy Spirit instead of boasting because of the gifts they have.

Christians who lack spiritual gifts should pray to God since all gifts are given by him.

Christians who speak in tongues should interpret what is spoken in tongues so that other members can understand.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE GIFT OF LOVE 13:1-13

Paul says that 'if i speak in the tongues of men and angels but have no love, i am only a resounding gong'.

He says that 'if i have the gift of prophecy and all knowledge and i have faith that can move a mountain, but have no love, i am nothing'.

He says that 'if i give all i possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames but have no love, i gain nothing'.

To Paul love should be the dominating gift.

Paul teaches that love is patient.

Paul teaches that love is kind.

He teaches that love does not envy and it does not boast.

Paul teaches that love is not self-seeking.

Paul teaches that is not only easily angered and it keeps no record of wrongs.

He says that love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
He says that love always protects, always trusts and always hopes.
Paul says that love is eternal or everlasting.
Paul says that love never fails but where there are prophecies they will cease.
Paul says that the great three gifts are faith, hope and love.
He says that the greatest of the three is love.
Paul advises Christians to strive for the gift of love which is the most important gift.
He says that love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable.
Love does not give up but it endures forever.
Love does not insist upon its rights but instead it thinks of others.

RELEVANCE OF PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE GIFT OF LOVE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should strive for the most important gift of love.
Christians should be patient in times of suffering since love is patient.
Christians should extend sympathy to those who are suffering since love is kind.
Christians should extend love to one another.
Christians should be humble in their service of the lord instead of boasting.
Christians should forgive others who might behave badly towards them instead of developing grudges.
Christians should live holy lives and desist from all evil since love is not happy with evil.
Christians should speak the truth as a sign of love.
Christians should have faith in God as a sign of love.
Christians should condemn all evils in society because love is not happy with evil.
Christians should take care of the needy people like orphans and widows as a sign of love.
Christians should be united and work together in the service of the lord since love is not self-seeking.
Christians should endure all kinds of suffering as a sign of love because love always perseveres.

THE PROBLEM OF RESURRECTION IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH /REASONS FOR PAUL'S TEACHING ABOUT RESURRECTION TO THE CORINTHIANS

The Corinthians had written to Paul asking him about the idea of resurrection.
There was doubt in the Corinthian church about the resurrection of the believers from death.
Some Christians at Corinth were confused by the teachings of the Sadducees who taught that there was no resurrection.
The Greeks taught that it was the soul that resurrected when freed from the body at death which also brought confusion to the Christians at Corinth.
Some Corinthians thought that the resurrection of the dead meant restoration to a total human being by God.
Some Corinthians wondered that if Christ resurrected, which people had seen him after his resurrection.
Some Corinthians wanted to know how the resurrected bodies will look like.
Some Corinthians wanted to know how the nature of life after resurrection will be like wondering whether it will be like the current physical life.
Some Corinthians wanted to know whether the resurrected life will need daily material things of life.

Some Corinthians wanted to know what will happen to those who will still be living at the time of resurrection.

Some Corinthians doubted that Jesus had resurrected from the dead.

Some Corinthians wanted to know how the dead would be raised.

Some Corinthians doubted the resurrection of believers from death.

Paul taught about resurrection because he had met the risen lord and therefore this would be enough evidence for them.

Paul wanted to prove to them that there is life after death.

Paul wanted to assure the Corinthians that resurrection is the basis of Christianity.

Paul wanted to confirm to them that their faith in Jesus Christ is true.

Paul wanted to confirm to the Corinthians that their preaching was true.

He wanted to prepare the Corinthians for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Paul wanted to give the Corinthians an assurance of eternal life.

PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD 15:1-58

Paul says that Jesus Christ died, was buried and raised on the third day according to the scriptures.

Paul says that the risen lord appeared to Peter and then to the twelve.

He says that the risen Lord appeared to James.

Paul says that Jesus appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, some of them were still alive though some had fallen asleep.

Paul says that the risen lord appeared to him.

Paul says that the resurrection of Jesus was the basis of what the Apostles were preaching.

Paul said that since Jesus resurrected even the believers would resurrect to life.

Paul says that since death came through a man (Adam), the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man Christ Jesus.

Paul explains the order of resurrecting by showing Jesus Christ in the first place, then the believers at the time when Jesus comes and eventually the end will come.

Paul says that the last enemy to be destroyed will be death.

Paul challenged the Corinthians as to why some were baptized for the dead if the dead are not raised at all.

He also challenged them that if the dead are not raised let them eat and drink for tomorrow they die.

Paul compared the human body with the resurrected body to show how the resurrected body will be like.

