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To the Corinthians (1)

Chapter One

From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by Godde's will, and from our brother Sosthenes, ²to the community of Godde which is in Corinth, to those have been made holy in Christ Jesus, called to be holy people, with all who appeal to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from Godde our Mother and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank my Godde for you because of Godde's grace given to you in Christ Jesus, ⁵because in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶just as the testimony of Christ was strengthened among you ⁷so that you don't lack any spiritual gift as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He'll strengthen you to the end too, beyond reproach in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹Godde is trustworthy, who called you into partnership with her Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹⁰Now I beg you, sisters and brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in mind and purpose. ¹¹Chloe's people have informed me that there are quarrels among you, my sisters and brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I'm thankful to Godde that I didn't baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(Oh, I baptized the household of Stephanas too; beyond that, I don't know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷Christ didn't send me to baptize but to announce the good news—but not with wisdom and eloquence, so that the cross of Christ wouldn't be made void.

¹⁸The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are dying, but to those of us who are being given life it's the power of Godde, ¹⁹because it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And I will thwart the learning of the learned."

²⁰Where's the wise person? Where's the scholar? Where's the debater of this age? Hasn't Godde made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹Since by Godde's Wisdom, the world through its wisdom didn't know Godde, Godde was pleased to give life to those who trust through the foolishness of our proclamation. ²²Jews ask for signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles; ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of Godde and the Wisdom of Godde. ²⁵Because Godde's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and Godde's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Look at your own calling, sisters and brothers; not many of you were wise according to the flesh, not many were powerful, and not many were upper-class; ²⁷but Godde chose the foolish of the world so that she might shame those who are wise. Godde chose the weak of the world so that she might shame the strong ²⁸and Godde chose the lowly of the world, the despised, those regarded as nothing, to bring to nothing those who think they're something ²⁹so that no flesh can boast before Godde. ³⁰Because of her you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us Wisdom from Godde, and justice and holiness and redemption ³¹so that, as it is written, "The one who boasts should boast in the Lady."

Chapter Two

When I came to you, sisters and brothers, I didn't come proclaiming Godde's mystery to you with eloquence or wisdom, ²because I resolved not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I was with you in weakness, reverence, and much awe. ⁴My message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power ⁵so that you wouldn't trust in human wisdom but in Godde's power.

⁶We speak wisdom, however, among those who are mature; a wisdom not of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷But we speak Godde's Wisdom, hidden in a mystery, which Godde already knew before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age has known it, because if they knew, they wouldn't have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But as it is written:

"What no eye has seen and no ear has heard,
what no human heart has conceived,
is what Godde has prepared for those who love her."

¹⁰But Godde revealed them through the Spirit to us, because the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of Godde. ¹¹Who knows what someone's thinking except their spirit within? In the same way, no one knows what Godde's thinking except Godde's Spirit. ¹²Now we haven't received the spirit of the world but the Spirit from Godde, so that we might know what was freely given to us by Godde. ¹³We don't speak of these things in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with spiritual words. ¹⁴Now a natural person doesn't welcome the things of Godde's Spirit, because these are foolishness to them, and they can't know them because they're spiritually judged. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things but is judged by no one.

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lady?
Who will instruct her?"

But we have Christ's mind.

Chapter Three

Sisters and brothers, I couldn't speak to you as to spiritual people, but as to people of the flesh, infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, because you weren't ready yet. You're still not ready, ³because you're still fleshly. As long as there's jealousy and quarreling among you, aren't you fleshly and living in merely human ways? ⁴When one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," aren't you merely human? ⁵Then who is Apollos? And who is Paul? Ministers through whom you trusted, as the Lady assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but Godde provided the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants is anything, nor the one who waters, but Godde who provides the growth. ⁸Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one, but each will receive their own reward according to their own labor ⁹because we are Godde's co-workers. You're Godde's field, Godde's building.

¹⁰By the grace Godde has given me, like a wise master carpenter I laid a foundation, and someone else builds on it. But each one should watch out how they build on it ¹¹because no one can lay any other foundation than the one being laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³the work of each one will be revealed. The day will shed light on it, because it's revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each one's work. ¹⁴If what anyone has built remains, they will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned up, they will suffer loss. They will be rescued, but as through fire. ¹⁶Don't you all know that you're Godde's temple,

and that Godde's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys Godde's temple, Godde will destroy them, because Godde's temple is holy, and that's what you are.

