The first letter that Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth

The book in the Holy Bible called *1 Corinthians*

Plain English Version

The first letter that Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth (Plain English Version)
Translated for speakers of Australian Indigenous languages

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The 1st letter that Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth

(The book in the Holy Bible called 1 Corinthians*)*

About this letter

Paul wrote this letter about 2,000 years ago, about 20 years after Jesus went back to heaven. It is now in the Holy Bible.

Paul wrote this letter to the Christians that were living in the city called Corinth, in the country we now call Greece, where Greek people come from. A big earthquake knocked that city down more than 160 years ago, so the Greek people built a new town about 3 kilometres away and called it Corinth. That town is still there today.

At the time when Paul wrote this letter, Corinth had 2 harbours for ships, and those ships brought a lot of things to Corinth. A lot of people bought things and sold those things there, to get money for themselves. There were also a lot of people there that did bad things to get money.

Paul went to Corinth to tell the people there about Jesus, and he stayed there teaching them for about a year and a half (see Acts 18:1-18). Some of the Corinth people believed Paul's message and became Christians.

Then Paul went to other places. But the Christians at Corinth started to have some problems. So they wrote a letter to Paul

and asked him some questions. Then Paul wrote this letter to answer those questions, and to tell them the right way for Christians to live.

This letter has a lot of good messages for Christians today. Paul wrote it to help the Christians in Corinth live the right way, and it can help us work out the right way to live too.

Chapter 1

1I am Paul, and this letter is from me. God wanted me to go and tell people about Jesus Christ, so he picked me to be his special worker. And Sosthenes is here with me. He is our Christian friend, and he is helping me write this letter.

2I'm sending this letter to you Christians there in Corinth city. God picked you to be his own special people, and he joined you to Jesus Christ. You are in God's family now, along with everyone that says to Jesus, "You are my leader." He is their leader, and he is our leader too. *

3I'm asking God our father, and Jesus Christ our leader, to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.

God gives his people lots of good things

4I always thank God for you mob. You belong to Jesus Christ now, and God is really good to you.

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* **1:2** Acts 18:1

5 Yes, Jesus Christ gave you everything you need. He lets
you know a lot of things, and he gives you the power to
tell God's message to people. 6 That shows that the message
we told you about Jesus Christ is true. 7 You really want
our leader, Jesus Christ, to come back from heaven, and
while you are waiting for him, you have all the spiritual
power that he gives us to do his work. 8 God will keep you
believing properly in our leader Jesus Christ, and you will
stay strong for him until the day when he will come back
from heaven. At that time, nobody will be able to blame
you or say that you did anything wrong. 9 God picked you
to be friends of his son, our leader Jesus Christ. And you
can trust God, he will keep you strong for Jesus.

Don't split up to follow different Christian leaders

10 My Christian friends, our leader Jesus Christ wants me
to say this to you. All you Christians have to agree with
each other and stay together. Don't split up. Please think
the same way as each other, and agree together about
the right way to follow Jesus.

11 You see, my friends, some of Chloe's mob told me what
is going on there in Corinth. They reckon that you are
arguing too much with each other and you are splitting
into different groups. 12 They reckon some of you say, "Paul
is our leader," and others say, "That other man, Apollos, he
is our leader," and others say, "No, not them. Our leader is
Peter," and others say, "Jesus Christ is our leader."*

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* **1:12** Acts 18:24

13Listen, that's not right. Don't split up into groups like that. If you do that, it's like you are splitting up Jesus Christ. Stop and think about it. Did I, Paul, die for you on a cross? No way. And when Christian leaders baptised you, when they took you through that special washing ceremony, did they baptise you to show that you belonged to me, Paul? No way. **14-15**I thank God that I only baptised a few of you, so none of you can say, "Paul baptised me, so he is my leader." I only baptised Crispus and Guyus.* **16**And I just remembered, I baptised Stefanas and his family too. But I can't remember baptising anyone else.* **17**You see, Jesus Christ didn't send me to baptise people. He sent me to tell the good news to people, that Jesus died for them. That message is powerful. God didn't send me to say smart words to people. That sort of talk is useless. People might just think about my smart words, and not listen to God, and so they will not hear God's powerful good news.

God shows his power in the message about Jesus

18We tell everybody the message that Jesus died on a cross to save them. Some people hear that message and think it is stupid. Those people's spirits are finishing up, and they are lost. But other people hear that message and think it is good. You are like that mob, and so are we. We know that message is from God. It tells us that

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* **1:14-15** Acts 18:8; 19:29; Romans 16:23 * **1:16** 1 Corinthians 16:15

he is using his power to save us. **19**It is like God says in his book,

> "People might think they are smart, and they might reckon they know everything,
> but God shows them that they are not wise, and he will stop them from doing what they are thinking about."*

20So what does that tell us about the smart people in this world? And what about those people that reckon they properly know the Jewish law? And what about those people that can talk really good, so that they win arguments? None of them get to know God. They leave God out. They don't think about him, and in the end God shows us that they are all stupid.* **21**You see, God is properly wise. He knows that most people in this world want to be smart and think up their own ideas about God. But he blocks them, so they will never get to know him that way. Instead, God is happy to save everybody that believes his message. And we tell you that message, even though other people think we are stupid.

22You see, the Jewish people want to see God do something powerful, and then they reckon they will believe him. And other people that are not Jews, they just want to hear about smart ideas. **23**But we are not like those people. We tell people about Jesus Christ, and we tell them that he died for them on the cross. The Jewish people can't understand that. It isn't what they

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* **1:19** Isaiah 29:14 * **1:20** Job 12:17; Isaiah 19:12; 33:18; 44:25

want, so they don't believe it. And the other people that are not Jews, they reckon it is stupid, so they don't believe it. 24But we are different. God has picked us to save us. Some of us are Jews and some of us are not Jews, but when we listen to that message about Jesus Christ it is a powerful message for us. We believe it and God saves us. And we know that God is really wise because he sent Jesus to save us. 25People might reckon that is a stupid thing for God to do, but God's way is better than the best idea any person ever had. And people might reckon that God is weak, they might reckon that he just let his son die. But they are wrong. God did that to show us that he is stronger than anyone else.

26My Christian friends, remember what you were like before God picked you. Most of you were not the smart sort of people. Most of you were not powerful people. Most of you didn't belong to important families. 27You see, people in this world reckon you are stupid, but God picked you anyway. He did that to show that those smart people are wrong, and they have to feel shame. Yes, God picked the weak people in this world to show that the powerful people are useless, so they have to feel shame. 28And God picked people from this world that are not great, and people that are like nothing, so that in the end, those other people that reckon they are great, they will become like nothing. 29God does that so that nobody can ever get up in front of God and say, "I'm really good. I'm better than other people."

30 But as for you, God joined you to Jesus Christ. You
and us together, Jesus helps us to be wise, like God. And
Jesus makes us to be God's friends, so that he will tell us
we are all right. And Jesus makes us God's own special
people too. Jesus died to pay for us and set us free from
everything that is wrong. 31 So we have to talk the way
God tells us to. He says this in his book,

"If you want to talk about great things, don't talk
about yourself,
but talk about God, and tell everyone about the great
things that he does."*

Chapter 2

Paul only said the words that the Holy Spirit gave him

1 My Christian friends, remember when I first came
to you and told you God's message. I didn't use smart
words, like a man that thinks he knows everything. 2 No.
I only told you about Jesus Christ, and that he died on
the cross for us. I didn't talk about other things. 3 I felt
weak and frightened while I was with you. I was so
frightened I was shaking.* 4 I didn't think up smart ideas
or use smart words to get you to believe my message. No.
I trusted God's spirit to use his power to show everyone
that my message is true. 5 I did that so that you will not
trust in a smart person, but you will trust in the power
of God.

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* **1:31** Jeremiah 9:24 * **2:3** Acts 18:9

6 You see, whenever I am with people that trust in Jesus,
and are strong for him, that's when I can talk about
things that are wise and good. I don't mean smart ideas
that people in this world think up, like how the bosses
in this world plan things. Those bosses will finish up
anyway. 7 No, the wise and good things that we talk
about are the things that belong to God. He planned
those things a long time ago, before he made the world,
but he didn't tell anybody about them until now. 8 None
of the bosses in this world understood those things. So
they killed Jesus. They nailed our very great and good
leader to a cross. 9 But, you know, God says this in his
book,

"God got good things ready for the people that love
him.
Those things are better than anything anybody else
can ever think up.
Nobody ever saw or heard anything as good as the
things that God got ready for us."*

10 But God's spirit shows these things to us. His spirit
understands everything, even those things that God has
not yet told anybody. 11 You see, nobody knows what
another person is thinking. Only that person's own spirit
knows, nobody else. Well, it is like that with God too.
Only God's spirit knows what God is thinking. 12 And
remember this, God didn't get us to think the way the
people of this world think. No. God gave us his spirit,

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* **2:9** Isaiah 64:4

and his spirit helps us, so we can understand all the good things God gave us. 13 Those are the things that we tell you about. We don't use words that smart people taught us, but we use the words that God's spirit teaches us. And we tell God's message to people that have God's spirit living inside them, and we help them understand it.

14 You see, if God's spirit is not living inside people, they can't believe any message from God. They can't understand what God wants to teach them. They think it is all stupid. You see, the Holy Spirit is the only one that can help people understand the things of God. 15 People that have God's spirit can think about all these things and understand them. But people that haven't got God's spirit can never understand the people that have got his spirit. 16 God says this in his book,

"Nobody can know what God is thinking.
Nobody can try to tell him the right way to think."*

But the Holy Spirit is in us, so we can think the same way that Jesus Christ thinks.

Chapter 3

Don't argue with each other

1 Now listen, my Christian friends, when I was there with you, you started to believe in Jesus, but you didn't understand a lot about him, and you didn't let the

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* **2:16** Isaiah 40:13

Holy Spirit control you. You still let your old human spirits control you. You were just like babies that don't understand things. 2You know, babies can't eat hard food. They can only drink milk. Well, that is a picture of you mob. I couldn't teach you hard things. You couldn't understand them. And even now you are not ready to listen to me.* 3Even though you are Christians you still don't live like Christians. You still let your old human spirits control you. You want things that other people have. And you argue with each other. That shows that you are letting your human spirits control you, not the Holy Spirit. You are still like people that don't know God. 4You see, some of you say, "Paul is our leader," and others say, "No, not Paul, Apollos is our leader." And you argue with each other. You are just like the people of the world, not God's people.*

Paul and Apollos worked together for God

5-8Just think about Apollos and me, Paul. We are not important bosses. We are only workers for God. God gave each of us our jobs, and we helped you believe in Jesus Christ.

