

Chapter 7

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What are the sources of power, and how did Jesus use them?*

Power from Authority: Jesus' authority comes from his being the Son of God. Jesus used this power to control nature and demons and to heal. But he used his power from authority sparingly and only to benefit others.

Power from Influence: Jesus used this source of power to persuade people to accept his teachings and to follow him.

Power from Action: Jesus didn't just preach; he practiced what he preached when confronting injustices and wrongdoing, even when it was a great risk to his own life.

2. *What challenges did Paul face when he tried to convince people that Jesus was the Son of God?*

Jesus was considered by some to be a heretic and the leader of a failed rebellion. Many people at that time believed that the strength of their god enabled them to defeat their enemy in battle. Believing that God was beaten, nailed to a cross, and died seemed paradoxical to many people of the time.

3. *Why did Paul chastise the Corinthians? Why did he suggest they become "fools for Christ"?*

Paul chastised them for having an overinflated sense of their own strength, wisdom, and accomplishment. Some of the community believed that they were more important or more spiritually advanced than others. Paul suggested that the Corinthians become "fools for Christ" because their love for Christ should be unrestrained and without any concern for themselves. Love is all that matters.

4. *Some of the early Christians believed that because we are saved by God's grace, it does not matter how we act. How did Paul respond to this false belief?*

Paul taught that Jesus was handed over for our transgressions and was raised for our justification—God's action of bringing sinful human beings into right relationship with him. It involves the removal of sin and the gift of God's sanctifying grace to renew holiness. But we also have a role to play in our salvation by accepting God's grace. Our actions show that we have been transformed by God's grace and are living lives worthy of the Gospel.

5. *Why was the resurrection of the body difficult for Jewish Christians to believe? Why was it difficult for Gentile Christians?*

For Jewish Christians, the issue of an immortal soul was not resolved within Judaism yet. Belief in life after death was relatively new to the Jewish People, so many did not believe in life after death at all. Many of the Gentiles believed that there were two realms of existence: spiritual and material. The spiritual realm was understood as the eternal perfection of truth, beauty, wisdom, and goodness. The material realm was imperfect and corruptible. The Gentiles believed our material bodies were like cages that trapped our souls and kept us from spiritual perfection. So they believed that when we die, our souls will be freed from our material bodies. This was an obstacle to their belief in a bodily resurrection of the dead.



6. *In Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, what main points did Paul make to support his case for the resurrection of the dead?*

- Jesus Christ truly resurrected from the dead.
- If Jesus' Resurrection occurred, then resurrection from the dead must be possible.
- Death has no power over God's salvation.
- If there is no resurrection of the dead, then there is no reason to be good.
- A resurrected body is different from a mortal body.

7. *What metaphor does Paul use to explain the Church community to the Corinthians?*

Paul compares the Church community to a human body. Even though there are many parts to a body, there is still only one body. The Church is made up of many individuals, like the body is made up of different parts (hands, feet, mouth, etc.). Similarly, even though there are many individuals, we are one Church. We were created to have the same concern for one another as we have for ourselves.