¹⁸No one should deceive himself. If anyone thinks they're wise among you in this age, they should become foolish so that they may become wise, ¹⁹because the wisdom of this world is foolishness with Godde. As it is written, "She catches the wise in their craftiness." ²⁰And again, "The Lady knows the thoughts of the 'wise,' that they're futile." ²¹So no one should boast about people, because all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come. All are yours, ²³and you are Christ's, and Christ is Godde's.

Chapter Four

People should think of us as Christ's servants, stewards of Godde's mysteries. ²One requirement of stewards is that they be trustworthy. ³But I don't really care if I'm judged by you or by human judgment. I don't even judge myself, ⁴because I'm not aware of anything against myself. That doesn't justify me, however; the Lord judges me. ⁵So don't judge anything before the time, before the Lord comes. He'll bring to light what's hidden in the darkness and reveal the motives of everyone's hearts, then they'll receive their praise from Godde.

⁶Now I've applied these things to myself and Apollos for you, sisters and brothers, so that through us you might learn the meaning of "Don't go beyond what's written," so that none of you will be arrogant toward each other. ⁷Who makes you different from anyone else? And what do you have that you didn't receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you haven't received it? ⁸You're already full! You've already become rich! You've become rulers without us! I wish that you really had become rulers so that we might be rulers with you. ⁹I think Godde has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like people sentenced to death, because we've become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and humankind. ¹⁰We're fools because of Christ, but you're wise in Christ. We're weak, but you're strong. You're honorable, but we're dishonorable. ¹¹To this present hour we're hungry and thirsty, naked and beaten, homeless. ¹²We work hard with our own hands. When we're cursed, we bless. When we're harassed, we're patient. ¹³When we're slandered, we encourage. We've become the trash of the world, the scum of the earth, up to now.

¹⁴I'm not writing these things to shame you, but to instruct you as my beloved children. ¹⁵Even if you had ten thousand custodians in Christ, you don't have many fathers, because I became your father in Christ Jesus through the good news. ¹⁶So I beg you to be like me. ¹⁷Because of this I sent to you Timothy, my beloved and trustworthy child in the Lady. He'll remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus that I teach everywhere in every community.

¹⁸Now some became arrogant, thinking I'm not coming to you. ¹⁹But I will come to you soon, if the Lady is willing, and I'll find out not only what the arrogant ones are saying, but what power they have. ²⁰Because Godde's reign isn't just talk, but power. ²¹What do you want? Should I come to you with a stick, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

Chapter Five

It's actually being said that there's promiscuity among you, and a type of promiscuity that's not even found among the Gentiles: Someone has his father's wife! ²And you're proud? Shouldn't you grieve instead, so that the one who's done this might be ostracized? ³For my part, though absent in body I'm present in spirit, and as if I were present I've already judged the one who's done this thing ⁴in the name of our Lord Jesus. When you're gathered together and my spirit is present with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵you're to turn over such a person to the Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be rescued in the day of the Lady. ⁶Your boasting isn't good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? ⁷Clean out the old yeast so you may be a new batch, as you really are

unleavened because Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed. ⁸So let's keep the feast, not with old yeast, the yeast of hateful feelings and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with promiscuous people, ¹⁰not at all meaning the promiscuous people of this world or the greedy and swindlers or idolaters, because then you'd have to leave the world. ¹¹But now I'm writing to you not to associate with anyone who's called a sister or brother who's promiscuous or greedy, or an idolater, slanderer, alcohol abuser, or swindler. Don't even eat with such a person. ¹²What business do I have judging outsiders? Don't you judge insiders? ¹³But Godde will judge the outsiders. "Ostracize the evil one from among yourselves."

Chapter Six

If any of you has something against another, do you dare to go to court before the unjust instead of before the holy ones? ²Don't you know that the holy ones will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you incompetent to judge trivial matters? ³Don't you know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴So if you have to judge the things of this life, do you appoint judges who have no standing in the community? ⁵I say this to shame you. Isn't there even a single person among you who's wise enough to judge between their sisters and brothers? ⁶But sisters and brothers go to court against each other, and that before those who don't trust! ⁷So you're already defeated because you have lawsuits against each other. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? ⁸But you yourselves do wrong and defraud, and that against your sisters and brothers. ⁹Or don't you know that the unjust won't inherit Godde's reign? Don't be deceived! Neither the promiscuous, nor idolaters, nor the unfaithful, nor male sex workers, nor pedophiles, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor alcohol abusers, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit Godde's reign. ¹¹That's what some of you used to be, but you were washed, you were made holy, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our Godde.