I'll use picture talk now. Think about a garden. One worker plants seeds, and another worker puts water on the young plants to help them grow properly. But it is God that makes the seeds grow up to be big plants. The worker that plants the seeds is not important, and

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* **3:2** Hebrews 5:12-13 * **3:4** 1 Corinthians 1:12

the worker that gives water to the plants is not important. The important one is God. He makes the plants grow. Well, that picture story about a garden is a picture of you mob. God is making you grow like he makes those plants grow. And Apollos and me, we work in God's team, just like those workers in that garden. I started telling you about Jesus, and Apollos taught you more about him. We both want you to have life, but we can't give you new life. God is the one that gives you new life. We are just his workers, and you know, God will pay each of us for our work.* **9**We are like 2 men that work for God in his garden, and you are like God's garden.

One worker plants seeds

Another worker waters the plants

It is God that makes the plants grow

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* **3:5-8** Acts 18:4-11, 24-28

Christians are like God's house

And I'll use another picture story. This picture story shows that you are like God's house that he is building for himself. **10-11** This is the picture story. One builder starts to build a house. First, he puts cement down on the ground for the building to stand on. That cement is called the *foundation*. Then other builders build the house on that cement foundation. This story is a picture of you getting into God's family. God was good to me and gave me the power to work for him. I told you about Jesus, and it is like I put down a good foundation for you at that time. And now other Christian workers are teaching you more about Jesus. They are like the builders that build on that foundation. They have to do it properly. Jesus is the only strong foundation. Nobody can put down any other foundation for God's family.

12 I'll tell you more of this picture story about the builders. Good builders build with really good things like gold, or silver, or jewels. But other builders don't work properly, they don't care, they only use wood, or grass, or leaves. If a fire comes, the parts of the house that are made of wood, or grass, or leaves, those parts will burn up. But the parts that are made of gold, or silver, or jewels, those parts will stay good. So you can know which builders did a good job. Christian workers are like those builders in the picture story. Some Christian workers do a good job and tell God's word properly, and some don't do a good job. **13** One day, Jesus Christ will come back, and then God will show which workers did a

good job, like the fire in the picture story shows if part of the house is good or not. 14If they did a good job, it will stay good a long time, like the good parts in the picture story. And if they did a good job, God will pay those good workers. 15But if it is no good, it will finish up, like the rubbish parts in the picture story. And if it is no good, God will not pay those workers, but he will still save them.

16You know that God's spirit lives in you Christian people. You are like a special house that God lives in.* 17Yes, you mob are God's special people, like his special house here on earth. So if somebody makes a Christian mob split up, it is like they break up God's house, and God will punish that person properly.

18Some of you mob think you are really smart, but you are thinking wrong, like the people of this world that don't know God. So stop tricking yourselves. Instead, you have to think God's way. Other people might think you are fools, but really, you will be wise. 19The people of this world think they are very smart, but God knows they are fools. We can read this in God's book,

"People reckon they are smart,
but God uses their own smart ideas like a trap, and he catches them."*

20And we can read this in another place in God's book,

"Smart people think up great ideas, but God knows those ideas are useless."*

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* **3:16** 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16 * **3:19** Job 5:13 * **3:20** Psalm 94:11

21 So don't think that any human person is the important
leader. You see, Jesus is your leader, and God gives you
everything you need. 22 Yes, he gives you his workers to
help you. He gave you me, and he gave you Apollos, and
he gave you Peter. We are all here to help you. God uses
everything to help you. If you live, or if you die, God
will make it good for you. He will use things that happen
now to help you, and he will use things that will happen
later, to help you. 23 You see, you belong to Jesus Christ,
and Jesus Christ belongs to God. And God is the most
important one.

Chapter 4

Respect those people that work for Jesus

1 So when you think about me and Apollos, remember
that we are just workers for Jesus Christ. You see, at first
God didn't tell anyone his message, but now he wants
Apollos and me to tell that message to people. That is the
special job that God gave us. 2 And, you know, if a boss
gives his worker an important job, the worker has to be
careful to do it properly.

3 And when you mob think about me, maybe you think
I'm doing a good job, or maybe not. Well, I don't care
what you think. I don't care what anybody thinks about
me. It doesn't even matter what I think about myself. 4 I
reckon I haven't done anything wrong, but that doesn't
make me right. You see, God is my judge, and I only care
about what he thinks about me.

5So I'm telling you, don't judge people before the right
time comes. You have to wait until our leader Jesus
comes back again from heaven. He knows every secret.
He will show everyone the secret things that people
think about doing. And at that time God will praise each
of his good workers, and he will say good things about
them.
6My Christian friends, I've been talking about Apollos
and me, to help you to understand the things we teach
you. You know that wise people say this, "Don't do
anything more than what is in God's book." We want to
help you learn what that means. You see, nobody can
say that one person is better than another person. 7You
yourselves are no better than other people. God gave you
everything that you have. So you can't reckon that you
are really smart, and that you got it for yourselves.
8You think you know everything, and you think you
don't need to learn anything more, but you are wrong.
You think that you are spiritually rich, but you are not.
You think you have a lot of power, like you think you are
big bosses, and you think that we haven't got any power,
but you are wrong again. You know, it would be good if
you had God's power so that you can be big bosses for
him, and Apollos and me can be bosses with you, but
that is not the way it is. 9No, I reckon it is like this. Even
though we are Jesus's special workers, God lets us look
weak. You know how soldiers take prisoners out to kill
them in a place where everybody can watch them die.
Well, I reckon it is like that with us. God lets us look

weak, like those prisoners, so that everyone on the earth, and in heaven too, can look at us. **10** They see that we work for Jesus Christ, and lots of people think we are fools. But you mob reckon you are different from us. You reckon you are really smart because you know Jesus Christ. Yes, everyone thinks we are weak, but you reckon you are strong. You reckon everyone has to respect you, but you don't care if they respect us or not. **11** You see, the bad people of this world were always hard on us special workers, and they are still hard on us right up to now. We go hungry, and thirsty, and our clothes are old rags. We haven't got anywhere to live. **12** We have to work hard all the time to get money for food. Some people swear at us and ask bad spirits to hurt us, but we just ask God to be good to them. If people are hard on us, we just put up with it.* **13** If people say bad things about us, we answer with good words. But people keep on treating us like we are the world's worst rubbish.

14 I'm telling you all this to help you see that what you are doing is wrong. I'm not trying to shame you. You see, I love you like you are my own kids, and I want you to live the right way. **15** I'm like a father to you. I was the first person to tell you the good news about Jesus Christ, and he gave your spirits new life, so I'm your spiritual father on this earth. And even if you have lots of other people teaching you about God, I was the first person to tell you about him, so I'm the only one that is like your

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* **4:12** Acts 18:3

father in Christian things. 16So I'm asking you to live the
way I live, and to do the same sorts of things that I do.*
17That is the reason why I sent Timothy to you. He will
help you do that. He is like a son to me, and I love him
very much. He always keeps on working properly for
Jesus. He will help you remember the way I live for Jesus
Christ. He will teach you the same things that I teach in
every church everywhere.
18You see, some of you reckon you are really great, and
you say, "Paul is frightened to come back here." 19But
you are wrong. I want to go back and visit you. So if our
leader Jesus wants me to, I will do that soon. And then
I will find out if you really have God's power, or if you
are just talking. 20You see, if people are really in God's
family, they have God's power, and they will live God's
way. They don't just talk and keep on living the bad way.
21So think about this. Will you keep on doing bad
things, or will you stop? I am coming to you, and if I
find you still doing bad things, I will punish you. Is that
what you want? But if you stop doing bad things, I will
love you, and I will be easy on you.

Chapter 5

Don't have a bad person in your church family

1Now listen. I have to talk straight to you about this.
Some people have told me there is something bad going

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* **4:16** 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17

on in your church family. One of you has his father's wife as his girlfriend, and he is sleeping with her as if they are married. Look, even people that don't know God don't do that.* **2**But you mob don't seem to care, and instead, you think you are great. But listen, you really have to feel shame and be sad, not happy. That man is doing a very bad thing, so you can't let him stay in your church family.

3Listen, I'm not there with you mob, but I think about you mob a lot, and I'm thinking about that man that is doing that very bad thing, so I'm telling you what you have to do. **4**I know that you will meet together as followers of our leader Jesus, and I will be thinking about you and praying for you. It will be like I will be there with you, and the powerful spirit of Jesus will be there with you too. **5**Then, at that meeting, you have to ask God to let Satan hurt that man. Satan is the boss over the bad spirits. Satan will hurt that man's body, and then God can save that man's spirit, when our leader Jesus comes back.

6So stop telling everyone that you are properly good. It's not true. Let me tell you a picture story about baking powder. We put a little bit of baking powder into the flour when we make damper. And that little bit of baking powder goes into all the flour in the bowl and makes all the dough swell up.* **7**That is a picture of that one person in your mob that does bad things. He is like that baking powder in the picture story. He will get all of you mob to go wrong, like that baking powder made all the dough

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* **5:1** Deuteronomy 22:30 * **5:6** Galatians 5:9

swell up. So get rid of that bad person. Then you will be straight and clean, like new clean dough that hasn't got any baking powder in it. And really, you are clean like that. Remember, Jesus Christ died for us to clean us from the wrong things we did, so we are like that clean dough. Jesus is like the young sheep that the Jews kill and eat at their ceremony called Passover. Well, just like that young sheep dies, Jesus died for us. And think about this. Before that ceremony, they have to get rid of all that stuff that makes damper swell up, and then they eat flat damper.* **8**That is a picture of us church people. Just like the Jews have to get rid of all that stuff that makes damper swell up, we have to get rid of everything that is bad, and we have to stop doing bad things. Instead, we have to be good and honest and true.*

9I wrote you a letter before, and I told you, "Don't be good friends with bad people. There are some people that sleep with somebody that is not their own wife or husband, as if they are married to them. Keep away from those people." **10**But I did not mean that you have to keep away from the people of this world that don't know God. Some of them sleep with somebody that is not their own wife or husband. Some of them are greedy, like they want a lot of things and money. Some of them trick other people to get their money, and some of them respect bad spirits and make them their gods. If you try to keep away from all those bad people, you will have to leave this world, and you can't do that.

