

New Testament Lesson # 33  
August 19-25  
Be Perfectly Joined Together  
1 Corinthians 1- 7  
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Paul's writings are often hard to understand and this material will help give greater clarity. It shows the many different ways Paul taught how we are Temples of God).

I. Paul teaches **Christ's Saints must be built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and be totally unified** (1 Cor. 3:16-17).

A. He tells them, "Ye are the Temple of God." In this case, he means they are the church set up by Christ.

B. He was teaching the Saints they must overcome division and build their faith upon the foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11).

C. Some Saints were giving certain apostles too much preference or glory.

1. Some had formed groups "of Paul" or "of Peter," etc. (1 Cor. 1:12).

2. Paul taught faith in Jesus Christ alone brings salvation. "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?" (1 Corinthians 1:13).

a. This is occurring even today. For I have found many Christians have put the words of Paul above those of Jesus Christ, the Master.

3. He taught **the apostles all worked together, and under Christ. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase"** (1 Cor. 3:6).

4. There were also other unfortunate divisions. "Now I beseech you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10).

5. Similarly, we as Latter-day Saints must remain unified to remain God's true Church. We should re-consider things that divide us today but should not do so.

II. **Paul went further and taught that as a sanctified people we should be holy enough for the Spirit to dwell with us and thus receive spiritual revelation.**

A. In doing so he gave great promises: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

B. He reminded the Saints that such beautiful truths would be revealed by the Spirit, not worldly wisdom. "But God hath revealed these unto us by his spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (1 Corinthians 2:10).

1. On the other hand, wisdom of the world can be treacherous. To the worldly wise, God's truths are usually seen as foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:22-23).

2. Paul says God deliberately chose the humbler Saints in his day, the seemingly less wise of the world, to reveal His truths. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise: and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound [those] which are mighty" (1 Corinthians 1:27).

3. To stop divisions and boasting among these Saints, Paul had to ask: "For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst *receive it*, why dost thou glory...?" (1 Corinthians

4:7). (emphasis added). **In other words, how can ye boast and differ from each other when the truths ye possess ye received from God? “no flesh should glory in [God’s] presence”** (1 Corinthians 1:29).

4. Furthermore, so far the Saints had only been given the milk, until they could later bare the meat of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 3:2). And **they would not receive that meat until they could end any envyings, strife and divisions** (v. 3).
5. Warning Latter-day Saints of what great trials face us in our days, Elder Boyd K. Packer stated in April 2009, “To gain courage for what lies ahead, we need to be connected to the gospel of Jesus Christ and overcome the tendency to look to the wisdom of the world for help. Looking to the world rather than the gospel would be like calling a plumber to solve an electrical problem.”

After quoting this statement, Elder Allan F. Packer adds, “Our Heavenly Father is the Father of our spirits, and Jesus Christ is the Creator of this world. They know and understand us and the world around us better than anyone else. Looking to a higher source for knowledge and power can help us far more than relying on the wisdom of the world. We need to have the Spirit and look to the prophets and our priesthood leaders. We also need to look to the scriptures, which contain God’s word to holy men.” (*The Ensign*, August 2011, p. 30). (Emphasis added).

III. Paul taught the saints to be holy and avoid divisions by not judging each other, for some were even taking other saints to court.

- A. He stressed their inability to truly judge, and says, “Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come” (1 Cor. 4: 5).
- B. For then the Lord, who knows all things, will bring to light things we cannot see. He “will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the heart and then shall every man have praise of God” (I Cor. 4:5).
- C. He stressed how the apostles themselves were judged unfairly, and “were despised.” (4:10), but that they suffered such things with patience.
- D. Then he asks rather than go to court, “**why do ye not rather take wrong?** why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded” (I Cor. 6:7). (Emphasis added).

IV. Paul taught that in being a “Temple of God,” it is imperative we each keep ourselves morally clean.

- A. He said “... know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s**” (1 Corinthians 6:20).
  1. He reminds the Saints that the atonement of Jesus Christ purchased them, as a bridegroom pays a bride price for one’s bride.
  2. He also drives home the responsibility Saints have to **keep** their bodies pure. Truly our bodies are as temples, meant for the dwelling of the Holy Ghost.
  3. Further statements by Paul makes clear that all forms of moral uncleanness are repugnant to God, regardless of the opinions of the majority of people in the world --- then or today. And he carefully enumerates many of them to make his point (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

- B. Usage of pornography, which often leads to other sexual sins, has become a major hazard in our modern society, Latter-day Saints should continually be reminded of its great danger.
1. In previous times most individuals had to go seeking for messages promoting immorality. But today its dangers are far greater because:
    - a. It can slip into ones home through many technological devices.
    - b. Some sources are the internet, telephones - especially wireless cell phones, gaming devices, television, DVDs.
    - c. Often pornographers put settings just one letter or number off from popular settings or dialed numbers. Thus unsuspecting persons, even youth, can suddenly find themselves on a site or at a number with pornographic messages or images.
  2. The brain actually is not fully developed until well into the twenties. Those who are exposed to pornography at ages earlier than this are **vulnerable to addiction**.
  3. Some types of personalities are more susceptible to addictions than others.
  4. Scientific research has shown that addiction to pornography is even more difficult to overcome than addictions to drugs.
  5. Addiction to pornography has become a serious problem in our society, and even within the church. Its effects on individuals and families can be devastating.

C. **The newest and best research supports that Pornography is addictive:**

1. “A new peer-reviewed scientific research paper released [July 2015] reconfirms the existence of porn addiction. While recent articles have been in the news that attempted to throw doubt on whether porn use can lead to addiction, **superior research has validated the National Center on Sexual Exploitation’s position that porn addiction is a real, and arduous, obstacle that many struggle with on a daily basis.**”
2. For further information on this new research, go to [www.MeridianMagazine.com](http://www.MeridianMagazine.com), July 22, 2015, or search for the article --- “Sex Addiction as a Disease: Evidence for Assessment, Diagnosis, and Response to Critics”
3. The Church has found it necessary to establish addiction recovery units throughout the church, to help those who have become addicted to various temptations.
4. And they are having success. When individuals genuinely humble themselves, and seek the Lord for help to be healed, they can be healed!