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**Watch this video for an introduction to 1 Corinthians:**

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/188645>

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<https://player.vimeo.com/video/236300968>

## **Read all of 1 Corinthians chapter 2 and 3.**

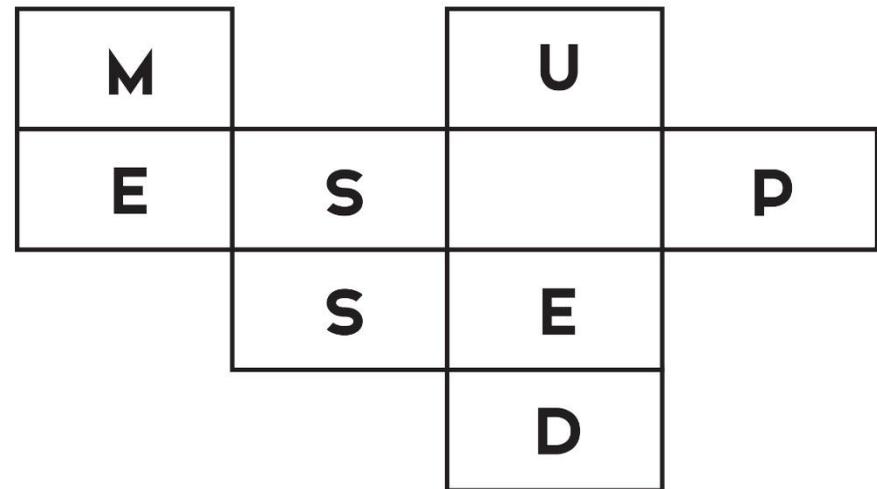
### **Study Questions**

1. Paul explains that his message to new believers was different from the message he preached to mature believers. What was the difference? Why did Paul make this difference? Why can't non-believers understand the spiritual truths of God?
2. For those who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior, they will not understand the unity we have as believers in Christ. We are unified because we believe Jesus gave His life for us on the cross. His death, burial and resurrection are what brings us together. As believers, we should come together around the Gospel. Was this the Corinthians experience? Why or why not? What examples can you share from the first three chapters of Corinthians?
3. Paul says when he was in Corinth he had to talk to church members as though they were infants. What did Paul mean when he said he had to feed them milk and not solid food? What were church members in Corinth doing that proved Paul's point that they were not ready for solid food?
4. What did Paul mean when he said believers in Corinth were still being controlled by their sinful nature? Why were they still being controlled by their sinful nature?
5. Try to picture what was happening in Corinth. Picture the Biblical scene in your mind. See yourself as one of the active participants. Ask yourself, "How would I feel if I were involved in the Corinthian Church? What would I say? What would I do? Now picture the church today. What similarities do you see as you compare the Church of Corinth to our church experience in the United States of America?"

### **Personal Reflection**

1. As followers of Christ, what things can we do to overcome the desires of our sinful nature? How do we live dependent on the Holy Spirit and Christ's work within us?
2. In **Luke 8:14-18**, Jesus tells the parable about a farmer who planted seed which fell on four types of soil. What is the meaning of Jesus' parable? Seed falling on good soil produces a huge harvest. What kind of harvest are you allowing God to produce in and through you?
3. In the message we learned if we focus together on the message of the Gospel, then even as a collection of messed up people, we can experience unity. Are you experiencing unity with the Christ followers in your life? Why or why not? What does God need to change in you for unity to grow?
4. What are you doing with your abilities and spiritual gifts to build up the church, the body of Christ? How can you serve the church and move toward unity with other believers in Christ?

*Heavenly Father, as we begin this new series in 1 Corinthians, I realize I live in a messed up world. I know because I live in a messed up world, I am messed up too. What do You want to change in me over the next 9 weeks? What do You want to move me from? Awake in me awareness of You, as You help me understand the importance of reverence. Equip me for my present life and continue to change me by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for loving me and moving me to a greater life in You. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.*



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