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³"Food for the belly, and the belly for food; Godde will bring both it and them to nothing." The body isn't for promiscuity, however, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴Godde raised the Lord and will raise us too by her power. ¹⁵Don't you know that your bodies are part of Christ? So should I take the parts of Christ and make them parts of a sex worker? Certainly not! ¹⁶Or don't you know that whoever is joined to a sex worker becomes one body with them? For it says, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷But whoever is joined to the Lord is one spirit. ¹⁸Flee promiscuity! "Every offense that can be committed is outside the body," but whoever is promiscuous offends the body itself. ¹⁹Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit among you, whom you've received from Godde? You're not your own, ²⁰because you were bought at a price. So glorify Godde in your body.

Chapter Seven

Now about what you wrote: "It's good for people not to touch each other." ²But because of promiscuity, every man should have his own partner and every woman should have her own partner. ³The husband should fulfill his partner and the wife should fulfill her partner. ⁴The wife doesn't have authority over her own body, but her partner does. Likewise, the husband doesn't have authority over his own body, but his partner does. ⁵Don't deprive each other, except by mutual consent for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and then come together again so the Satan won't tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶But I say this as a concession, not as a precept. ⁷I actually wish that all people were like me. But everyone has their own gift from Godde; one has this and another has that.

⁸I say to the single and widowed, it's good for them if they remain like me. ⁹But if they don't have self-control, they should marry, because it's better to marry than to burn with passion. ¹⁰To the married

I instruct (not I, but the Lord) that they not leave their partner; ¹¹if they do leave, they should either remain single or be reconciled to their partner. ¹²But to the rest I (not the Lord) say, if any brother has a partner who doesn't trust but is content to live with him, he shouldn't leave, ¹³and if a woman has a partner who doesn't trust but is content to live with her, she shouldn't leave, ¹⁴because the husband who doesn't trust is made holy by his partner and the wife who doesn't trust is made holy by her partner. Otherwise your children would be impure, but as it is they're holy. ¹⁵But if the one who doesn't trust leaves, they should separate. The sister or brother isn't obligated in such cases, but Godde has called you in peace. ¹⁶For how do you know, O wife, whether you'll give life to your partner? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you'll give life to your partner?

¹⁷Nevertheless, everyone should live as the Lady has indicated, as Godde has called each one. This is my instruction to all the communities. ¹⁸Was anyone already circumcised when he was called? He shouldn't hide it. Was anyone uncircumcised when he was called? He shouldn't be circumcised. ¹⁹Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping Godde's precepts is everything. ²⁰Everyone should stay in the status in which they were called. ²¹Were you a bondservant when you were called? Don't let that bother you, but if you get an opportunity to become free, take it! ²²For whoever was a bondservant when they were called in the Lady is the Lady's free person. In the same way, whoever was free when they were called is Christ's bondservant. ²³You were bought with a price, so don't become bondservants of human beings. ²⁴Sisters and brothers, everyone should stay with Godde in whatever status they were in when they were called.

²⁵Now about celibacy, I have no precept from the Lord, but I offer my opinion as one who's trustworthy by the Lord's mercy. ²⁶I think it's good. Because of the present crisis, it's good for a person to remain as they are. ²⁷Are you bound to a partner? Don't seek separation. Are you separated? Don't seek a partner. ²⁸But if you do marry, you haven't done anything wrong. If a celibate person marries, they haven't done anything wrong. Yet they will experience distress in the flesh, and I'd like to spare you that. ²⁹What I'm saying is this, sisters and brothers: The time is short, and from now on, those who have partners should live as if they had none, ³⁰and those who weep, as if they didn't weep; and those who rejoice, as if they didn't rejoice; and those who buy, as though they didn't possess; ³¹and those who use the world, as not using it to the fullest, because the present form of this world is passing away. ³²But I want you to be free of worry. A single man cares about the Lady's business, how he may please the Lady; ³³but a married man cares about the things of the world, how he may please his partner, ³⁴and he's distracted. The single or celibate woman cares about the Lady's business, so that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But the married woman cares about worldly business, how she may please her partner. ³⁵I'm saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but with a view to what's appropriate so you may serve the Lady without distraction.