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* **5:7** Exodus 12:5 * **5:8** Exodus 13:7; Deuteronomy 16:3

11 No. This is what I meant. Don't be good friends with
people that reckon they are Christians, but they do bad
things all the time. If they sleep with somebody that is
not their own wife or husband, as if they are married to
them, then don't be good friends with those people. Or if
they are greedy, don't be good friends with them. If they
respect bad spirits, and if they make those spirits their
gods, don't be good friends with them. If they yell and
swear at other people, don't be good friends with them.
If they always get drunk, don't be good friends with
them. If they trick other people to get their money, don't
be good friends with them. Don't even eat food with a
Christian that does things like that. 12-13 You see, I can't
be the judge of people that are not Christians. God will
judge those people, and he will punish those people that
do bad things. But if a Christian in your church group
does bad things, you have to work out how to punish
them. You have to do what God says in his book,

"Get rid of bad people from your group."*

Chapter 6

Don't go to the law courts to sort out trouble between Christians

1 There is something else I have to talk to you about.
If one of you Christians has a problem with another
Christian, why do you go to the court house to sort it

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* **5:12-13** Deuteronomy 13:5; 17:7

out? That is not right. Those court house people are not God's people. No. You have to get Christians to sort it out. Remember, we Christians are God's special people [2]and one day God will get us Christians to be the judges of all the other people in the world. So, if you are going to be a judge of other people one day, why can't you sort out your own little problems now? [3]You know, one day we Christians will even be judges of God's angel messengers. So we have to know how to sort out our problems here on the earth.

[4]Sometimes you don't agree with each other about some little thing, and then you go to other people, and you get them to be your judges. [5]I talk like this so that you will feel shame. I reckon there has to be somebody there in your church that is wise enough to help you sort out these problems between yourselves. [6]But no, you don't do it that way. Instead, one of you Christians goes to the court house people to argue against another Christian. You stand up in front of judges that don't believe in Jesus Christ, and you get them to sort it out. That's not the right way to settle your problems.

[7]You see, when you go to the court house to argue about these things you are letting the bad spirits win. Look, if people do bad things to you, just let them do those things and don't worry about it. That's the better way. Even if they rob you, don't worry. [8]But instead of that, you mob are doing those bad things yourselves. That is wrong. You even do bad things to other Christians, and you even rob other Christians.

9 Listen. You know what will happen to bad people,
right? They will not be in God's family. They will never
get the good things that God will give to his people.
Don't let anyone trick you about this. I'll tell you now
about the sort of people that will not be in God's family.
People that sleep with somebody that's not their wife or
husband, as if they are married. Those people will not be
in God's family. Or 2 men that sleep together as if one of
them is a woman, they will not be in God's family. And
people that respect other spirits more than they respect
God, 10 and people that steal things, and greedy people
that want a lot of money and things, they will not be
in God's family. And people that always get drunk, and
people that yell at other people and swear at them, and
people that trick other people to get their money, none of
those people will be in God's family.
11 And I know that some of you used to be bad people
like that before. You did that sort of bad thing, but now
you believe in Jesus Christ and let him be your boss. And
God's spirit came into you and washed you inside, and he
made you God's own special people, so that God says you
are all right now.

Use your bodies to show everyone that God is really great

12 Some of you say, "I'm free from the Jewish law now, so
I can do anything I want to." Yes, but not everything will
be good for you.
You see, I can say that too. I can say, "I'm free from the
Jewish law, so I can do anything I want to." But I don't

want to do bad things. And if I think about doing bad things, I will start doing bad things, and I will not be able to stop myself. But I don't want that.*
13 Some of you say, "God made our bellies for food, and he made food to fill our bellies." So you think that you can do what you want with your bodies, and it doesn't matter. You think you can sleep with somebody that is not your wife or husband, as if you are married to them. But you are wrong. Don't forget that, in the end, God will finish up your bellies, and he will finish up the food too. You see, God made your bodies for you to live his way. You can't sleep with anyone you want to. You have to use your bodies the way God wants you to use them.
14 You see, our bodies are important to God. Our leader, Jesus died, but then God made him alive again. And God will use his power to make our bodies alive again too.
15-16 Think about this. God says this in his book,

"The man and his wife will join with each other, and
their bodies will be like one body."*

So, if a man pays a woman money to let him sleep with her, he joins his own body to her body and becomes like one body with her. And you know, your bodies are parts of Jesus Christ's body. So don't let part of Jesus's body join up to the body of a bad woman. No way. 17 But, you know, if you join on to our leader, Jesus, you join your spirit to his spirit, and the 2 of you become like one spirit.

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* **6:12** 1 Corinthians 10:23 * **6:15-16** Genesis 2:24

18 So never sleep with anyone that is not your own wife
or husband and do what married people do together. Get
away from that sort of bad thing. You see, other bad
things that you do are outside of your own body. But if
you sleep with a person you are not married to, you hurt
your own body. 19 And you know, God gave you his spirit
and he lives in you. Your body is the home of the Holy
Spirit. You don't belong to yourself any more, but you
belong to God.* 20 Remember this, God bought you. He
paid a lot for you. So you have to use your body to live
for him, to show everyone that God is really great and
good.

Chapter 7

Paul answered their questions about marriage

1 You wrote a letter to me and asked me some questions,
and now I will answer one of those questions. You asked
me, "Is it good for a man to stay single and never marry
a woman?" My answer is, "Yes, but only if he can stay
single without going wrong." 2 You see, a lot of people
can't do that. They try to stay single, but then they go
wrong, and they end up sleeping with somebody, as if
they are married to each other. So, I reckon, every man
has to have his own wife and only ever sleep with her,
and every woman has to have her own husband and only
ever sleep with him.

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* **6:19** 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16

3 If a wife needs her husband to sleep with her and do
what married people do together, he has to agree to it,
to make her happy. And if a husband needs his wife to
sleep with him and do what married people do together,
she has to agree to it, to make him happy. 4 You see, the
wife's body does not only belong to her, it also belongs
to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body
doesn't only belong to him, it also belongs to his wife.
5 So, if your husband or wife wants to sleep with
you, to do what married people do together, you can't
say, "No." But both of you can agree to wait for a while
without sleeping together, so you can use the time to
pray. Then, soon after that, you have to sleep together
again. If you don't, Satan might trick you. He knows
you can't control yourselves very well. If you go too
long without sleeping together, then he will try to get
one of you to sleep with somebody else. 6 I'm not saying
that you have to stop sleeping together. I'm saying that
if you both agree to stop for a while, so you can pray
more, that's all right. 7 You know, I reckon it is good for
everyone to stay single, like me. But God helps people in
different ways. He helps some people be a good husband
or wife, and he helps other people stay single without
going wrong.
8 Now I will talk to you people that are not married.
Maybe your wife or husband has died, or maybe you
never married anyone. This is what I reckon. Stay single,
like me. 9 But you have to control yourself properly. If
that is too hard for you, then marry somebody. If you

are always wanting to sleep with somebody and do what married people do together, don't try to stay single.

10 Now I will talk to you Christians that are married, and your partner is another Christian. Don't get divorced. This rule comes from our leader, Jesus, not just from me. A wife can't leave her husband. **11** But if she does leave him, she has to stay single. Or she can go back to her husband. And it is the same for a husband. He can't leave his wife. *

12 Now I will talk to you people that are married, but your partner is not a Christian. This is not a rule that comes from our leader, Jesus, but this is what I reckon. If a Christian man has a wife, and if she doesn't believe in Jesus, but she agrees to stay with him, that man can't split up the marriage, he can't divorce her. **13** If a Christian woman has a husband, and if he doesn't believe in Jesus, but he agrees to stay with her, that woman can't split up the marriage, she can't divorce him. **14** You see, if a woman believes in Jesus, but her husband doesn't, God says it's good for them to stay married. And in the same way, if a man believes in Jesus, but his wife doesn't, God says it's good for them to stay married. And I'll tell you about their kids too. If their mother or father believes in Jesus, God reckons those kids are special. They are not just like the kids of people who don't believe in him.

15 So if you have a husband or wife that isn't Christian, and they want to leave you, then you can let them go. Christians don't have to try to make their partners stay

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* **7:10-11** Matthew 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18

with them if their partners are not Christians. God wants us to be quiet and happy. He doesn't want us to be arguing and fighting with each other. But if your husband or wife isn't Christian, but they agree to stay with you, then don't leave them. 16Listen, Christian wife, maybe you can help your husband turn around and let God save him. And listen, Christian husband, maybe you can help your wife turn around and let God save her.

Stay the same as you were when you first believed

17You know, I've been talking to you about marriage, and I said that married people have to stay married. Well, our leader Jesus gives us all different lives. Some people are married, some people are not married. Some men have had a young man operation, some men haven't. Some people are workers with no pay, some people are free. But this is the rule that I tell Christians in all the churches, everywhere I go. I tell them, "You don't have to try to change those things. You can just stay the same as you were when God picked you to be in his family." 18It's like this. Some of you were born Jews, so your Jewish family did a young man operation on you. After that, God picked you to be in his family. All right, don't try to get another operation to change it back again. And some of you are not born Jews, but God has picked you to be in his family. All right, don't try to be Jewish now. Don't get a young man operation. 19It doesn't matter if you get that Jewish operation, or not. This is what's important, you have to do what God tells us all to do.

20 You see, God picked each of you to be in his family,
so don't try to change everything. Stay the same as you
were at that time when God picked you. 21 Sometimes
bosses own their workers. Those workers belong to their
bosses and their bosses control them. They have to do
what their bosses say, and they don't get any pay. If
God picked you while you were a worker like that, don't
worry. Don't try to run away and get free. (But if your
boss says you can go free, then do that.) 22 Some of you
are that sort of worker. Your boss owns you and controls
you. But think about this. God picked you to join up with
Jesus, and you are in his family, so now you are properly
free. You are free from the bad things you used to do.
They don't control you any more.

In the same way, some of you are free people, nobody
owns you. But think about this. God picked you, and you
are in Jesus's family, so now Jesus owns you and you
work all the time for him. 23 You see, God bought you and
he paid a lot for you. So don't let anyone else control you
and get you to go wrong. 24 You see, my Christian friends,
I'm telling you that each one of you has to live for God,
and stay the same as you were when God picked you.