Paul says that when the body is buried, it is perishable but when it is raised, it is imperishable.

He says that when the body is buried in dishonour it is raised in power.

He says that the body is buried as a physical body but when it is raised it is a spiritual body.

He says that it is the physical body which comes first then the spiritual body comes later.

Paul compares the first Adam with Jesus Christ as the second Adam.

He says that the first Adam became a living being and the second Adam a life giving spirit.

He says the first Adam was of the dust but the second Adam was from heaven.

Paul says that just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

Paul says that we will not all sleep but we will all be changed.

He says that believers will be raised because of their union with Christ.

Paul compared human life on earth with the existence of a seed that is sown in the ground. When the seed is sown it dies and later it acquires a new body.

Paul says that Christ is the first fruit of all those who have fallen asleep.

He says that if Jesus was not raised then Christians were still lost.

He says that if Jesus was not raised then the apostles would be lying about God.

He says that the Apostles accepted to be persecuted because there's life after death.

He says that if there is no resurrection then the apostles deserve to be pitied because their labour is in vain.

He says that those who did not believe in life after death believed in nonsense.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Jesus' resurrection was a proof that death had been conquered.

Jesus' resurrection became the basis upon which the gospel was preached by the apostles.

Jesus' resurrection enabled the apostles to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

It gave the apostles and Christians strength and courage to endure persecution even to the point of death.

Jesus' resurrection became the basis of the Christian faith.

Jesus' resurrection showed that there's life after death.

It was through the power of resurrection that great persecutors of the church like Saul were converted to Christianity.

It became the basis for Christian hope in the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Jesus' resurrection confirmed the divinity of Jesus Christ which was an indicator that he was stronger than the devil.

It confirmed Jesus' words to his disciples about his death and resurrected.

It led to the change of the day of worship from the Sabbath to Sunday.

Jesus' resurrection became the basis of Christian sacraments like baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion.

It proved that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah.

The resurrection of Jesus filled the first community of believers with hope and courage.

It confirmed the love of God towards mankind.

It led to celebration of Easter Sunday as the commemoration of Jesus' resurrection.

It became the basis upon which the apostles gave testimonies about the resurrected Christ hence converting many to Christianity.

Jesus' resurrection made Christianity to retain its uniqueness and power to spread throughout the world.

It fulfilled the Old Testament scriptures the son of God would die but later resurrect on the third day.

*Qn. ' If Christ had not been raised then our preaching is in vain and your faith too. '
Explain what Paul meant by this statement.*

Paul meant that the resurrection of Jesus is the basis of Christian preaching.

Jesus' resurrection is the major theme of the New Testament. Therefore the whole idea of Christianity is not true if Christ had not risen from death.

Jesus' resurrection is the basis of Christian faith therefore if He had not resurrected the faith of Christians would be in delusion.

Paul meant that since Christ rose from death even believers would rise and enjoy eternal glory. Paul made this statement to the Corinthians because all Christians are assured of the fact that death is not the end of their life.

Paul made the statement to enlighten the Corinthians about the resurrection of Jesus and that of the believers.

Some people in Corinth were having different ideas on the final destiny of man.

Some Corinthians doubted the idea of life after death.

Some Corinthians wanted to know how the resurrected bodies will look like.

Some Corinthians wanted witnesses who had seen the resurrected Christ.

Paul therefore responded by saying that the good news he had preached to them had basis on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul said that failure to believe in Christ' resurrection meant the denial of the gospel and an attack on Christianity.

The denial of the resurrection of Jesus meant that the gospel Paul preached would not save the Corinthians.

He stressed that Christ died for the sake of mankind as the scriptures had foretold for example, he was buried but on the third day he rose from death.

Jesus' resurrection was witnessed by his Apostles and 500 of his followers some of whom were still alive although some had died.

The risen Lord appeared to Paul on his way to Damascus.

Jesus' appearance and conversion of Saul to Paul who was fanatic persecutor of the Church is the greatest proof of Jesus' resurrection.

If Christ had not been raised from death as well as appearing to him, then Paul would have continued to persecute the Church.

If Christ had not been raised, then his believers must have been unfortunate.

Paul emphasized that Christ had been raised from death as the first fruit of all who had died.

He says that death came by means of man Adam, even raising from death comes by means of man; Christ Jesus as the second Adam.

Paul gave an example of a seed being sown in the ground, it rots, germinates and the roots bring out the new plant.

He says that if Christ did not rise from death, then the Apostles would look as liars.

If Christ did not rise from death, why were some of them being baptized for the dead?