³⁶But if anyone thinks they're behaving inappropriately toward their fiancée, if they're not as young as they used to be and if it's necessary, they should do what they want. They're not wrong. They should marry. ³⁷But whoever stands firm in their resolve and doesn't have the need, but has their desire under control and has decided not to marry their fiancée, they do well. ³⁸So then, whoever marries their fiancée does well, and whoever doesn't marry their fiancée does better.

³⁹A partner is obligated as long as their partner lives. But if their partner dies, they're free to marry whomever they desire, only in the Lady. ⁴⁰But in my opinion they're happier if they stay as they are, and I think that I have Godde's Spirit too.

Chapter Eight

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "we all have knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone thinks they know anything, they don't yet know as they ought to know. ³But if anyone loves Godde, they're known by her. ⁴So about eating food sacrificed to idols, we understand that "no idol is anything in the world," and that "there's no other Godde but one." ⁵Even if there are ones

called goddesses and gods, whether in heaven or on earth – as there really are many goddesses and gods and many ladies and lords – ‘yet for us there is one Godde, the Mother, from whom are all things and for whom we live; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we live.

⁷But not everyone has that knowledge. There are some people who, being used to idols, eat the food as an idolatrous sacrifice, and their weak conscience is defiled. ⁸“Food will not commend us to Godde. We’re neither worse off if we don’t eat nor better off if we do eat.” ⁹But watch out so that this liberty of yours doesn’t become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰If anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t they be tempted to eat food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So your knowledge destroys your weak sister or brother for whom Christ died! ¹²In this way, by offending your sisters and brothers and wounding their conscience when it’s weak, you offend Christ. ¹³So if food causes my sister or brother to stumble, I’ll never eat meat again so that I don’t cause my sister or brother to stumble.

Chapter Nine

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Haven’t I seen Jesus our Lord? Aren’t you my work in the Lord? ²If I’m not an apostle to others, at least I am to you, because you’re the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³My defense to those who examine me is this: ⁴Don’t we have the right to eat and drink? ⁵Don’t we have the right to take a partner along with us, as do the rest of the apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas? ⁶Or is it just Barnabas and I who have to work for a living? ⁷What soldier ever serves at their own expense? Who plants a vineyard and doesn’t eat its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and doesn’t drink from the flock’s milk? ⁸Do I say these things on human authority? Doesn’t the Torah say the same thing? ⁹In the Torah of Moses it is written, “Don’t muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” It’s not for the oxen that Godde cares, is it? ¹⁰Isn’t it because of us that she says it? It was written for us, because whoever plows should plow in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of sharing the crop. ¹¹If we sowed spiritual seed among you, is it too much to ask to reap a material harvest from you? ¹²If others have the right to expect something from you, don’t we even more? But we didn’t use this right. Instead, we endure anything rather than hinder the good news of Christ. ¹³Don’t you know that those who serve in the temple eat from the things of the temple and those who wait on the altar share what’s on the altar? ¹⁴In the same way the Lady instructed that those who proclaim the good news should earn their living from the good news. ¹⁵But I haven’t used any of these rights, and I’m not writing these things so that you’ll do these things for me, because I’d rather die than allow anyone to make my boast an empty one! ¹⁶If I announce the good news, there’s nothing for me to boast about, since I’m compelled; but woe is me if I don’t announce the good news! ¹⁷If I do this willingly, I have a reward. But if I don’t do this willingly, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. ¹⁸Then what’s my reward? That when I announce the good news, I may make the good news available free of charge, so as not to abuse my right in the good news.

¹⁹Though I’m free from all people, I’ve made myself a bondservant to all people so that I might win over more. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew so that I might win over Jews; to those under Torah, as under Torah though I myself am not under Torah so that I might win over those under Torah; ²¹to those without Torah, as without Torah (though I’m not without Godde’s Torah, but with Christ’s Torah) so that I might win over those who are without Torah. ²²To the weak I became weak so that I might win over the weak. I’ve become all things to all people so that by all means I may give life to some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the good news so that I may share in it.

²⁴Don’t you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run to win. ²⁵Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I don’t run aimlessly; I don’t box pulling punches, ²⁷but I punish my body and bring it into submission so that after proclaiming to others, I myself won’t be disqualified.

