

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Let's read our primary text. We are jumping into a new (non-series) text. What is the context of this passage?

Paul writes to the church at Corinth to address a dangerous drift: some members were denying the resurrection (v. 12). Before refuting that error, he recalls the gospel; its content, its reception, and its saving power. Verses 1–5 serve as the foundation for everything that follows in chapter 15. This passage contains what many scholars consider the earliest creedal summary of the Christian faith, likely passed to Paul within a few years of the resurrection itself.

3. In verses 1-2, what verbs does Paul use to describe his audience's relationship to the gospel?

Paul expresses four verbs: preached, received, stand, being saved. This shows the gospel is not merely intellectual content but an ongoing, relational reality. The group 'received' it (a transaction of trust and faith), they 'stand' in it (present stability), and they 'are being saved' (a continuing grace-filled process, not just a past event).

4. You may have heard the phrase, "I was saved, I am being saved, I will be saved." What doctrines are present in this statement and what does it actually mean in a practical sense?

This phrase represents a simplified threefold view of Christian salvation: justification (past, from the penalty of sin), sanctification (present, from the power of sin), and glorification (future, from the presence of sin). It captures a complete process of liberation through Jesus Christ, balancing an accomplished fact with ongoing spiritual growth and future hope.

5. In verse 3, Paul says he 'delivered' what he 'received'. What does this language suggest about the gospel's origin and transmission? How does 2 Timothy 2:2 challenge us to do just as Paul did?

This is technical rabbinic language for passing on a received tradition. Paul is not giving his own theological invention, he is faithfully handing on what was entrusted to him. The gospel has an authoritative source (Christ, through apostolic witness) and must be transmitted accurately.

(Note: Paul uses the same language in 1 Cor. 11:23 about the Lord's Supper. This signals formal tradition, not personal opinion.)

6. Why do you think Paul includes mentioning Jesus' appearance to Cephas and the Twelve? What function do these witnesses serve?

Paul is building an evidentiary case. In the Jewish legal tradition, a matter was established by two or three witnesses (Deut. 19:15). Peter and the Twelve are the eyewitness foundation of the resurrection claim. Paul will continue in 15:6–8, adding 500 brothers and finally himself. The point: the resurrection is not a spiritual symbol or subjective experience—it is a claim about a historical event with named, verifiable witnesses.

7. Find the key word/phrases in this text. How might you shape/add to your own gospel presentation using some of this same verbiage?

Framework:

1. Christ died for our sins.
2. He was buried.
3. He was raised on the third day.
4. He appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the Twelve.

8. Paul says we must 'hold fast' to the gospel. What are the subtle ways we can drift from the gospel's centrality in our everyday lives?

Examples: Replacing the gospel with moralism (trying to be good without resting in grace) or simply reducing Christianity to social causes or community without doctrinal content.

9. Paul describes the gospel as something of 'first importance.' How does this instruct us concerning our priorities?

[Dialogue]

10. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

## GREAT COMMISSION

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to practice sharing the gospel with the group?

## CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

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Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- GotQuestions.org
- Multiple AI Resources