



STRAIGHT TALK.

LEADER'S GUIDE

Bold Letters to the Corinthians

Week #1 Leader's Guide – April 10, 2016

Straight Talk
"Bold Letters to the Corinthians"
SDBC Community Groups

"Affirming the Believers in Corinth"

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Vancouver is a major cosmopolitan city, an important city, a significant west coast entry point to North America. We are a melting pot of cultures with many competing philosophies, religions, and worldviews.

Questions:

1. What are some of these philosophies and worldviews?
2. What do you know about them?
3. What challenges do they present for you personally?
4. What is your concept of “karma”?
5. What is your concept of earning salvation by your virtues or works?
6. How is Christianity different from these other religions?

Play this YouTube video, if possible, and reflect on what the Dalai Lama is saying regarding various religions and philosophies: <https://youtu.be/eQrUWmzshsl>

Questions:

1. Are there points of agreement?
2. Are there points of disagreements?

Respond to the following from the video...

1. “Different illnesses require different medicines.”
2. “Any religion is best because it is most effective for the individual.”
3. “Like a restaurant there are many paths to God. We need much variety – it’s much better.”

Speculate what it is like to have no idea of what Christianity is about and then to hear the gospel message.

Questions:

1. What are some of the competing ideas that the gospel brings to the debate that challenge our thinking?
2. Is Vancouver different from Corinth?
3. What are some similarities?

Read the Key Passage above.

We know that Paul is going to deliver some straight talk regarding various issues that have come up. But pay attention to how he begins.

Is he affirming? If so, what is he affirming?

Galatians 3:26-29 says: ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

How important is affirmation to you?

Applications:

1. What can I learn from the Apostle Paul and his approach to giving critical feedback?
2. What can we learn in combining this passage with Eph. 4:15 "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ," How important is speaking truth in Love rather than "setting someone straight?"
3. How important is it for you to receive God's grace? How important is it for you to give the same grace to your family, spouse, friends, co-workers?
4. How do I apply these truths to my life?