Chapter Ten

I don't want you to be ignorant, sisters and brothers, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. They were drinking from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵But Godde was not pleased with most of them, because they were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things have become examples for us so that we shouldn't lust after evil things as they did. ⁷Don't become idolaters either, as some of them did. As it is written:

"The people sat down to eat and drink,
and got up to fool around."

⁸We shouldn't be promiscuous either, as some of them were, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. ⁹We shouldn't test Christ either, as some of them did, and were killed by the serpents. ¹⁰Don't complain either, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written to instruct us, to whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So the one who thinks they're standing should watch out that they don't fall! ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that isn't common to humankind. But Godde is trustworthy; she won't allow you to be tempted beyond what you're able to handle, but with the temptation will make a way out too so that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴So, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵I speak as to thoughtful people. Judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶Isn't the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a sharing in the blood of Christ? Isn't the loaf which we break a sharing of the body of Christ? ¹⁷Since there's one loaf, we, who are many, are one body because we all share the one loaf. ¹⁸Consider Israel according to the flesh. Don't those who eat the sacrifices share in the altar? ¹⁹What am I saying then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, I'm saying they sacrifice to demons and not to Godde, and I don't want you to become partners with demons. ²¹You can't drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too. You can't take part in the table of the Lord and the table of demons too. ²²Or do we provoke the Lady to jealousy? We're not stronger than she is, are we?

²³"All things are lawful," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. ²⁴No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. ²⁵Eat everything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶because "the earth is the Lady's, and its fullness." ²⁷If someone who doesn't trust invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat everything that's put in front of you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," don't eat it because of the one who told you and because of conscience. ²⁹When I say conscience, I don't mean your own, but the other person's, because why should my liberty be judged by another's conscience? ³⁰If I take part with thankfulness, why am I slandered because of that for which I give thanks? ³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything for Godde's glory. ³²Don't offend Jews, Greeks, or the community of Godde, ³³just as I please all people in everything too, not seeking my own good but the good of the many, so that they may be given life.

Chapter Eleven

Imitate me as I imitate Christ.

²Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and firmly hold the traditions just as I passed them on to you.

³But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. ⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with anything on his head shames his head. ⁵But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled shames her head, because it's the same as having her head shaved. ⁶If a woman isn't veiled, she should cut off her hair. But if it's shameful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, she should be veiled. ⁷A man shouldn't have his head veiled since he's the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of the man ⁸because the man wasn't made from the woman, but the woman from the man. ⁹The man wasn't created for the woman, but the woman for the man.

¹⁰But the woman should have liberty over her head for this reason: because of the angels. ¹¹The point is that in the Lady, the woman isn't independent of the man, nor is the man independent of the woman, ¹²because just as woman came from man, so a man comes through a woman too, but all things are from Godde. ¹³Judge for yourselves. "Is it appropriate for a woman to pray to Godde unveiled?" ¹⁴Isn't it natural to think that if a man has long hair, it's dishonorable for him, ¹⁵but if a woman has long hair, it's a glory to her? Because her hair has been given to her instead of a veil. ¹⁶But if anyone wants to quarrel, we have no such custom, nor do Godde's communities.

¹⁷Now in the following instructions I don't praise you, because when you come together it's not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For first of all, I hear that there are divisions among you when you come together in the community, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹Doubtless there must be schisms among you to show who's right. ²⁰So when you come together you're not really eating the Lord's supper ²¹because when you eat, everyone eats their own supper first. One goes hungry and another gets drunk. ²²What, don't you have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you underestimate Godde's community and shame those who don't have anything? What should I tell you? Should I praise you? I won't praise you about this.

²³What I passed on to you is what I received from the Lord. The night he was handed over, the Lord Jesus took a loaf. ²⁴When he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body for you. Do this in memory of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup too after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink, do it in memory of me." ²⁶Whenever you eat this loaf and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷So whoever eats the loaf or drinks the Lord's cup in a shameful way will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸Everyone should examine themselves before they eat the loaf and drink from the cup, ²⁹because the one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body eats and drinks judgment against himself. ³⁰That's why many of you are weak and sick and a number are asleep. ³¹If we were judging ourselves, we wouldn't be judged; ³²but when we're judged, we're disciplined by the Lady so that we may not be condemned with the world. ³³So then, my sisters and brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. ³⁴If anyone is hungry, they should eat at home so that your coming together won't result in judgment. I'll take care of the other matters whenever I come.

