

Pastor Tim Bittle
1 CORINTHIANS
Part 15: The Unpolluted Gospel

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

The most important thing is that you have been saved by the Good News. It is not about what you have done or will do; it is the finished work of grace, accomplished by Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

[1 Corinthians 15.1-10, NLT/NIV/NASB]

*Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. **It is this Good News that saves you** if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I*

*had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and **His grace to me was not without effect.** For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by His grace.*

[Philippians 1.27, NLT]

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.

Our actions bear weight on the condition of our soul.

David Guzik: "Grace isn't given because of any works past, present or promised; yet it is given to encourage work, not to say work is not necessary. God's grace is not given to remain passive."

I DO because I AM, not I AM because I DO.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What does it mean that we are saved by grace, and grace alone?**
- 2. What effects should God's grace have on the way we live? How was Paul's life and attitude specifically influenced?**
- 3. How does living with disregard to God's Word during the week devalue the freedom that Christ gave up his life for us to enjoy (cheap grace versus costly grace)?**
- 4. Grace is more than just forgiveness; it is the freedom to live biblically. What is a practical way this week for you to walk in that freedom?**
- 5. Who are some people in your life who help you to protect your God-given identity, in the midst of a culture full of mixed messages? What are some things they say or do to regularly point you back to Jesus?**