25 I'm going to talk now about young people that are
not married, and I will try to answer your question. Our
leader Jesus didn't tell me what to say about this, but
I will tell you what I think. God is good to me and he
helps me think properly, so I reckon you can believe me.
This is what I think. 26 People everywhere are making
trouble for God's people these days, so I reckon it is best

for you to stay the way you are. 27This is what I reckon,
if you are married, don't try to leave your partner. But if
you are not married, don't look for a partner. 28The bad
people in this world will make a lot of trouble for God's
people, and married people will find it hard to live with
that trouble. I want to save you from getting too much
trouble, so I'm telling you to stay single. But if you do
marry somebody, you are not doing wrong.
29-31My Christian friends, listen to what I'm saying.
There is not much time left before Jesus will come back,
and he will change this world. So don't just think about
the things of this world. That is the reason why I'm
telling you married men that after Jesus comes back, it
will not matter if people are married or single. And I'm
telling you people that are sad, don't worry, the trouble
that makes you sad will go away when Jesus comes back.
And I'm telling you people that are happy, the things that
make you happy will go away when Jesus comes back.
And I'm telling you people that buy things for yourselves,
you will not own those things after Jesus comes back.
You see, we do those things in this world now, but soon,
when Jesus comes back, all those things will finish up.
So don't just live for those things now.
32You see, I don't want you to be worried about the
things in this world. A single man thinks a lot about
Jesus, and he only wants to make Jesus happy. 33But a
married man wants to make his wife happy too, so he
also thinks a lot about the things in this world. 34So he
has a lot to think about. He doesn't just think about God,

but he thinks about his family too. And it is like that for women too. A single woman thinks a lot about God, and she wants both her body and her spirit to belong to him. But a married woman wants to make her husband happy too, so she also thinks a lot about the things in this world. 35 I'm saying this to help you. I'm not making rules for you, but I want you to listen properly to God, and think about him, and work properly for him. Don't let anything get in your way and stop you from doing that.

36 Maybe a young woman was promised to a man, but those 2 think it is better to work for God, and they agree not to get married yet. And maybe that woman is getting older now, and soon she will not be a good age to marry, so that man thinks that it is best for him to marry her now. That's all right. He has to do what he thinks is good. It's all right for them to get married. He will not be doing anything wrong.

37 But maybe another young woman was promised to a man, and those 2 agreed to work for God and not to get married, but this man still wants to stay single, and he can control himself. Well, he can stay single if he wants to. If he doesn't get married, that is good. 38 This is what I reckon. The man that marries his promised wife does something good. But the man that stays single does something better.

39 And now I will tell you about widows. A married woman has to stay with her husband while he is alive. She can't leave him and go away and marry another man. But if her husband dies, then she can marry again. But

a Christian widow has to marry a Christian man. 40But I reckon she will be more happy if she stays single, and I think God's spirit is telling me what to say to you.

Chapter 8

Some people give food to statues that they think are gods

1I will answer your next question now, about those statues that some people make, and they think those statues are gods. They give food to those statues, and they reckon the statues give that food power. Then those people eat that food, or they sell it to other people. And you Christians asked me, "Can we eat that food that they gave to those statues?" That's what you asked me.

Well, before I answer your question, I want you to remember this. All of us know something, but if we think we know more than other people, we start thinking wrong, like we reckon we are really smart. No, we can't try to be smart. Instead, we have to love people. If we love other people, it helps them to get strong. 2So if you reckon you know all about everything, you don't really know much at all. You still have to learn a lot more. 3But if you love God, then God really knows you, like you are his good friend.

4All right, now I will answer your question about the food that people give to those statues that they think are gods. We Christians know that a statue is not really a god at all. We know that there is only the one God. 5But some people, that are not Christians, they respect

lots of spirits. They respect spirits in the sky, and spirits on the earth. And they think those spirits are gods, and they let those spirits be their bosses. And people make statues that they think look like those spirits, and they think those statues get power from those spirits. 6But we Christians know that those statues are nothing at all. We know there is only one God. He is our father. He made everything, and we want to do whatever he wants, as long as we live. And there is only one true boss. He is Jesus Christ. He worked with God, and together they made everything. And Jesus gives us Christians real life.

7But some Christians don't understand all that. They showed respect to those statues for a long time before they became Christians, and then they believed in Jesus, but they still think those statues have power. They can't work out what is true and what is not true. They know that it is wrong to respect those statues, so they don't eat any of the food that people give to those statues. They think that if they do eat that food, then they are doing something wrong, and it makes them feel bad, like they are not clean. 8But really, it doesn't matter if we eat that food or not. If we eat it, we will not get anything special, and if we don't eat it, we will not miss out on anything. You see, no food can help us be close friends with God.

9But you have to be very careful. Even though you are free to eat anything, you have to think about those Christians that can't work out what is true and what is not true. You don't want to make them go wrong. 10It's like this. Some of you Christians know it's all right to

eat food in that place where people show respect to those statues. But if you go and eat that food, another Christian might see you there. If that other Christian doesn't know what to think about that food, they might think that you are showing respect to that statue when you eat that food, so that Christian will think it's all right to show respect to that statue. And then that Christian will show respect to that statue, and that is wrong.
11 So you will wreck that other Christian that is not so sure about these things. You see, you yourself know that food has no power, but if then you eat it, and that makes another Christian go wrong, you are doing wrong because you wreck that other Christian. And Jesus Christ died for that person. 12 You see, if other Christians are not sure what is right or wrong, and if they see what you do, and if that gets them to do something wrong, you are really bad. If you hurt them like that, you are really hurting Jesus Christ. Don't do that.
13 So, you see, this is what I think. I reckon every other Christian is like a brother or a sister to me, so I will not eat anything that gets them to go wrong. If something that I want to eat might get another Christian to do something wrong, I will not eat it. Never.

Chapter 9

Paul talked about himself as an example

1 Some of you mob might ask me if it is all right for me to write to you and tell you all these things. Yes, it is

all right. You see, God picked me to be Jesus's special worker, so I'm free to tell you these things. I have seen Jesus, our leader, with my own eyes. I work for him, and I told you mob about him, and now you belong to him. 2Maybe other people reckon I'm not Jesus's special worker, but you know that I am. You see, you believed what I told you, and now you are Christians. That shows that Jesus sent me to you.

3Some people think that maybe Jesus didn't send me, and they ask me a lot of questions, so I tell them about the way I work for Jesus. 4I work like this. I never ask people for food or drink. You know, it's all right for me to ask for it. It can be my pay, for the work I did when I told them about Jesus. But I never ask for it. If I need anything, I buy it for myself.

5And it is all right for me to have a Christian wife and take her everywhere with me, but I don't do that. Jesus's other special workers, and his brothers, and Peter, they all have wives, and they take their wives with them when they go to other places. But not me. 6And I think that it's only Barnabas and me that work hard to get our own money to pay for the things we need. I don't think the others do that.

7You know, everyone that works gets some sort of pay for their work. You know about soldiers. They don't have to buy their own food or their gear. And you know about gardeners. They work, and they always eat some of the food they grow. And it is the same for people that look after cows. They work, and they can drink some of the

milk they get. You see, it's right for people to work and then get something for it. So, if my work is to tell you about Jesus, it's right for you to give me something for my work. But I never ask you to give me anything.

8 And I'm not just saying what people reckon. God says the same thing in his laws. **9** You see, a long time ago, God gave Moses this law,

"If you get an animal to work for you, you have to let that animal eat something while it works."*

God said that you have to let animals eat while they work for you

That is the law. And listen, God wasn't just thinking about animals when he gave Moses that law. **10** He was thinking about us people too. People have to get food, just like animals do.

Listen to this picture story about the gardeners that grow food. One man digs up the ground and puts seeds in the ground. Then those seeds grow into food plants, and after that, another man gets the food from those

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* **9:9** Deuteronomy 25:4; 1 Timothy 5:18

plants and puts it in a shed. Those 2 men both worked hard, so they both get some of that food. **11** That garden is a picture of all of you Christians, and those gardeners are like the people that told you God's good news. You see, we worked hard when we told you God's good news. We gave you what your spirits needed. So now it is only fair for you to give us the things that our bodies need. But we never ask you to give us anything. *

12 Other people ask you to give them things, and that's all right for them, so it has to be all right for us too. But we never ask you to give us anything. You see, if we ask for things when we tell people the good news about Jesus Christ, some of them will not listen to that good news. But we want everybody to listen to our message about Jesus, so we never ask anybody for anything. We reckon it's better to go short of things.

13 You know about the Jewish people that work all the time in God's ceremony house. They cook the meat that other people bring to give to God. They also get some of that meat for themselves, and that's good. You see, they get something for their work. * **14** And just like that, our leader Jesus said that his workers have to get something too. He said that the people that hear the good news and get new life, they have to give something to the people that told them that good news, so that Jesus's workers get the food and other things that they need. *

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* **9:11** Romans 15:27 * **9:13** Deuteronomy 18:1 * **9:14** Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7

15 Well, I am the one that told you the good news, but
I haven't asked you for anything. And even now, while
I write to you, I'm not asking you for anything. I reckon
it is better for me to die than to ask you for something.
Now I can tell people that I gave you that good news,
and I didn't ask for anything. You got it for nothing, and
that makes me happy.
16 You see, God told me to tell the good news to everyone,
so I've got to do it. If I don't tell people that good news,
God will give me big trouble. So I can't say, "I'm really
good. I tell people that good news." No. I can't do that.
17 But suppose I got this job just because I wanted it, then
I will want some pay for it. But no, it wasn't like that. I'm
just doing what God told me to do. 18 And I'm very happy
when I can give everyone that good news for nothing.
That is like my pay. You see, it is all right for me to ask
them for those things. I know that. But I don't do it.
19 You know, I'm a free man and nobody can force me to
work for them. But I work for everyone without pay, so
that a lot of people will listen to me and believe in Jesus
Christ. 20-21 I do it like this. If I'm with my own people,
the Jews, I live like a Jew, so the Jews will listen to me
and believe in Jesus. I follow the Jewish law like they
do. I know that the Jewish law is not really for me any
more, but I want the Jewish people to believe in Jesus. (I
don't forget God's law. I always follow the law that Jesus
Christ gave us.)
Or if I'm with people that don't know the Jewish law,
so they never worry about it, I live like they do. I don't

worry about that law either. I live like they do, so they will listen to me and believe in Jesus. 22Or if I'm with weak people, I become weak too, so they will listen to me. I go to all sorts of people and live like they live. I do everything I can to get them to listen to me, so some of them will believe in Jesus, and God will save them. 23I do all these things so that I can help more people hear the good news about Jesus Christ, so that I can be happy, together with all the people that believe in Jesus.