Chapter Twelve

Now about spiritual gifts, sisters and brothers, I don't want you to be ignorant. ²You know that when you were Gentiles, you were led astray and carried away by mute idols. ³So I want you to know that no one speaking by Godde's Spirit can say "Curse Jesus!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord!" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit, ⁵and different kinds of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of work, but the same Godde works all things in everyone. ⁷The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the common good. ⁸To one person a message of wisdom is given through the Spirit, and to another a message of knowledge is given by the same Spirit; ⁹to another trust, by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healings, by the same Spirit; ¹⁰to another, workings

of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, judgment of spirits; to another, different kinds of languages; to another, interpretation of languages. ¹¹But one and the same Spirit works all of these, distributing to each one individually as she desires.

¹²Just as the body is one but has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ, ¹³because we were all baptized into one body by one Spirit – whether Jews or Greeks, bondservant or free – and were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴The body is not one part, but many. ¹⁵If the foot says, “Because I’m not a hand, I’m not part of the body,” it doesn’t for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶If the ear says, “Because I’m not an eye, I’m not part of the body,” it doesn’t for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the smelling be? ¹⁸But now Godde has set each of the parts in the body just where she wanted. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹The eye can’t say to the hand, “I don’t have any need for you,” or again the head to the feet, “I don’t have any need for you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³We give more honor to members of the body we think are less honorable and treat our less respected members with greater respect, ²⁴while our respected members have no such need. Godde put the body together, giving greater honor to the ones who needed it ²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that the parts should have the same care for each other. ²⁶When one part suffers, all the parts suffer; or when one part is honored, all the parts rejoice.

²⁷Now you are Christ’s body, and parts of it individually. ²⁸And Godde has placed in the community first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and different kinds of languages. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all perform miracles? ³⁰Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak with different languages? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the better gifts, and I’ll show you the best way by far.

Chapter Thirteen

If I speak with the languages of mortals and of angels,
but don’t have love,
I’ve become a noisy gong
or a clanging cymbal.

²If I have prophecy
and know all mysteries
and all knowledge,
and if I have all trust
so as to move mountains,
but don’t have love,
I’m nothing.

³If I give away everything I have
and give over my body that I may boast,
but don’t have love,
it does me no good.

⁴Love is patient and kind.
Love isn’t jealous.
Love doesn’t brag,
isn’t arrogant,
⁵isn’t rude,

doesn't seek its own interests,
isn't provoked,
doesn't keep track of wrongs;
⁶doesn't rejoice in injustice,
but rejoices in the truth;
⁷bears all things,
trusts all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.

⁸Love never fails.
But where there are prophecies, they'll be abolished;
or languages will cease;
or knowledge will be abolished.

⁹We know in part
and we prophesy in part,
¹⁰but when completeness comes,
then that which is partial will be abolished.

¹¹When I was a child,
I spoke like a child,
thought like a child,
reasoned like a child.
Now that I've grown up,
I've put away childish things.

¹²Now we see in a mirror, dimly,
but then face to face.
Now I know in part,
but then I'll know fully,
even as I have been fully known too.

¹³But now trust, hope, and love remain,
these three;
and the greatest of these is love.

Chapter Fourteen

Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy, ²because whoever speaks in another language doesn't speak to women and men but to Godde. No one understands them, but in the Spirit they speak mysteries. ³By contrast, whoever prophesies speaks to women and men to build up, encourage, and comfort. ⁴The one who speaks in another language builds up themselves, but the one who prophesies builds up the community. ⁵Sure, I'd like all of you to speak in other languages, but prefer that you prophesy, because the one who prophesies is more important than the one who speaks with other languages – unless they interpret so that the community may be built up.

⁶But now, sisters and brothers, if I come to you speaking in other languages, what good will that do you unless I speak to you with either a revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷If lifeless

instruments like the flute or harp didn't play distinct notes, how will anyone know what song is being played? ⁸If the trumpet didn't make a clear sound, who'd prepare for war? ⁹In the same way, unless you deliver an intelligible message through your language, how will anyone know what's being said? You'd be speaking into the air. ¹⁰It may be true that there are many kinds of voices in the world, but none of them is meaningless. ¹¹So if I don't know the meaning of the voice, I'll be a foreigner to the speaker and they'll be a foreigner to me. ¹²In the same way, since you're zealous for spiritual gifts, be zealous to excel in building up the community. ¹³So whoever speaks in another language should pray that they may interpret. ¹⁴Because if I pray in another language, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵What then? I'll pray with my spirit and I'll pray with my mind too. I'll sing with my spirit and I'll sing with my mind too. ¹⁶Otherwise, if you give thanks with just your spirit, how can anyone in the ranks of the uneducated say "Amen" when you give thanks, since they don't know what you're saying? ¹⁷You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person isn't built up. ¹⁸I thank Godde that I speak with other languages more than all of you. ¹⁹But in the community I'd rather speak five words with my mind to instruct others too than ten thousand words in another language.

