

***I Need a Spiritual Family***  
**"A Spiritual Family Resolves Conflict"**  
**1 Corinthians 1:1-17 – April 6, 2014**

**Our Sermon Series**

<b>I Need a Spiritual Family</b> <i>A Study of the Book of First Corinthians</i>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Message Title</b>	<b>Bible Text</b>
April 6	A Spiritual Family Resolves Conflict	1 Corinthians 1:1-17
April 13	A Spiritual Family Embraces the Cross	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
April 27	A Spiritual Family Embraces the Spirit	1 Corinthians 2:1-3:4
May 4	A Spiritual Family Pursues Rewards Together	1 Corinthians 3:5-4:21
May 18	A Spiritual Family Deals with Sexual Immorality	1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:9-20
May 25	A Spiritual Family Does Not Sue Each Other	1 Corinthians 6:1-8
June 1	A Spiritual Family Embraces Marriage & Singleness	1 Corinthians 7:1-40
June 8	A Spiritual Family Builds Each Other Up	1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1
June 15	A Spiritual Family Worships Together	1 Corinthians 11:2-34
June 22	A Spiritual Family Uses Their Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12:1-14:40
May 11	A Spiritual Family Loves Each Other (Mother's Day)	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
April 19/20	A Spiritual Family Believes in Heaven (Easter)	1 Corinthians 15:1-58
June 29	A Spiritual Family Gives	1 Corinthians 16:1-24
To get sermon-based small group discussion questions developed by Life Way specifically for these messages, please contact Christi Jeffries at <a href="mailto:cjeffries@whatisgrace.org">cjeffries@whatisgrace.org</a>		

**Easter Weekend** (Message on "Heaven" – April 19/20)

- Saturday, April 19, at 5:00pm (no children's ministry or junior high)
- Sunday, April 20, at 6:45am (Sunrise service on the grounds; Simple Grace traditional service; short message)
- Sunday, April 20, at 8:45am and 10:45am (yes children's ministry and junior high)

**Today's Big Application:** Resolve your conflicts. With God's help, press into the cross of Christ to get the inspiration and power you need to resolve the conflicts in your life.

**Application Question:** Some conflicts that I sense God prompting me to resolve are...

**Big Picture of 1 Corinthians:** This letter is an appeal to **unity** (to resolve conflicts) in the Corinthian church based on the cross of Jesus Christ.

**The Problem in the Corinthian Church** (vv.10-16)

- Quarreling and divisions regarding followership (vv.10-16)
  - The Corinthians were divided over who to follow.
  - Evidently, Apollos was a very powerful and effective speaker (Acts 18:23-19:1), and when he went to Corinth, he had much fruit and a great following (1 Corinth 1:10-12; 3:3-9; 4:1-7). This led to divisions in the Corinthian church (on their part) favoring either Paul or Apollos. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to address this division and to call them to maturity – to view Paul and Apollos as servants (versus charismatic leaders). Evidently, Apollos refrained from returning to Corinth in order to help dispel this division (1 Corinth 16:12).
- Quarreling and divisions regarding all the issues brought up in the letter
  - ☐ Sexual immorality (1 Corinth 5-6)
  - ☐ Lawsuits (1 Corinth 6:1-8)
  - ☐ Marriage issues (1 Corinth 7)
  - ☐ Singleness issues (1 Corinth 7)
  - ☐ Food issues (1 Corinth 8)
  - ☐ Leadership issues (1 Corinth 9)
  - ☐ Idolatry issues (1 Corinth 10)
  - ☐ Worship issues (1 Corinth 11)
  - ☐ Spiritual gifts (1 Corinth 12-14)
  - ☐ Love issues (1 Corinth 13)
  - ☐ The resurrection and heaven (1 Corinth 15)
  - ☐ Money issues (1 Corinth 16)
- Application #1: What are the conflicts in my life right now and with whom? (Naming them and identifying them is the first step towards resolving them.)

**The Solution to the Corinthians' Problem:** Resolve your conflict based on **the cross** of Jesus Christ. God has forgiven you through the cross, therefore forgive one another and resolve your conflict. Four allusions to the cross in today's introduction:

**1. Sosthenes** (v.1)

- Sosthenes was a synagogue ruler in Corinth who opposed the Apostle Paul (Acts 18:1-17).
- Sosthenes was beaten up in a riot that he helped start!

- At some point between Acts 18:17 and 1 Corinthians 1:1, Sosthenes became a believer in Jesus Christ, a companion and co-worker with Paul, and a co-writer of the letter to the Corinthians!
- Sosthenes is a massive testimony to the grace of God to change lives.
- **Application #2:** If God can change Sosthenes life, then he can change my life! There is hope! I repent of my sins and I give my life to Jesus Christ to follow Him with all of my life.
- Video: “Lord, I Need You” [3:25] found at skitguys.com

## 2. Saint (v.2)

- Paul calls the Corinthian Christians “sanctified in Christ” and “saints” despite all of their problems.
- **Application #3:** My identity is not based on my past actions or even my present actions but rather my identity is based on who I am in Christ. By faith, I believe that in Christ I am...
  - ☐ God’s child (John 1:12)
  - ☐ Forgiven (Colossians 1:14)
  - ☐ A saint (Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:1)
  - ☐ Christ’s friend (John 15:15)
  - ☐ Free forever from condemnation (Romans 8:1)
  - ☐ A citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)

## 3. Eternal security (vv.8-9)

- Not only has God declared me forgiven and righteous in Christ today (as a believer), but God promises that He will sustain me to the end and will present me guiltless on the Day of the Lord. God is faithful and will fulfill this promise!
- **Jude 24-25** – *To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy— 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.*
- **John 10:27-29** – *My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand.*
- **Application #4:** Please pray for our Easter weekend services and invite someone who needs to hear about Heaven. (video)(brochure)

## 4. The cross (v.17)

- The Gospel does not get its power from an eloquent speaker or leader. The power of the Gospel is the cross – that the God of the universe took my place and took my penalty (the very wrath of God) upon Himself in order to forgive me of my sins and give me eternal life.

- **Application #5:** Because of the cross, I will forgive those who have hurt me. Because God has forgiven me of all of my sin, I will forgive those who have sinned against me. Because God has redirected His wrath against me, I will redirect my wrath against those who have hurt me.
- Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)
- Video: “How Often” [2:24] found at sermonspice.com

## The Great Appeal in this Letter (v.10)

- Agree. Be unified in the same mind and same judgment.
- **Application #6:** With God’s help and power, I am deciding today to resolve my conflicts. Specifically, I am going to...
- **Application #7:** Some helpful tips in resolving conflicts:
  - ☐ Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).  
A “formula” for a healthy confrontation: “When you did... I thought... and I felt... I would like to ask you to.... Regardless of what you decide to do, in the future, if it happens again, I plan to....”
  - ☐ Forgive: “Lord, I forgive... for doing....”
  - ☐ All you can do is your part.  
**Romans 12:18** – *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*
  - ☐ Forgiveness is different from trust. We are commanded to forgive (no matter what), but we are not commanded to necessarily trust.