

Christian Relationships

in

Community & World

**THE WORLD CELEBRATES DIVERSITY...  
BUT STRUGGLES DEEPLY WITH DIVISION.**



So the question today as we launch this new series on 1 Corinthians is:

***What does it really look like to live in Christian relationships—with each other and with the world?***

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**LIVING IN CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH COMMUNITY & THE WORLD MEANS  
BEING CALLED INTO A UNITED,  
DIVERSE COMMUNITY**

1 Cor 1:1-17

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## 1 Cor 1:2

- God's viewpoint of an imperfect church,
- Corinth was a diverse, morally-complex, cosmopolitan city. (think San Francisco, meets LA, meets Brighton)
- sanctified, called "saints", enriched by Christ.

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## 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

- The call to live as one diverse church & avoid factions.
- Paul pleads: “that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you” (1:10).
- The problem: people saying “I am of Paul”, “I am of Apollos”, ... showing identity in leaders **NOT** in Christ.

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## Practical living it out:

- United in our calling Phil 1:27
- Youth - find the why?
- Sunday “culture-share”
- Small groups

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS OR PERSONAL STUDY:

- *What does “called to be saints” mean for you in your work/social context?*
- *How does our identity in Christ affect how we treat others in our community (at work, school, street)?*
- *In your cultural or ethnic background, what challenges or opportunities do you see for living as a Christian in community with others?*
- *How can we affirm cultural identities while being united in Christ?*
- *What could being “divided” look like in your workplace or neighbourhood?*

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**LIVING IN CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH COMMUNITY & THE WORLD  
MEANS LIVING FOR THE CROSS and  
SHAPED FOR THE WORLD**

1 Cor 1:18-31

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**The message of the cross as the power of God; how we live in the world shaped by Christ's wisdom not the world's.**

- “The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1:18)
- Contrast wisdom of the world/the wisdom of God (1:19-21).
- God chooses the “weak” and “foolish” in worldly terms to shame the strong (1:26-31)

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**We don't adopt simply secular norms but push forward in kingdom values: *humility, service, sacrifice.***

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## RESEARCH INTO SEVERAL CHURCHES IN CRAWLEY:

- We are setup not just for talk—we're set up as a charity with impact goals, not just a Sunday attendance or gathering (NOT PREACHING FOR INFORMATION BUT TRANSFORMATION)
- Evangelism + discipleship (but relational, not pushy)
- It's mission through relationships and changed lives, not big campaigns.
- Strong “serve people practically” ethos (Think: less hype, more hands-on care)
- Best for: People who value authentic, relational lived-out faith over big production
- Want real relationships + authenticity → TCC

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS OR PERSONAL STUDY:

- What “wisdom of the world” do you feel tempted by in your daily life?
- How does living for the cross shape how you treat colleagues, neighbours, strangers?
- In your cultural context, what does “weakness” mean, and how can we show strength through Christ’s weakness?

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**LIVING IN CHRISTIAN  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY  
& THE WORLD MEANS UNITY FOR  
THE CITY AND BEYOND**

1 Cor 12:12-27

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- “For just as the body is one and has many members...” (12:12) and all members belong to one another.
- Each part matters: “If one member suffers, all suffer; if one member is honoured, all rejoice.” (12:26)
- This internal unity enables witnessing into the world: our togetherness is a sign. (John 13:35)
- Our relationships across culture become a testimony.

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- The church is a body, many parts; how our relationships work internally reflect mission externally.
- Most connected generation/most lonely generation
- BUT the church was never meant to be like that...from the beginning, God designed a community where people are ***known, valued, and united.***

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS OR PERSONAL STUDY:

- *What part do you feel you play in the body of Christ? Are there “parts” under-valued in our church?*
- *How do you feel included (or not) in the life of the church across cultural/ethnic divides?*
- *How can our unity as diverse members be a witness to our local community and our town?*

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**LIVING IN CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH COMMUNITY & THE WORLD  
MEANS WITNESS IN THE WORLD:  
LOVE, SPEECH, FREEDOM**

1 Cor 9:19-23, 10:31-11:1

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# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS RELATE OUTWARDLY?

**AVOIDING** the world in case we're tainted? (1 John 4:4)

**AGGRESSIVE** condemnation? (earth is the Lords Ps 24:1)

**ADAPTING** to others for the sake of the gospel, living for the glory of God, becoming imitators of Christ. (1 Cor 9:19-23)

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**1 Cor 9:19-23** *“all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”*

- Paul adapted a flexible, considerate approach depending on the cultural context and focused on emphasizing the gospel over personal preferences.
- “Whether therefore you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (10:31)
- “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (11:1)

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## Application:

- We live amongst many cultures, beliefs, languages. This passage challenges us to be adaptable—not compromising truth, but being culturally sensitive and relationally engaged.
- Our public life (work, school, neighbourhood) shows the reality of our faith.
- Living for God’s glory means every context matters.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS OR PERSONAL STUDY:

- *In your neighbourhood, work or cultural setting, how do you adapt your communication or behaviour for others without losing your Christian distinctiveness?*
- *How does “doing all to the glory of God” affect everyday tasks (commute, lunch break, interacting with neighbours)?*
- *What does it mean to “imitate Christ” in a multicultural multicultural-UK setting?*

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**LIVING IN CHRISTIAN  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY  
& THE WORLD MEANS HOPE,  
RECONCILIATION AND  
MISSION TOGETHER**

**1 COR 15:12-22, 16:1-4**

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- The resurrection of Christ means we have hope—“*if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile*” (15:17).
- Our service and giving are part of community support and mission (16:1-4).
- Reconciliation: believers from many backgrounds are reconciled to God and to one another.

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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION:

- Our hope unites people from different nations, cultures, visions.
- Mission is not just sending but being present in our area, supporting one another, serving our neighbours.
- We reflect a church that is both local and global: ***neighbourhoods & nations.***

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# MISSION TRIPS PROPOSALS FOR TCC



November 2026 - Pakistan  
December 2026 - Germany  
January 2027 - India  
March 2027 - Nigeria

Giving A Gift? Missions Account  
Transformation Community Church  
Sort Code 404615    Account no 71497839

NEIGHBOURHOODS & NATIONS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS OR PERSONAL STUDY:

- *What hope does the resurrection give you in your context (workplace, home, neighbourhood)?*
- *How can our church mobilise to serve our local multicultural community and also participate in global mission?*
- *What barriers (cultural, economic, language) might hinder reconciliation and mission in our context?  
How do we overcome them?*

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# CONCLUSION:

**Theme for 2026: RELATIONSHIPS**

**Examine Your Relationships ( 2 Cor 13:5)**

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**Before we leave today, ask yourself honestly...**

- **Where am I divided from others?**
- **Who or what do I avoid?**
- **Am I shaped more by the world—or by the cross?**

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The Corinthians weren't rejected because they were imperfect... they were called to grow. Maybe today, God is not asking you to do everything—but to take **ONE** step forward.

- Reconcile with someone
- Step out of comfort zone
- Re-centre your identity in Christ

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## PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION:

Lord Jesus help me to examine my own heart today.

Lord Jesus, make us a people who reflect your heart—united in diversity, shaped by the cross, and sent into the world with love. Amen.

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THE LIVE STREAM

**IS NOW  
FINISHING**

SEE YOU NEXT TIME