24Now think about the people that run in a race. They all run, but only one of them wins that race and gets the prize. Well, we have to be like those people that run in a race. We have to try hard to win. That is, we have to try hard to do whatever God wants, so that in the end God will give us new life. That will be like our prize. 25Those people that run in races, they control themselves and train their bodies so they can win a prize, even though that prize will only be good for a little while. But it is better for us. We control ourselves properly so that we will win a prize that will be good for ever. God will give us new life, so that we will live for ever.

26So, you see, I'm like a good runner that runs in a straight line to the end of the race. And I'm like a fighter that hits and doesn't miss. 27I control my body, and I make it do what is right. I want God to give me that good prize. I don't want God to say to me, "You went wrong. You didn't do what you told other people to do. So you don't get new life."

Chapter 10

God doesn't want you to do anything bad

1My Christian friends, remember the story about my mob, the Israel people. A long time ago, they all followed Moses and walked out into the hot dry country. And God put a big cloud above them, and that cloud showed them where to go. Then they came to the Red Sea, and God pushed the water back so that they all walked through the Red Sea on dry ground.* **2**It was like God baptised everyone that followed Moses, at first in the cloud, and then in the sea. **3**They all ate the food that God gave them,* **4**and they all drank the water that God gave them. He used his power to put a special rock there for them, and water came from that rock, and they drank it. And that rock followed them all the time in that dry country. That special rock was really Jesus Christ. He went along with them.* **5**That's how God helped the people. But later most of them went wrong, and he was not happy with them. So he killed them, and their bodies lay everywhere in that dry country.* **6**All those things happened to the Israel people to show us that God is not happy with people that do bad things. Those things happened so that we will not want to do bad things, like they did.* **7**Don't do what some of them did. They showed respect to statues that they thought were gods. God says this in his book,

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* **10:1** Exodus 13:21-22; 14:22-29 * **10:3** Exodus 16:35 * **10:4** Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:11 * **10:5** Numbers 14:29-30 * **10:6** Numbers 11:4

"The people sat down to eat and to drink, to show respect to those statues. Then they stood up to play."*

8 And some of them slept with a person that was not their own wife or husband, and they did what married people do together. So God killed 23,000 of them in one day. This story tells us that we can only sleep with our own wife or husband, not with anybody else.* 9 And some of them tried to test God. They tried to see how far wrong they could go before he punished them. And he did punish them. Cheeky snakes came and killed them. This story tells us that we can't try to test Jesus Christ.* 10 And some of them complained about God and said that he was not fair, and one of God's angel messengers came and killed them. This story tells us that we can't complain about God and say he is not fair.*

11 All those things happened to that mob a long time ago, and God got his men to write it all in his book, to show us that those things are wrong. We have to think about those stories and learn from them. You see, we're living in the end time now, and soon Jesus will come back. 12 So be careful. If you think you are standing strong for Jesus, look out. You might fall down and go wrong. 13 Sometimes you will want to do bad things and you will find it hard to stop yourself, but remember that other people find it hard to stop themselves from doing

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* **10:7** Exodus 32:6 * **10:8** Numbers 25:1-18 * **10:9** Numbers 21:5-6
* **10:10** Numbers 16:41-49

bad things too. And remember this, God wants to help you. He will show you a way to stop yourself from going wrong, and he will help you to go the right way.

You can't respect Jesus and respect bad spirits too

14 Listen, my friends, I'm telling you this. Keep away from those statues that people think are gods. Don't respect them at all. **15** I know that you people can think properly, so you yourselves work out what is right.

16 Think about when we get together to remember what Jesus did for us. We all drink from that cup, and we remember that Jesus Christ died for us, and his blood came out, and we thank God for him. That joins us together with him and with each other. And when we break up the flat damper and eat it, we all remember that Jesus Christ's body got broken for us. And that also joins us together with him and with each other.* **17** You see, we are a lot of people, but all of us eat from one damper, so all of us are like one body when we eat from that same damper.

18 Think about the Israel people. They give animals to God and cook their meat on a special table. They show respect to God as they eat that meat, and that joins them together with God and with each other.*

19 You see, this is what I'm saying. Those statues that people think are gods, they are really nothing. And if people give food to those statues, that food doesn't get

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* **10:16** Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20 * **10:18** Leviticus 7:6

any power at all. **20**Really, those people are showing
respect to bad spirits, not God, and they are joining
themselves to bad spirits. Don't do that. I don't want you
to join up with bad spirits.*
21You can't go 2 ways at the same time. You can't drink
from the cup of our leader, Jesus, and then drink from the
cup of bad spirits. You can't eat the damper from the table
of Jesus, and then eat food from the table of bad spirits.
22If you do, you will make God jealous, and he will get
angry with you. And he is a lot stronger than you.*

Don't do anything that might give other people problems

23Some of you might say this, "We are free from that
Jewish law. We can do anything we like. We can eat that
food that they give to those statues, and it will not hurt
us." All right, but I'm telling you, "No. Not everything
is good for us Christians to do." And you might reckon,
"We are free, so we can do anything." But I'm telling
you, "No. Not everything helps us be better Christians."*
24Don't just think about yourself, and what is good for
you, but think about what is good for other people.
25So, all right, this is what you can do. You can buy
food from anyone that sells it, but don't ask them if
they first gave it to one of those statues. And don't ask
yourself, "Is it all right for me to eat this food, or not?"
26You see, God's book says,

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* **10:20** Deuteronomy 32:17 * **10:22** Deuteronomy 32:21
* **10:23** 1 Corinthians 6:12

"The earth, and everything in it, belongs to God."* Yes, all food is from God, so it is all right for us to eat that food.

27 Maybe there are some people there that don't believe in Jesus, and they ask you to eat dinner with them. If you say, "Yes," and you go to their place, then you can eat whatever food they give to you there. Don't ask yourself, "Is this food all right or not?" Don't think about it. Don't ask them any questions about that food.

28 But then, if somebody there says to you, "They gave this food to those statues that they think are gods," then stop. Don't eat that food. Think about the person that told you about it. That person might not know if it is all right to eat that food or not, and you don't want to give that person a problem. **29** It will not matter to you. You know it is all right to eat that food. But that other person doesn't know, and that person might think you are doing wrong.

Maybe you ask me, "Why can another person say what I can do and what I can't do? **30** I thank God for my food. So, if I eat that food, nobody can blame me when I eat it."

31 Don't think like that. You have to think like this, that we have to live in a way that shows everyone that God is great and God is good. So whatever you do, even when you eat and drink, do it the way God wants. **32** Don't do anything that might give other people problems. Don't make problems for Jewish people, or for people that are

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* **10:26** Psalm 24:1

not Jewish. And don't make problems for God's people.
33 Be like me. I always try to do what makes everyone
happy. I try to help other people. I don't just do things
to help myself. You see, I want God to save those other
people.

Chapter 11

1 So you have to try to live the way I live, and do the
same sorts of things that I do, just like I try to live the
way that Jesus Christ lived. *

Men and women in Christian meetings

2 There is another thing I want to talk to you about now.
I know that you always remember me, and you do the
things I taught you. That makes me very happy. 3 But I
also want you to know this. Jesus Christ is the leader
of every man, like he is the head one. And men are the
leaders of women, like they are the head ones. And God
is the head one of Jesus Christ.
4 So think about that when you meet together, and
think about what other people might reckon when they
see what you do. If a man prays, or if he tells a message
from God in your meeting, he can't cover his head. If
he covers his head, other people will reckon that he
isn't following his leader, and that will shame his leader,
Jesus. 5 But for women it is different. If a woman prays
in your meeting, or if she tells a message from God,

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* **11:1** 1 Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 3:17

that woman has to cover her head. If she doesn't cover her head, other people will reckon she isn't following her leader, her husband, and that will shame him. You know, if somebody cuts off all the hair from a woman's head, that will shame her. And like that, if a woman doesn't cover her head in your meetings, she shames her husband. **6**If she will not cover her head, maybe she has to cut off all her hair, right? No. If she does that, then she will shame herself. She can't do that. And she can't shame her husband either. So she has to cover her head in your meetings.

7You see, God made the man like himself, to show everyone that God is great and good. So a man can't cover his head. He has to show that he respects God. And a man looks after his wife, and she shows how good her husband is, so she has to cover her head to show that she respects him.* **8**Remember that God made the man first, then he made the woman. He took a part of that first man to make the first woman. God didn't take a part of that first woman to make the man. **9**And God didn't make the first man to help the woman, but he made the first woman to help the man.* **10**So a woman has to cover her head to show that she respects her husband as her leader. And, you know, God's angel messengers can see everything we do.

11You see, we all belong to our leader Jesus. And in his family the women need the men, and the men need the

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* **11:7** Genesis 1:26-27 * **11:8-9** Genesis 2:18-23

women. 12It's like this, God made the first woman by
taking a part of the first man, but after that, every man
was born from a woman. But really, everything comes
from God.
13So if a woman in your meeting doesn't cover her head
when she prays to God, do you reckon that's all right?
You work it out for yourselves. 14It is usually like this. If
a man has long hair, people will rubbish him. 15But if a
woman has long hair, it is beautiful, and people will say
she looks good. God gave her long hair to cover her.
16I know some people might want to argue with me
about all of this, but I'm telling you that we always do
it that way. It is our custom. All of God's churches do it
that way when they meet together.

The food we eat to remember that Jesus died for us

17There is something else now that I have to talk to
you about. I'm not happy about what happens at your
meetings. They are not good, they are bad. 18You see,
some people told me what happens at your church
meetings. They say that there are different groups among
you, and each group argues with the other groups when
you meet together. And I believe that some of that is true.
19Look, I know some of you will split up into groups, but
when you do, you have to let God show you who is right.
20And when you meet together, you reckon you eat food
together to remember that Jesus died for us. But you
don't really do that. You don't even share your food with
each other at that dinner, so you are not respecting Jesus.

21 You bring your own food and drink, but nobody shares
their food with anybody else. And none of you waits for
anyone else. So some of you go hungry, while others get
drunk. 22 Listen. Each of you have your own home where
you can eat and drink. But there are poor people that
haven't got any food at your meetings, and if you don't
share your food with them, you shame them. That is
bad. You are rubbishing God's people, his church. I'm not
happy with you when you do that. I can't say anything
good about you.

23 Listen. Our leader Jesus gave me this message, and I
taught it to you. It is this.

One night our leader, Jesus, had dinner with his
special workers, and on that same night, one of those
followers turned against him and went to help Jesus's
enemies grab him. At that dinner, Jesus picked up
some flat damper 24 and thanked God for it. Then he
broke it into bits and said, "This damper is my body.
You see, I will let bad people break my body. I will do
that for you. So whenever you eat this special meal,
remember what I did for you."

