

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## *Until I See You Next*

### *I Corinthians 16:1-24*

How shall Paul conclude this master's instruction on the Christian life?

.....  
Some of them had come asking for help with problems in **The Church** (not **a church**)

- Some had separated from The Church to be on their own, in their own groups

.....  
Paul addresses them all as **One Church**

- He validates them as "called to be saints" together

.....  
He thanks God for them & affirms their giftedness

- "Called into the fellowship of Christ" (**Matt. 6:9**)
- And pleads in Christ's name there be no divisions among them

.....  
He identifies some of the divisions they have made...

- Asking, "Is Christ divided?"

.....  
He charges **they have displaced heavenly wisdom** with earthly wisdom

- Fleshly priorities have become valued over Christ

.....  
He confronts them ignoring blatant sexual sin among them

- And suing each other in Roman courts

He defines God's standards for marriage & celibacy

- And charges the stronger to prefer the weaker in non-essential things

.....  
He teaches them about public, corporate prayer

.....  
**In the midst of** teaching about receiving & using **spiritual gifts...**

- **He inserts** understanding of **Authentic Love**

.....  
Then... The essence of The Gospel – **The Resurrection!!**

- If there is no resurrection, **there is no gospel**
- If there is no resurrection, **there is no salvation**
- If there is no resurrection, **our sin defines our life**

.....  
The hope of the gospel **IS the resurrection!!**

.....  
Paul's letter is about the **indivisible** Oneness of Christ...

- The Oneness of **His body, His Church**
- Less than that is less than **who He IS!!**

.....  
We can't call others to a Oneness we don't embrace ourselves

- **John 17:20-23**
- Can we follow Him anywhere He is not?

.....  
Now... **looking beyond yourselves**

.....

**Ch. 16:1-4**, Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **On the first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

.....  
**Vs. 1**, Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

- ***Being One Church*** has applications ***beyond our own community***
- *They were called to help those in need with the church of other cities too*

.....  
**Vs. 2**, On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

- On the first day of the week (***Acts 20:7, Rom. 14:4-6, Col. 2:16-17***)
- ***Is a non-essential*** that should not divide Christ's followers
- ***Corporate worship on the first day***, rather than the seventh was common

.....  
**Vs. 3-6**, And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me. Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia). And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go.

**Vs. 3**, And when I come (***Not if I come***) I am coming.

- *We are in this together now. This is about **who we are** in Christ's behalf.*
- ***I care enough to follow up with you.*** (*Not like reading a book you bought*)

.....  
**Vs. 3-4**, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

- *I trust the leaders you choose*

.....  
**Vs. 5-7**, Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia). And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go. **For I do not wish to see you now** on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, **if the Lord permits**.

.....  
Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia

- *I want you to be confident I am coming to you (**Ch. 4:18-21**)*
- *I know you need some time to process and apply the things we've handled here*
- *I'm trusting God for how much time we'll need*

.....  
**Vs. 8-9**, But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a **great and effective door has opened** to me, and **there are many adversaries**.

.....  
*Ephesus was the scene of the big uproar over the goddess Diana*

- *There was ever-present Jewish opposition*
- *Where God is working, **the devil will bring opposition***
- ***Matthew 16:18, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.***

**Vs. 10-11**, And if Timothy comes, see **that he may be with you without fear**; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do. Therefore **let no one despise him**. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren. (**Ch. 4:17**)

.....  
*Some the worldly & prosperous may oppose his youth & inexperience*

- *His being of Greek & Jewish parentage had been an issue*
- *Anyone dealing poorly with him will deal with me (**Ch. 4:18-21**)*

.....  
**Vs. 12**, Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time.

.....  
*Apollos was well known of in the growing church world*

- *Paul wants them to know he has them constantly in mind*
- *He speaks of them among those building up God's church*
- ***Who they are in Christ matters beyond the local level***

.....  
**Vs. 13-14**, Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.

- *Be watchful & faithful! You have **outward enemies & inward challenges***
- *You operate in a hostile environment. Don't be casual about your faith*

.....  
Let all that you do be done with love. (**Ch. 13**)

- *Anything done without love is of **no value!***
- ***Live as Christ loves in everything***

**Vs. 15-18**, I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints— **that you also submit to such**, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

.....  
*Stephanas likely represents leadership among those faithful house churches*

- *We know of at least four who had separated. Not how many were faithful*

.....  
*Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus were those who came to Paul in Ephesus*

- *They brought the request for help, and provision for Paul's ministry*
- *In the midst of contention, **honor those who help hold you together***

.....  
**Vs. 19-20**, The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

- *All the other church communities embrace you as one with them*
- *Be one together, to act as one with those who are one with you*

.....  
**Vs. 21**, The salutation with my own hand—Paul's.

- *Paul's letters were dictated because of his severe eye disease*
- *This as a display of personal affection & authenticity*

.....  
**Vs. 22-24**, If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, **let him be accursed**. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

***The love of Christ is full & final authenticity!***