

I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

1 Cor 10:33

A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate Christ, working with others to advance God's Kingdom in Chard and the world

**Seek God** – in prayer, worship, study of the Scripture and fellowship, we value the pursuit of God in Jesus Christ;

**Love Generously** – in time, talent and treasure, to stimulate one another to good works and a lifestyle of generosity;

**Expect transformation** – to see God's Holy Spirit move in individual lives, in the church and across our community

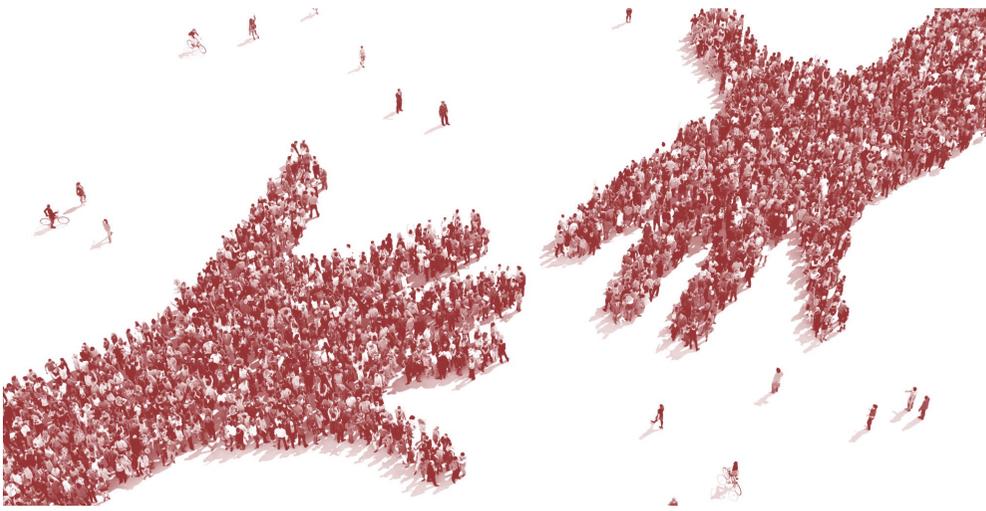
You may have been coming to Forefront for years. Or maybe you just popped in for one Sunday. Either way, if you feel moved to act on anything mentioned in the talks, we would be pleased to pray with you.

Ask someone in the service to point you in the right direction, or call in during the week at Forefront Community Centre (next to Chard Post Office sorting centre).

# 1st Corinthians, part 2



So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!



Paul founded the church at Corinth around 50AD during his second missionary journey.

A few years later, on his third journey, he spent three years teaching in Ephesus. While there, a lively exchange of letters began with Corinth, 180 miles away (1Cor 5:9 suggests Paul has already written once, but we don't have that letter). His correspondents have told him (verbally and in writing) of problems in the church, and asked his opinion about rivalry and divisions, immorality and doctrine. Paul replies in this letter, sent with Timothy (1Cor 4:17, Acts 19:22).

We looked at the first part in March and April. You can find the recordings of the speakers at [forefront.org.uk/sermons/](http://forefront.org.uk/sermons/) and the series notes are also on the website.

The final part of the series will be in the Autumn.

**7** – *Singleness and Marriage, God's gifts* ▶ 1 July ▶ Keith Barnard ▶ **1Cor 7**  
 How do we as Christians regard all the kinds of relationship around us today? Living together, civil partnership, same-sex marriage, easy divorce and unhappy married couples are presented to us as "normal". Should we let that culture set our agenda? Paul knew the Corinthians faced a similar dilemma - perhaps his advice to them can guide us through the minefield.

**8** – *Freedom that blesses* ▶ 8 July ▶ David Burfield ▶ **1Cor 8**  
 Food offered to idols is probably not high on our agenda, but that question aside, this passage challenges us to consider the freedom we have in Christ and how we use that freedom. The essence of Christian living is not slavishly following rules and regulations, dos and don'ts; yet we are urged to consider how our lifestyle impacts others. Does our example encourage and build up? Or maybe cause our fellow Christian to stumble in their faith? We **are** our brother's keeper.

**9** – *Rights and responsibilities* ▶ 15 July ▶ David Herring ▶ **1Cor 9**  
 Paul discusses Christian motivations for ministry. As we become aware of God's will for us, we have a range of options: refuse it (and, Paul says, "woe to me!" if I do that); respond grudgingly and with an eye on our own recompense ("is it too much if I receive a material harvest?"); or accept the commission with a willing, sacrificial heart, and the joy of being a partner in God's plan. "If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me."

**10** – *Living for Jesus in the face of temptation* ▶ 22 July ▶ Tom Smith ▶ **1Cor 10**  
 As followers of Jesus we are called to be different but we are still beset by the same temptations that ensnared the Israelites and "all mankind": evil desires, idolatry, greed, sexual immorality, 'testing' God and grumbling. Paul recalls the Old Testament story of the Exodus as a warning of the consequences of falling into temptation. He promises that God will enable us to resist and stand firm so that we can live for the glory of God.