²⁰Sisters and brothers, don't be childish in your thinking. Be infants as far as evil is concerned, but be mature in your thinking. ²¹In the Torah it is written:

"In other languages
and by the lips of foreigners
I'll speak to this people.
Even then they won't hear me,"

says the Lady. ²²So other languages are a sign, not for those who trust but for those who don't trust, while prophecy isn't for those who don't trust, but for those who do. ²³So if the whole community comes together and everyone speaks in other languages, and people who are uneducated or who don't trust come in, won't they say you're out of your minds? ²⁴But if everyone prophesies, and someone who doesn't trust or is uneducated comes in, they'll be convicted and held accountable by everyone. ²⁵What's hidden in their heart is revealed so they'll fall down on their face and bow to Godde, declaring that Godde really is among you.

²⁶What then, sisters and brothers? When you come together, each of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, another language, an interpretation. All things should be done for building each other up. ²⁷If anyone speaks in another language, two or three at the most should speak, taking turns, and one should interpret. ²⁸But if there's no interpreter, they should be quiet in the community, speaking to themselves and to Godde. ²⁹Two or three prophets should speak and others should discern. ³⁰But if something is revealed to someone else sitting nearby, the first one should be quiet, ³¹because you can all prophesy one by one so that all may learn and be encouraged. ³²The spirits of the prophets are under the control of the prophets ³³because Godde isn't a Godde of confusion, but of peace, as in all the communities of the holy ones.

³⁴Women should keep quiet in the communities, because they aren't allowed to speak; but they should be submissive, as the Torah says. ³⁵If they want to learn anything, they should ask their own husbands at home, because it's shameful for a woman to speak in the community.

³⁶What? Did the message of Godde originate with you? Or are you the only ones it reached? ³⁷If anyone thinks they're a prophet, or spiritual, they should recognize that what I'm writing to you is the Lady's precept. ³⁸Anyone who doesn't recognize this shouldn't be recognized. ³⁹So then, sisters and brothers, be zealous to prophesy and don't forbid speaking in other languages. ⁴⁰But all things should be done in a decent and orderly way.

Chapter Fifteen

Now I want to remind you, sisters and brothers, of the good news which I announced to you, which you received, in which you've taken your stand,² and through which you're given life too, if you hold firmly to the message which I announced to you – unless you trusted in vain.³ I passed on to you first of all what I too received: that Christ died for our offenses according to the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵ and that he was seen by Cephas, then the twelve.⁶ After that he was seen by over five hundred sisters and brothers at the same time; most of them are still living, but some have fallen asleep.⁷ After that he was seen by James, then by all the apostles,⁸ and last of all by me, like one born at the wrong place at the wrong time.⁹ I'm the least of the apostles – I don't even deserve to be called an apostle because I persecuted Godde's community.¹⁰ But by Godde's grace I am what I am. Her grace wasn't given to me in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than all of them – yet it wasn't me, but Godde's grace that was with me.¹¹ Regardless of whether it was me or them, this is what we proclaim, and this is what you trusted.

¹²Now if it's proclaimed that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there's no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there's no resurrection of the dead, Christ hasn't been raised either. ¹⁴And if Christ hasn't been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your trust is in vain too. ¹⁵We'd be false witnesses of Godde, because we bore witness that Godde raised Christ – whom she apparently didn't raise if the dead aren't really raised. ¹⁶If the dead aren't raised, Christ hasn't been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ hasn't been raised, your trust is vain and you're still guilty. ¹⁸It would also mean that those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If we've hoped in Christ for this life only, we're to be pitied more than everyone else.

