

Rooted In Godly Values

When we consider the idea of becoming Christ-like in character, it is natural to turn to Christ as an example of how we are to live. In the New Testament, the early Christians were trying to do the same thing; we are fortunate to have letters written by early Church leaders that discuss practically how our character should be shaped by Christ.

One of these letters is the first letter written to the Corinthians, sent by the Apostle Paul. It was tough to be a Christian in the town of Corinth. As a thriving port city, the range of cultural and religious values soon gave Corinth a reputation as an “anything goes” sort of place. It is not surprising that the new Christians in the little church struggled with developing a character that reflected Christ. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he challenged them on many moral issues that were holding them back from enjoying the fullness of God. These issues included sexual immorality (one leader was sleeping with his step-mother), religious pluralism (many pagan practices, common in Corinth, were finding their way into the Christian community), struggles with church unity (in a culture focussed very much on status, the church struggled to understand that everyone had to be included and valued equally), and self-centred worship (the church was blessed with spiritual gifts, but had gone a little haywire with their use in worship services!).

As you read Corinthians and remember its context, you will soon see that its message is hugely applicable today. Your youth will likely find that they, too, face many of the religious and cultural challenges which the Corinthians also struggled with. Similarly, today’s youth must negotiate their way through a world with loose sexual values, pluralistic religious teachings, and the mentality that pleasure comes before principle. For that reason, the call that Paul made to the Corinthian believers can still speak to us: You must be rooted in Godly Values.

Although there are many key teachings in First Corinthians, this module focuses on five specific values/character traits that Paul calls for in his letter: Godly Wisdom, Purity, Consideration, God-Centeredness, and Love. As you study this book together, you may want to encourage your students to read the rest of the book during their private time with God. This will enable them to

see even further ways that our values must reflect the character of Christ Himself. (If you wanted to create a sixth lesson, you could end the series with a lesson where the youth bring other questions they have from reading the book.)