Paul says that God will give each individual a body fitting to resurrection state which body will be incapable of corruption.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS/APPLICATION OF PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS TO MODERN CHRISTIANS

Christians should believe in Jesus Christ since He is the one who died for our sins.

Christians should be united as one body of Christ instead of being divided.

Christians should repent their sins before God in case of wrong doing so as to be forgiven.

Christians should settle their own disputes instead of taking fellow Christians to pagan courts for minor cases.

Christians should expel immoral people from their Church fellowship to prevent the weak brothers in faith from backsliding.

Christians should respect sex instead of involving in sexual immoralities like incest and prostitution.

Christians who are called to stay as celibates should continue with their state of being unmarried in order to do God's work better.

Christians should marry instead of burning with body passions.

Christians should ensure permanence in marriage instead of seeking for divorce.

Christians should celebrate the Lord's super in unity as they remember the death of Jesus Christ.

Christians should worship only one God instead of worshipping idols.

Christians should preach the gospel to all people without discriminating them basing on race or status.

They should have self-discipline so as to win people to the kingdom of God.

Christians should treat all Spiritual gifts equally because they all come from God.

They should strive for the gift of love which is the most important gift.

Christians should seek for divine wisdom in order to attain eternal life.

Christians should pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon them so as to enlighten them on deeper things of God.

Christians should keep their bodies holy since it is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Christians should consider Jesus' death on the cross as a sign of victory from the power of death.

They should guard themselves against being tempted by sin.

Christians should use Spiritual gifts for the benefit of the Church instead of using them for their personal benefits.

Christians should support Church leaders when carrying out their work of spreading the gospel.

Christians should believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and testify the news to others.

They should believe in life after death since Jesus also resurrected.

UNEB QUESTIONS

1. a) "I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels, but if i have no love..." (1Cor. 13:1G.N.B). Explain in Paul's teaching on the importance of love in church. (2000)
 - b) What advice does Paul give to the Corinthians on the use of spiritual gifts? (2000)
2. a) How does Paul respond to the Corinthians' problem of divisionism?
 - b) To what extent is his advice on this problem relevant to the church in Uganda today? (2001)
3. How does Paul in 1 Corinthians deal with the:
 - a) behaviour of women in public worship
 - b) Importance of the Lord's Supper? (2002)
4. "The present splinter denominations/sects among Christians in Uganda are not a new development in the church".
 - a) With reference to Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, justify the above statement.
 - b) Use this teaching to advise Christians today. (2003)
5. "Paul preferred living the unmarried to the married state" Assess the validity of this statement. (2004)
6. a) Analyse the ways in which Paul disciplined himself by surrendering his privileges as an apostle.
 - b) How is Paul's example relevant to preachers today? (2005)
7. a) Discuss Paul's instructions to the Corinthians concerning orderly worship.

- b) How relevant is Paul's advice to the church in Uganda today? (2006)
8. How did Paul's teaching on the Lord's Supper differ from the way the Corinthians celebrated? (2007)
9. a) Examine Paul's teaching to the Corinthians about food offered to idols.
b) Explain the relevance of this teaching to the church today. (2008)
10. a) Analyse Paul's teaching on marriage in 1 Corinthians 7:1-40.
b) Discuss the lessons the church can learn from this teaching. (2009)
11. Analyse Paul's teaching on the resurrection of the dead in 1 Corinthians. (2010)
12. a) Discuss Paul's teaching on the rights of an apostle.
b) What is the relevance of this teaching to church leaders today? (2011)
- 13.a) Account for the divisions in the Corinthian church.
b) How did Paul deal with these divisions? (2012)
- 14.a) Discuss Paul's teaching concerning marriage relations in 1 Corinthians.
b) How is this teaching relevant to the church today? (2013)
15. "...and if i have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, i am nothing".
(1 Cor. 13:2, NIV).
a) Explain Paul's teaching on the importance of love in the church.
b) What is the relevance of Paul's teaching on love to Christians in Uganda today?
(2014)
16. a) Analyse Paul's example in giving up his rights as an apostle
b) Examine the lessons that the present church leaders learn from Paul's example. (2015)
17. a) Account for the divisions among Christians in the Corinthian church.
b) What factors have contributed to the formation of sects in the church today? (2016)
18. a) Discuss Paul's teaching concerning food offered to idols.
b) Suggest lessons that Christians in Uganda today can learn from this teaching. (2017)
- 19 a) How did Paul react to the problem of legal disputes among the Corinthian Christians?
b) What lessons can modern Christians learn from Paul's teaching on legal disputes?
(2018)
20. (a) Analyse the response Paul gave regarding the problem of legal disputes in the Corinthian church.
(b) How relevant is Paul's response on legal disputes to the Corinthian church? (2019)