

Life Group Guide 1 Cor 16:12–24 “Principles for Christian Conduct” For the Sermon Preached on Apr 2 and For Use in Life Groups through Apr 9

Icebreaker Questions

What is the scariest thing you’ve ever done? What made it scary? How did you get through it?

Read the Biblical Text: 1 Cor 16:12–24

Note: Pastor Richard preached his second sermon from 1 Corinthians 16 on Sunday and focused on vs. 13-14. To make sure that we adequately cover the chapter in our Life Groups, we will focus on all of 16:12-24 this week.

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. Proper Christian Conduct Requires One to “Watch” (v. 13)**
 - a. A failure to “watch” results in a moral and spiritual downfall.
 - b. Areas in our life where we should always be on watch.
 - i. Satan’s attacks (1 Pet. 5:8).
 - ii. Temptation (Gal. 5:16).
 - iii. Apathy and Indifference (Rev. 3:1-3).
 - iv. False teachers (2 Pet. 2:1).
 - v. Watch and pray (Mark 14:38; Eph. 6:17-18).
 - vi. The Lord’s return (2 Pet. 3:10-12).
- II. Proper Christian Conduct Requires One to “Stand Fast in the Faith” (v. 13)**
 - a. A failure to “stand fast in the faith” results in wrong thinking, wrong belief, and wrong behavior.
 - b. Why do professing Christian’s compromise with the culture?
 - i. Indulge our own desires (1 Pet. 2:11; James. 1:14-15)
 - ii. Ignorance of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15, 3:16-17)
 - iii. Fear of being “labeled” (Rom. 12:1-2)
 - iv. Misguided attempt to be relevant (2 Tim. 3:1-5)
- III. Proper Christian Conduct Requires One to “Be Brave” (v. 13)**
 - a. Without maturing in your faith you’ll never be bold (v. 13c).
 - b. How does a believer mature?
 - i. A believer matures by studying God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 - ii. A believer matures by the example of others (Titus 2; Gal. 6).
 - iii. A believer matures by gathering with God’s people (Heb. 10:25).
- IV. Proper Christian Conduct Requires One to “Be Strong” (v. 13)**
 - a. Without spiritual growth you’ll continue to lose every battle against sin and temptation.
 - b. The person who thinks he is strong in himself is at the greatest danger of falling (1 Cor. 10:12).
- V. Proper Christian Conduct Requires One to Be Loving (v. 14)**
 - a. Love compliments all that a believer does.
 - b. Love balances all that a believer does.

Observations of the Biblical Text

1. Who else does Paul say will soon visit the Corinthians in v. 12?

2. What four things does Paul encourage the Corinthians to do in v. 13?

3. What does Paul encourage the Corinthians to do in v. 14?

4. Who were among the first converts in southern Greece (Achaia)? How does Paul describe these converts?

Life Group Guide 1 Cor 16:12–24 “Principles for Christian Conduct” For the Sermon Preached on Apr 2 and For Use in Life Groups through Apr 9

5. In vs. 16 and 18b, what does Paul instruct believers to do?

6. According to vs. 17-18, who delivered news to Paul about how things were going in Corinth? What did they report?

7. From where does Paul bring greetings to the Corinthians in vs. 19-20?

8. What parting admonitions does Paul give in vs. 21-24?

Interpretation of the Biblical Text

1. Think back through the outline of 1 Corinthians. What has Paul talked about in this letter? Where were the Corinthians going wrong? What have you learned?

2. In vs. 13-14, Paul gives a number of admonitions. Talk about each of these—what do they mean? Why might Paul issue these commands to the churches? How are they a fitting conclusion to the rest of the letter?

3. In vs. 12-19 Paul names a number of Christian leaders and then says, “Submit yourselves to such as these and leaders like them” (v. 16)? What is Paul teaching us here? What does this tell us about our church?

4. There are spiritual principles we can learn from Paul’s final greetings and conclusion (vs. 19-23)? What does Paul say at the end of 1 Corinthians? What spiritual principles can we glean from these verses?

Application of the Biblical Text

1. This week memorize 1 Corinthians 16:13-14: “Be watchful. Stand firm in the faith. Act like adults. Be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

2. Keep up with our annual Bible reading plan this week. If you have fallen behind, you can pick up where we are right now in the plan. **If you have the opportunity and haven’t read through Judges yet, start there. Pastor Richard will begin preaching through Judges right after Easter.**

3. If someone in your group told you they wanted to put into practice all the things Paul mentions in v. 13, what advice would you give them to help them do that well?

4. What would you say to a person who refuses to join a church because they don’t want to have to submit to the authority of spiritual leaders? How might vs. 12-19, especially v. 16, help you answer their objections?