

# **Women's Bible Study**

## **Discussion Questions for January 18, 2017**

### **Unity in the Cross – 1 Corinthians 1 ~ Gretchen Steer**

*Please note: all groups will do discussion questions for the kickoff, since study groups have not had a chance to prepare. Study and discussion questions will resume January 25.*

1. In 1 Cor. 1:4-9, Paul views the church as Christ does – holy, full of spiritual gifts, faithful. How do you view the church (the worldwide church which is the body of Christ)? What are its strengths? What are its flaws? How can you, as an individual, strengthen your local church?
  
2. Are there apostles today? How would we recognize them? How should we treat someone who claims the authority of an apostle?
  
3. The church at Corinth was split into four factions, each of them aligning with either a teacher or simply with Jesus. This type of division breaks the heart of Christ. What factions or divisions do you see in the worldwide church today? How can they be overcome? How can Christians sincerely disagree on matters of practice (like communion, or women in ministry) without shattering unity?
  
4. Name two or three people whom the world considers to be wise. Now read 1 Cor. 1:20. Do these people meet the Bible's standard for wisdom? Why or why not? Define the difference between "wisdom" and "knowledge".
  
5. 1 Cor. 1:28 says that "God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him." (NIV) Try reading this verse in two or three different translations, if available among your group members. What does this verse mean? Does it mean that intelligence and education are incompatible with faith in Christ?
  
6. In your experience, what drew you to Christ? Was it a convincing argument? A convicting sermon? A crisis? Ask some of the group members to share a brief story of how they came to faith. Why do you think God calls us in such different ways? How should we, as a body of believers, get the message of Christ out to others?