25 And Jesus did something like that at the end of
the dinner too. He picked up a cup of wine and said,
"Drink from this cup. God has agreed to save people,
and I will die so he can do that. My blood will come
out, and it is like I'm using my blood to sign God's new
agreement with people, to say that they are not guilty
of the bad things they did. So every time you have
this special dinner and drink from this cup, remember

that my blood came out, and that I died for you."*
That's what Jesus said that night.
26You see, every time you eat that damper and drink
from that cup you are saying that Jesus died for you.
And you will keep on doing that until he comes back
again.
27You see, you want to remember that Jesus died for
you, so you eat that damper and you drink from that
cup together. But if you do it in a bad way that doesn't
respect Jesus, you are guilty. You are just as guilty as
those people that hurt Jesus's body and made his blood
come out.
28So, when you eat this meal together, first of all, you
each have to think very carefully about yourselves, and
the way you live your lives. Then, after you do that, you
can eat that damper and you can drink from that cup.
29You see, if you don't respect the body of Jesus when
you eat that damper and drink from that cup, you are
doing wrong, and God will judge you and punish you.
30That is the reason why a lot of you are weak and sick
now, and some of your mob have died. **31**But if we think
carefully about ourselves and how we live, and if we are
sorry for the wrong things we did, God will not punish
us. **32**But if God does punish us, he does it to teach us to
do good things. So later, when God judges everyone in
the world and punishes all the bad people, he will not
punish us too.

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* **11:25** Exodus 24:6-8; Jeremiah 31:31-34

33 So, my Christian friends, this is what I'm telling you.
Whenever you meet together to eat, to remember that
Jesus died for you, you have to wait for each other to be
ready. 34 And don't come to that meeting hungry. If you
are hungry, eat something at home before you come to
the meeting, so when you meet together, you will not do
something wrong, and God will not punish you.

That's all I want to say about this matter right now.
There are some other things that I want to talk to you
about, but I will wait until I come and visit you, and then
we can sort them out.

Chapter 12

God's spirit gives Christians special power

1 My Christian friends, you know that the Holy Spirit
gives special power to Christians. I want to tell you
more about that, so that you will understand it properly.
2 Remember this. Before you knew God, you listened to
other people that didn't know God, and you did what
they did. You used to respect those statues that you
thought were gods, but you know, they are just dumb
statues, they can't say anything. 3 Now listen, I want you
to understand this. If God's spirit is inside somebody,
they can never say, "Jesus, get away from me." And the
only people that can really say, "Jesus is my leader," are
the people that have God's spirit inside them.

4 You know, the Holy Spirit gives us special powers to
do things. We call those powers the *gifts* that he gives

us. There are different sorts of gifts, but they all come from the same Holy Spirit.* 5We work for God in a lot of different ways, but all of us work for Jesus. 6Different people can do different things, but it is the same God that gives each person the power to work for him.

7It's like this. The Holy Spirit works in each one of us. He gives us these gifts so we can help each other. 8The Holy Spirit gives one person the power to say a wise message for somebody, and he gives another person the power to know something special. 9The same Holy Spirit gives another person the power to believe God strongly for something. And he gives another person the power to make sick people better. 10The same Holy Spirit gives another person the power to do great things. And he gives another person the power to tell messages straight from God. The same Holy Spirit gives another person the power to know if something comes from God's spirit, or if it comes from bad spirits. He gives another person the power to talk in special languages, and he gives another person the power to say what those special language words mean. 11It is the same Holy Spirit that does all those things. He gives gifts to each person, just the way he wants to.

One body has a lot of parts

12You know, a body has a lot of parts. All those different parts make only one body. And it is like that with Jesus Christ too. We Christians are like his body.* 13Some of us

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* **12:4** Romans 12:6-8 * **12:12** Romans 12:4-5

are Jews, and the rest of us are not Jews. Some of us are free, and some of us are like prisoners that have to work for no pay. But no matter what we are, God put his spirit into all of us, that is, he baptised us in his spirit. He did that to join us together into one body. Now we all have that same Holy Spirit in us.

14And you know that a body doesn't have just one part. It has a lot of different parts. **15**Suppose a foot thinks to itself, "I'm not a hand, so I don't belong to this body." That doesn't change anything, it is still a part of the body. **16**Or suppose an ear thinks to itself, "I'm not an eye, so I don't belong to this body." But no matter what it thinks, it is still a part of the body. **17**Suppose the whole body was an eye, it wouldn't hear anything. Or suppose the whole body was an ear, it wouldn't smell anything. **18-19**Suppose each part of the body was the same, it wouldn't really be a body. But, you see, God put all the different parts in the body just like he wanted them. In the same way, God put different Christians together to become the church. **20**Yes, a body has a lot of parts, but they make only one body. **21**And a body needs every part. Its eye can't reckon, "I don't need that hand." And its head can't reckon, "I don't need those feet." **22**A body needs every part, even the parts that we think are weak. In the same way, the church needs every sort of Christian.

23There are some parts of our bodies that we think are not very nice, and we don't want anyone to see them, so we carefully look after those parts and cover them up.

24 But we don't need to cover the beautiful parts of our
bodies. God has joined all those parts together to make
one body. We might think some parts are not important,
but God has made them really important. **25** So all the
parts of our bodies live quietly together and help each
other. **26** If one part of a body hurts, every other part
hurts with it. Or if one part of a body is feeling good,
every other part is happy with it.
27 You see, you are all like Jesus Christ's body. Each
of you Christians is a part of his body. **28** And God gives
people different jobs in his church, and he gives them
the power to do those jobs.

– 1st, there are Jesus's special workers, that God sends to other places to tell people his good news.
– 2nd, there are those other people that God uses to tell his messages.
– 3rd, there are those people that can teach other people.
– After that, there are those people that have the power to do great things.
– Then there are those people that have the power to make sick people better.
– And there are those people that can help other people.
– And there are those people that can lead other people.
– And there are those people that can talk in special languages. *

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* **12:28** Ephesians 4:11

29 Did God send all of you out to other places to be
Jesus's special workers? No, he didn't. Did he give all of
you the power to tell his messages? No. Did he give all
of you the power to be teachers? No. Did he give all of
you the power to do great things? No, he didn't. 30 And
he didn't give all of you the power to make sick people
better. He didn't give all of you the power to talk in
special languages, and he didn't give all of you the power
to say what those special language words mean. 31 You
see, God gives different powers to different people. So
you have to really want the best powers from God.

It is very important to love God and other people

But there is another really good way, so now I will tell
you about that way. It is the best way.

Chapter 13

1 You see, we can have power from God, but if we don't
love people, we are nothing. Suppose we talk in the
languages of other people and even talk in the languages of
angels, but if we don't love people, all of that is useless. We
will only be making a noise, like somebody banging a drum
or hitting a bell. 2 Suppose we tell people God's messages,
and suppose we know God's secrets and understand all
about everything, and suppose we trust God so strongly
that we can get him to move mountains, but if we don't
love other people, we are nothing.* 3 Suppose we give

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* **13:2** Matthew 17:20; 21:21; Mark 11:23

everything that we have to poor people, and suppose we stay strong for Jesus, even if somebody burns our bodies so that we die, but if we don't love people, all of that is useless.

4 If we love people, we will be good to them, and we will not get angry with people that give us trouble. If we love people, we will not be jealous of them. If we love people, we will not reckon we are better than they are, and we will not think we are really good when we are not good. 5 If we love people, we will not be rude to them or shame them. If we love people, we will think about what they want, not just what we want for ourselves. If we love people, we will not get angry with them quickly, and we will not keep on remembering the bad things they did to us. 6 If we love people, we will not be happy if they do things that are wrong, but we will be happy if they do things that are right and true. 7 If we love people properly, we will keep on loving them, no matter what happens. If we love people, we will keep on believing good things about them, and we will keep on hoping good things for them, and even if we are getting trouble, we will not give up.

8 You know, I talked to you already about the special power that God gives to his people, and now I'm telling you that one day we will stop using that special power. But we can't stop loving people. If you love somebody properly, you will always love them. But the time will come when God will not need to give us special power any more. When that time comes, God will not tell people his special messages, and God will not get people

to talk in special languages, and God will not let people know special things.

9 You see, now we only know a little bit, and the special messages that we get from God only tell us a little bit.
10 Right now we only have a little bit of what God wants to give to us. But the time will come when he will let us understand everything properly. Then we will not worry about the little bits any more.

11 I'll use a picture story about myself to show you what I mean. When I was a little kid I talked like a little kid, and I thought about things the way a little kid thinks about things. I only understood what a little kid can understand. But then I grew up, and now I'm a man, and I've stopped thinking like a little kid. 12 This is what that story means. Now we only understand a little bit. It is like we are looking at things in a dark mirror now. But the time will come when everything will be clear to us, like we are looking straight at them, not in a mirror. Right now we only know a little bit, but at that time we will know everything properly, just like God knows us properly.

13 So I'm saying there are 3 important things for us to keep on doing.

– We have to keep on believing in God.
– We have to keep on knowing for sure that God will be good to us.
– We have to keep on loving God and people.

We have to keep on doing those 3 things, and the most important one is this,

– We have to keep on loving God and people.

Chapter 14

Tell God's messages in a language that people know

1So always love other people. That is most important.
And ask God's spirit to give you special powers too. Ask
him for the power to tell special messages from God.
That is more important than the power to talk in a
special language.
2If somebody talks in a special language, they are
only talking to God, not talking to people. Nobody can
understand them. The Holy Spirit is getting them to
talk about secret things, but nobody can understand
what they are saying. 3But if somebody tells messages
from God, they are talking to other people, and helping
them to understand things better and get strong. Those
messages from God help people and make them happy,
even if they have trouble. 4You see, a person that talks in
a special language helps only themselves. But a person
that tells messages from God helps all the people in
the church to get strong. 5I'm happy if you all talk in
special languages, but I'm more happy if you all tell
people messages from God. The person that can tell
God's messages is greater than the person that talks in
special languages. But if somebody tells everyone what
those words mean, then it is all right. They will help the
church get strong.
6My Christian friends, if I come and talk to you in a
special language that you don't understand, that will
not help you. But if God shows me something, and if I

We have to play guitars the right way to make proper music

tell you about it, that will help you. Or if he lets me know something new, and if I tell you about it, that will help you too. Or if he gives me a message for you, and if I come and tell you, or if I teach you something, that will help you too. 7Think about things that make sounds, like guitars. If we don't play them the right way, nobody will think it is proper music.