²⁰But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who've fallen asleep. ²¹Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came through a human being too. ²²As all die in Adam, all will be made alive in Christ too. ²³But each in turn: Christ the first fruits, then, when he comes, those who are his. ²⁴Then he hands over the reign to Godde the Mother when the end comes, when he's abolished all rule and all authority and power, ²⁵because he must reign until all enemies have been put under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be abolished is death, ²⁷because "She put all things under his feet." But when it says "put all things," it's obvious that that doesn't include she who put all things under him. ²⁸When all things have been put under him, then the Son too will himself be put under the one who put all things under him, so that Godde may be all in all.

²⁹Now, what do the people who are baptized for the dead think they're doing? If the dead aren't really raised, why are they baptized for them? ³⁰And why are we in danger every hour? ³¹Sisters and brothers, I swear by my pride in you through Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²If I fought with wild beasts, so to speak, at Ephesus, what good is it? If the dead aren't raised, then:

"let's eat and drink,
because we die tomorrow."

³³Don't be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." ³⁴Wake up, be just, and stop doing wrong, because some people don't know Godde. I say this to your shame!

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised?" and, "With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You fool, what you sow isn't made alive unless it dies. ³⁷And you don't sow the body that will be, but just a seed, maybe of wheat or something else. ³⁸But Godde gives it the body she wants, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹All flesh is not the same; there's one flesh for human beings, another flesh for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is different from that of the earthly. ⁴¹The sun has one glory, the moon another, and the stars another, because one star differs from another star in glory.

⁴²The resurrection of the dead is the same way. It's sown mortal, it's raised immortal; ⁴³it's sown in dishonor, it's raised in glory; it's sown in weakness, it's raised in power; ⁴⁴it's sown a natural body, it's raised a spiritual body. If there's a natural body, there's a spiritual one too. ⁴⁵So it is written, "The first Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶The spiritual isn't first, but the natural, then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first person was from the earth, earthy; the second person is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the earthy person, so are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly person, so are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹As we've worn the image of the earthy, let's wear the image of the heavenly.

⁵⁰What I'm saying is this, sisters and brothers: Flesh and blood can't inherit Godde's reign, nor can mortality inherit immortality. ⁵¹Listen, I'll tell you a mystery: We won't all sleep, but we'll all be changed ⁵²in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will blast, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we'll be changed, ⁵³because what's perishable must put on what's imperishable and what's mortal must put on what's immortal. ⁵⁴When what's perishable has put on what's imperishable and what's mortal has put on what's immortal, then what is written will come true:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵"Where, Death, where is your victory?
Where, Death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶The sting of death is wrongdoing, and the power of wrongdoing is the Torah. ⁵⁷But thanks be to Godde who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! ⁵⁸So, my beloved sisters and brothers, stand firm, steadfast, always excelling in the Lady's work, knowing that your work in the Lady isn't in vain.

Chapter Sixteen

Now about the collection for the holy ones: Do what I instructed the communities of Galatia to do. ²Every Sunday each of you should set aside some extra money so that no collections have to be made when I come. ³When I arrive, I'll send whomever you approve with letters of commendation to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it's appropriate for me to go too, they'll go with me.

⁵I'll come to you after I've passed through Macedonia, because I plan to pass through Macedonia. ⁶But I might stay with you or even spend the winter so that you may send me on my way wherever I go. ⁷I don't want to see you just in passing, but I hope to stay with you for some time, if the Lady permits. ⁸But I'll stay at Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹because a great and effective door has been opened for me and there are many who oppose me.

¹⁰Now if Timothy comes, see that he has fear nothing to fear while he's with you, because he does the Lady's work like me. ¹¹So no one should look down on him. But send him on his way in peace so that he may come to me, because I'm expecting him back with the sisters and brothers.

¹²Now about the brother Apollos, I strongly begged him to go to you with the sisters and brothers, but he didn't want to go at this time. He'll go when he gets the chance.

¹³Watch out! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous! Be strong! ¹⁴You should do all things in love.

¹⁵Now I beg you, sisters and brothers – you know how the household of Stephanas is the first fruits of Achaia, and they've devoted themselves to minister to the holy ones – ¹⁶defer to them, and to everyone who joins in the work and toils. ¹⁷I rejoice in the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, because they've made up for your absence. ¹⁸They've refreshed my spirit and yours. People like them deserve recognition.

¹⁹The communities of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you warmly in the Lady, together with the community that meets in their house. ²⁰All the sisters and brothers greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹I, Paul, am writing this greeting with my own hand. ²²If anyone doesn't love the Lord, they should be ostracized. Come, Lord! ²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. ²⁴My love to all of you in Christ Jesus.