



#### 1 CORINTHIANS

### STEWARDS of the GOSPEL

Sermon Series

# Day 1: The Centrality of the Gospel Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Devotional: As we begin this week's devotional, let's reflect on the core of our faith - the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul reminds the Corinthians, and us, that the gospel is of first importance. It's not just good news, it's the best news - that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. This message transforms lives and unites believers.

Take a moment to consider how the gospel has changed your life. How does it continue to shape your daily thoughts and actions? Remember, the power of the gospel isn't just for our initial salvation, but for our ongoing transformation. Let's recommit ourselves to keeping the gospel central in our lives, allowing its truth to permeate every aspect of our being.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the incredible gift of the gospel. Help me to never lose sight of its power and importance in my life. May I live today in light of this glorious truth.

#### Day 2: Examining Our Hearts Reading: Psalm 139:23-24, 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

Devotional: Today's readings emphasize the importance of self-examination before God. As we approach worship and communion, we're called to look inward, allowing God to search our hearts and reveal areas that need His touch.

This isn't about wallowing in guilt, but about honest reflection that leads to growth. Are there unconfessed sins weighing on your conscience? Relationships that need mending? Attitudes that don't align with Christ's character?

Remember, God's examination of our hearts is always done in love, with the goal of drawing us closer to Him. As you reflect today, invite God to shine His light into every corner of your heart. Be open to His correction.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, search me and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Amen.

### Day 3: Unity in Christ Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Devotional: Paul's words to the Ephesians echo his concern for unity that we saw in his letter to the Corinthians. As believers, we're called to a profound oneness - one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

This unity isn't about uniformity in all our practices or opinions, but about a fundamental harmony rooted in our shared faith in Christ. How does this challenge you? Are there ways you've allowed secondary issues to create division? How can you actively promote unity within your church family this week?

Remember, our unity is a powerful witness to the world of the transforming power of the gospel. Let's commit to being "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Prayer: Father, help me to see my brothers and sisters in Christ through Your eyes. Give me a heart that seeks unity and peace, even when it's challenging. May our oneness in You be a light to the world around us.

#### Day 4: Reverent Worship Reading: Hebrews 12:28-29, Psalm 95:1-7

Devotional: Our readings today remind us of the awe-inspiring nature of worshiping our holy God. The author of Hebrews calls us to "offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." This reverence doesn't negate joy the Psalmist calls us to "come into his presence with thanksgiving" and to "sing for joy to the Lord."

As you prepare for corporate worship this week, how can you cultivate both reverence and joy? Consider arriving a few minutes early to quiet your heart and focus on God's presence.

During worship, be fully present - engage your mind and heart in the lyrics you sing and the prayers you offer.

Remember, true worship isn't just about what happens in a church service, but how we live our lives in response to God's greatness and goodness.

Prayer: God, You are worthy of all praise and honor. Fill me with a sense of awe at Your holiness, and joy at Your love. May my whole life be an act of worship to You.

## Day 5: Proclaiming Christ's Death and Resurrection Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Romans 6:3-11

Devotional: As we conclude our week, we focus on the heart of communion - proclaiming Christ's death until He comes. This proclamation isn't just words; it's a powerful reminder that shapes how we live. Paul tells us in Romans that we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection.

When we partake in communion, we're not just remembering a historical event, but participating in a present reality. We die to sin and live to God in Christ Jesus. How does this profound truth impact your daily choices? Your relationships? Your priorities?

Let this be more than a ritual - let it be a regular recommitment to living as one who has died with Christ and been raised to new life in Him.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice on the cross and the new life You offer through Your resurrection. Help me to live today as one who has died to sin and been raised with You. May my life proclaim Your death and resurrection until You come again.