8And think about soldiers. Their leader gets one man to blow a trumpet to tell the other soldiers what to do, but if he doesn't blow it properly, they will not know what to do. 9Well, it is like that for you. You have to talk clearly and say words that people can understand. If they can't understand your words, you will be talking to nobody. 10You know, there are a lot of different languages in this world, and all of them make sense to the people that know those languages. 11But if somebody talks to me in a language that I don't know, I will not understand them. I will be like a stranger to them, and they will be like a stranger to me. 12And it is the same for you too. I know that you really want God's spirit to give you special powers, so ask God to give you the powers that will help the church people be strong.

13So in your meetings, if anyone talks in a special language, they have to ask God to show them what

those words mean so they can tell everybody the message. 14You see, it is like this. If I pray in a special language, I'm not using my mind. I'm not thinking about my words while I pray. Only my spirit is praying. 15So what will I do? Sometimes I will pray with my spirit, and sometimes I will pray with my mind. And sometimes I will sing with my spirit, and sometimes I will sing with my mind. 16You see, if you only thank God with your spirit, in a special language, other people in the meeting can't understand what you are saying, so they can't agree with you and say, "That's right." 17You might be thanking God, but your words don't help anyone else.

18I thank God that I talk in special languages more than any of you. 19But if I talk in a church meeting, I want to tell people more about God, and I want them to understand my words. So, I reckon, if I say 5 words that they can understand, that is better than if I say 10,000 words in a special language that they can't understand.

20My Christian friends, don't be like little kids in the way you think. You know, little kids don't know much about anything. They don't understand really bad things. So whenever you think about bad things, be like little kids. But whenever you think about anything else, be grown up people. Think properly and understand things properly. 21You know, God got one of his men to write this in his book,

> "God will get people from other tribes to talk to this mob. They will talk to them in strange languages.

But even if God gets strangers to talk to this mob, they
will not listen to him."*
That is what God said.
22-24 It is like this. If you talk in special languages, God
will use that talk, but not the way you think. He will
use it to show you that it is useless to do that when
you are all together in a church meeting. Suppose
some strangers come into that meeting, people that
don't know very much, and don't believe in God. They
will hear you all talking in those strange languages,
and they will say, "You mob are all crazy." But if you
tell God's special messages, God will use that to show
you that it is right to do that in your church meetings.
Suppose some strangers come into the meeting, and
they hear you telling messages from God. They will
listen to what you say, and they will understand it.
Then they will know that they are not God's friends,
and they will know that they have to turn around and
stop doing bad things. **25**Those messages from God will
show them every secret thing that they think about,
and they will get down on the ground and show respect
to God. And they will say, "It's true, God is really here
with you mob."

Have good church meetings

26So, my friends, this is how to have proper church
meetings. Whenever you church people meet together,

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* **14:21** Isaiah 28:11-12

each one of you can have something to help the other people there. One of you might have a song that all of you can sing to God. Another person might have something that they can teach you. Somebody else might want to tell you about something that God has shown them. Another person might talk in a special language, and then somebody else can tell everybody what those words in that special language mean. Do all those things to help each other be strong Christians.

27 Only let 2 or 3 people talk in special languages in your meetings, and they have to take turns. Only let one person talk at a time, and then, each time, somebody has to tell everybody what those words in that special language mean. **28** But if there is nobody there that can do that, then don't let anybody talk in special languages. They have to be quiet. They can't talk out loud in a special language, but they can talk to themselves and to God.

29 And if the Holy Spirit has given some of you the power to tell messages from God, well, 2 or 3 of you can tell those messages. And the other people there have to think carefully about each message and check it, to make sure each message is really from God. **30** And if one person is telling a message, and while they are talking somebody else gets a message from God, that first person has to stop talking, so that the next person can tell their new message from God. **31** Each of you can tell a message from God, but you have to wait for each other so that only one person talks at a time. Then everyone will learn something, and you will all feel strong for God. **32** You

see, if you have power from the Holy Spirit to tell God's messages, you can control your own spirit, and you will wait for the right time to talk. 33God wants you to respect each other and listen to each other. He doesn't want your meetings to be mixed up and noisy.

And now I'll talk to you about another matter. This is what it's like for God's people in all the other churches. 34The women have to be quiet in the church meetings. They have to do what the leaders say. That's what the law says. 35If a woman wants to ask about something, she can wait and ask her husband at home. If women talk in a church meeting, they shame the church.

36Maybe you think I'm wrong, but remember this, you don't know everything in God's word. It didn't start with you, and you are not the only people that ever heard it.

37Somebody might reckon that the Holy Spirit gave them the power to tell God's messages, and that they listen to the Holy Spirit all the time. All right, but they have to understand that this letter I'm writing comes from our leader himself, and his people have to do what he says. 38So if that person will not take any notice of this letter, then you mob can't believe their messages. Don't take any notice of anything they say.

39So, my Christian friends, this is what I'm telling you about your meetings. If you want to tell messages from God, that is good. And don't stop people from talking in special languages. 40Do everything properly. Do everything the right way.

Chapter 15

Jesus Christ died, then he came alive again

1 My Christian friends, I want you to remember the good
news that I taught you. You listened to that message and
believed it, and you still strongly believe it. 2 And if you
keep on believing that good news, God will save you. If
you don't keep on believing it, I reckon you didn't believe
it properly in the first place.
3 You know, God told me that message, and then I taught
it to you. And, you know, a long time ago, God got his men
to write about some of those things, and they are in God's
book. Now I'll tell you the important part of that message
again. Everybody did bad things. We are all bad, but Jesus
Christ died instead of us. That message is in God's book.*
4 People buried Jesus. Then after 2 nights, on the 3rd day,
God made him alive again. That message is in God's book
too.* 5 After that, Jesus showed himself to Peter. Then later
he showed himself to all of his 12 special workers.* 6 After
that, he showed himself to more than 500 of his followers at
the same time. Most of those 500 people are still alive, but
some of them have died. 7 Then he showed himself to James,
and later he showed himself to all of his special workers.
8 All those people saw Jesus. But I was different from
Jesus's other special workers. He didn't show himself to
me until some time later.*

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* **15:3** Isaiah 53:5-12 * **15:4** Psalm 16:8-10; Matthew 12:40; Acts 2:24-32
* **15:5** Matthew 28:16-17; Mark 16:14; Luke 24:34, 36; John 20:19 * **15:8** Acts 9:3-6

9 But before I ever saw Jesus, he sent out his other special workers. They were the first people to go out and tell his message, so they are all more important than me. You see, I used to make a lot of trouble for God's own people, so I'm not really good enough for anyone to call me one of Jesus's special workers. * **10** But God was very good to me. He changed me and made me the way I am now. And so more people heard the good news about Jesus. You see, I've worked harder than any of his other special workers. But it wasn't really me that did that work. No. It was God that gave me the power to do his work, so he is the one that did it. **11** So it doesn't really matter who told you God's message. Maybe it was me, or maybe it was one of his other special workers. We all tell people the same good news about Jesus Christ, and that is the good news that you believed. That is the important thing.

God will make dead people come alive again

12 This is our message. Jesus Christ died, and then God made him alive again. But some of you reckon that God never makes dead people alive again. But you are wrong. **13** You see, if you reckon that God never makes dead people alive again, you are also saying that God didn't make Jesus Christ alive again. **14** And if you reckon that God didn't make Jesus Christ alive again, you are saying that our message is useless, and that you believed something that was wrong. **15** If that's what you reckon, you are

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* **15:9** Acts 8:3

saying that we lied to you about God when we told you that he made Jesus Christ alive again. But you are not right. 16You see, if you reckon that God never makes dead people alive again, you are saying that he didn't make Jesus Christ alive again. 17And if God didn't make Jesus Christ alive again, like you reckon, then you believed in Jesus for nothing, and it means that you are still guilty of the bad things you did. 18And if you reckon that God never makes dead people alive again, you are saying that the Christians that died are now lost and gone for ever. 19You reckon that we can only be sure that Jesus Christ will look after us here in this life. But we Christians get trouble in this life, and other people in the world are more happy than us. So if God will not make us alive again after we die, they can feel sorry for us. But that is not true.

20Listen, this is the true story. Jesus Christ died, and God made him alive again. Jesus was the first person to die and then come back to life again, and to live for ever.

21-22You see, it's like this. God said that everyone that does bad things has to die. Remember the first man, called Adam. He did something bad, so he died. And we are all from Adam, so we are all in his family, and we all do bad things too, so we all have to die. But then another man came, and he only did good things. That man is Jesus Christ. So now, after people die, God can make them alive again. You see, everyone that believes in Jesus Christ is in Jesus's family now, so God will make them alive again. 23But we each have to wait for our turn. The first one was Jesus Christ. He died, and then God

made him alive again. He is the first one to live again.
After he comes back, all his people will live again too.
24Then Jesus will finish up all the bad spirits. Some of
them are bosses, and some of them have power. He will
take away their power, and he will finish them all up.
Then the end will come, and Jesus will give everything
to God, the father, and God will be the biggest boss for
everybody.
25You see, Jesus Christ will keep on being the big boss,
until he wins against his enemies, and God makes all
those enemies do what Jesus says.* **26**In the end he will
stop us from dying. He will keep everything alive, and
nobody will die any more. **27**God's book says this,

"God will win, and he will make everything do what
he says."*

Those words tell us that God is the one that will make
everything do what Jesus says. You see, Jesus will
not be the boss over God, but he will be the boss over
everything else. **28**When God makes everything do what
Jesus Christ says, then Jesus, God's son, will have God as
his boss. Then God will control everything everywhere.
He will be the one and only biggest boss.
29You know, sometimes a Christian dies before anyone
baptised them, so sometimes you mob try to help them,
and you baptise another Christian instead of them. But
think about it, if dead people will never live again, that
is a useless thing for you to do.

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* **15:25** Psalm 110:1 * **15:27** Psalm 8:6

30 And think about me and the other people that work with
me. We tell everyone God's message, and some people get
angry with us and they want to kill us. 31 Every day, I worry
that somebody might kill me. My Christian friends, I'm very
happy that you are trusting our leader Jesus Christ, so I'm
telling you this. 32 At that town called Ephesus, I got trouble
for telling people about Jesus. Some men there tried to kill
me, and I had to fight back. I was like a man fighting wild
animals. But, if God will not make me alive again after I
die, it means I got all that trouble for nothing. Some of you
reckon that dead people will never live again. If that is true,
then we can be like the people that say this,

"We are going to die tomorrow, so today we will have
fun.
We will eat and drink as much as we like, and we will
not worry about tomorrow."*

That is what they say, but it is not true.

33 Listen, don't let anyone trick you with that sort of talk.
Remember that wise people say this, "Don't have friends
that do bad things, or they will get you to do bad things too."

34 So start thinking properly, and do what is right. Stop
doing bad things. I think that some of you don't really
know God. I'm saying this to make you feel shame.

We will get new bodies

35 Somebody might hear me say that dead people will
come alive again, and they might ask me, "How can that

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* **15:32** Isaiah 22:13

happen? What sort of bodies will they have?" 36That's
a stupid question. You know, all sorts of things die and
then they get new bodies. Think about seeds and plants.
If you plant a seed in the ground, that seed dies. But that
is not the end. A new plant grows up. That seed comes
alive again and grows up into a new plant. 37The thing
you put into the ground was just a seed (maybe a wheat
seed, or whatever). You don't put the body of the plant in
the ground, but just the seed. 38Then God makes it grow
up and become a new plant, with its own sort of body.
God gives every sort of seed its own sort of body.

39Every sort of thing that is alive has a different sort of
body from every other sort of thing. People have one sort
of body. Animals have a different sort of body. Birds have
another sort of body, and fish have another sort of body.
40And other things have different sorts of bodies too.
There are bodies in the sky, and there are bodies here on
the earth. They are all beautiful in their own way. The
bodies in the sky are beautiful in a different way from
the bodies on the earth. 41The sun is bright and beautiful.
And the moon is beautiful too, in a different way from
the sun. The stars are bright and beautiful too, but they
are different again, and some stars are brighter than
other stars.

42Well, it will be like that for us when God makes us
alive again. The bodies we have now will die. But after
God makes us alive again, our new bodies will never die.
43The bodies we have now are weak and not very good.
But after God makes us alive again, our new bodies will

be beautiful and strong. **44**The bodies we have when
we die are normal bodies. But after God makes us alive
again, we will have new bodies, and they will be spiritual
bodies. You see, there are normal bodies, and there are
spiritual bodies. **45**This is what God says in his book,

"The 1st man, Adam, became a living person."*
But we can think of Jesus, that he is the last Adam. You
see, he is the spirit that makes people alive. **46**It is like
this. Right now, each of us has a normal body. They are
the bodies we got at first. But later we will each get a
new spiritual body. **47**And think about Adam. He was the
1st man, and he came from the ground. But Jesus, the
2nd man, came from heaven. **48**Everyone on earth has a
body like the man that came from the ground. But the
people that belong to heaven will have a body like the
man that came from heaven. **49**You see, the bodies that
we have now are like Adam's body. He was the 1st man,
and God made him out of the ground. But our spiritual
bodies will be different. They will be like Jesus's body.
He is the man that came from heaven.

50My Christian friends, this is what I'm telling you. We
can't go to God and live for ever in his family in our
normal bodies. They are made of meat, blood, bones,
skin, and all that. These bodies that we have now have
to die. They can't go on for ever.

51Listen, I'm telling you something new. God didn't tell
other people this message before, but it is important. He

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* **15:45** Genesis 2:7

will change all of us. Some of us will still be alive at
that time, but maybe some of us will be dead. It doesn't
matter, God will change all of us. **52**It will happen like
this. We will hear the sound of somebody blowing the
last trumpet, then straight away God will change us. It
will be quick, as quick as you can blink your eyes. You
see, as soon as that trumpet makes its sound, God will
make his dead people alive again. At that time, he will
give us new bodies that will never die. God will change
all of us, those of us that are alive and those of us that
are dead at that time.* **53**You see, the bodies we have now
will die, but they will get new life. God will change our
normal bodies into bodies that can never die.

54-56 You know, whenever we do bad things, we break
God's law, and God's law says we have to die for doing
those bad things. There is a power that gets us to go
wrong and die like that. It is like a cheeky scorpion that
stings us and kills us. But God will change our bodies
into bodies that will never die, and at that same time
God will finish up that power that makes us go wrong.
You know, a long time ago, one of God's men wrote about
this, and it is in God's book. He wrote,

"God will finish up that power that makes everything
die."*

"It will be gone. It will not sting us any more,
and people will not die any more."*

And it will happen just like those men wrote.

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* **15:51-52** 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 * **15:54-56** Isaiah 25:8 * **15:54-56** Hosea 13:14

57 You see, our leader Jesus Christ has won the fight. So
with Jesus we win too. And we say, "Thank you God."
58 So always remember those things, my Christian
friends. I love you, and I want you to stay strong for
God. Don't let anything take you away from him. Keep
on working hard for our leader Jesus. Remember, he will
help you, so that everything you do with him will be
good. It will not be useless.

Chapter 16

The money for God's people in Jerusalem

1 All right, now I want to talk to you about something else.
I will answer the question you asked me about the money
that you want to give to God's people in Jerusalem. You
know, I talked to the people in the churches in Galatia
country, and I told them how to give money to God's
people in Jerusalem, and I want you to do it the same
way.* **2** Do it like this. On the 1st day of every week, each
of you can pick out some of the money that you got that
week, and keep it in a separate place. I will come to you
soon, and you will have that money ready for me. You will
not have to quickly look around and try to find it when
I get there. **3** And you can pick a few of your men to take
that money to Jerusalem and give it to God's people there.
But wait for me to get to you at Corinth. Then I will write
some letters to tell the Jerusalem mob that each of those

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* **16:1** Romans 15:25-26

men is a good man. They can take those letters with them.
4 And I might go with them too. If I think it is the right
thing for me to do, I will go with them.

Paul made a plan

5 But before I get to Corinth, I have to go through
Macedonia country, and after that, I will visit you. *
6 Maybe I will stay with you for a while. I might even stay
until the end of the cold weather time, and then you can
give me the things I will need for my trip to the next place.
7 You see, I want to stay here in Ephesus for a little while,
and then I can come to you. And when I come, I don't
want to stay a short time and then go to another place,
but I want to stay with you for some time. I hope that our
leader, Jesus, agrees with this plan, so that I can stay with
you for a little longer time. 8 But right now I will stay here
until that day called *Pentecost* comes. * 9 You see, God is
helping me do great and powerful things for him here. But
there are a lot of people here that are trying to stop me. *

Paul talked about Timothy and Apollos

10 I want to talk to you now about Timothy. He is doing
God's work, the same as me. So if he comes to visit you,
make him feel good with you there. Don't let anyone
make trouble for him, * 11 and don't let anyone rubbish
him. And when he gets up to come here to me, you

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* **16:5** Acts 19:21 * **16:8** Leviticus 23:15-21; Deuteronomy 16:9-11
* **16:9** Acts 19:8-10 * **16:10** 1 Corinthians 4:17

mob help him and give him what he needs for his trip. I'm waiting for him here, and I'm waiting for the other Christians that are coming with him.

12 And now I want to tell you about our friend Apollos. When those other Christians went to visit you, I really wanted Apollos to go with them and visit you too. I kept on telling him to go, but he reckoned that it was not the right time. He will visit you later, when he can.

The good way to live

13 Now I want to tell you this. You have to always be ready for anything. It's like you have to stay awake and keep on watching what is going on. Never stop believing in God. Always be brave, and be strong in your spirits. **14** And keep on loving God and other people all the time, and do things to help them.

Paul talked about Stefanas

15 You know about Stefanas and his family. They were the first people in Akaya country to believe in Jesus. And they help God's people all the time. So, my Christian friends, I strongly ask you this.* **16** I want you to agree with them and do what they want. And do the same for anyone that works hard for God, like they do.

17 I was very happy when Stefanas, Fortunatus and Akayacus came to me here. You see, you mob were too far away, and you couldn't help me, but instead, they

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* **16:15** 1 Corinthians 1:16

came and helped me. 18They made my spirit happy, just like they made your spirits happy. Let them know, and let anyone like them know, that you are happy with them for the good things they do.

The last things Paul wrote in this letter

19The people in the churches here in Asia country say *hello* to you. And so do Aquila, and his wife Priscilla, and the Christians that meet in their house. They know that you belong to Jesus, and they love you, and they say *hello* to you.* 20All the Christians here say *hello* to you. And you too, whenever you meet other Christians, show them that you know they are special, and that you are happy to see them.

21*Look, I'm now writing this part of this letter with my own hand, so that you can know for sure that it is me, Paul, sending this letter to you.*

22And I want to say this to anyone that doesn't love our leader, Jesus, "God will punish you."

And I'm telling Jesus, "Please come back soon."

23I'm asking our leader, Jesus, to be good to all of you.

24I love all of you that belong to Jesus Christ.

From Paul

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* **16:19** Acts 18:2

About this translation

This booklet uses the ***Plain English Version*** (PEV) of the Scriptures, an English translation of the Bible designed for Indigenous Australians whose first language is an Indigenous language. Its purpose is to convey the meaning of the original Scripture in English that is easy to understand and natural for them. We have, as much as possible, limited its grammar, semantic and rhetorical features to those common in Aboriginal languages, and its vocabulary to the English that is most widely used.

We have applied the principles of meaning-based translation, wherein we have sought to convey the same meaning that the original authors conveyed to the original readers. That means not just considering individual words, but also the message of the whole passage.

The following are some of the more common modifications that have been made:

- Where the grammar of the original has used the passive voice, we have used the active voice, since the grammars of most Indigenous Australian languages do not have passive voice.
- Where the original text has used an abstract noun to express a concept that is fundamentally an action or a quality, we have usually used a verb or adjective to translate that concept, since abstract nouns are comparatively rare in Indigenous Australian languages.
- Where the grammar of the original has used long and complicated sentences, we have conformed to the grammars of Indigenous Australian languages by using shorter sentences, making other adjustments as necessary to retain the meaning carried by the grammar of the original.
- Where the original text has implicit or background information that would not be obvious to our target audience, we have made that information explicit.
- Where the original text has used a word or phrase, the literal translation of which would not be understood by our target audience, we have used an explanatory rendering to convey the same meaning, whether or not it involved more words.
- Where the original text has used figurative language that would be taken as literal by our target audience, we have stated the meaning of the figure rather than its literal form.
- Where the original text is not in chronological or logical order, we have usually adjusted the order of information.

At any one place in our translation we may have used a combination of the above.

PEV Translation Team