

1 Corinthians

Everything You Need

Series Overview

Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth is a case-study in what makes an unhealthy church. In this series, we'll explore what made that church so unhealthy as a guide to becoming the healthy church God has called us to be.

Sermon Introduction

How did you finish 2025? Were you at the top of your game, or holding on by your fingernails? As the saying goes, it's not how you start that's important as much as how you finish. In the opening to his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul reminds his readers (and us) that we have everything we need to finish strong (v. 8).

Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (NIV)

1Cor. 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

1Cor. 1:2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

1Cor. 1:3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Cor. 1:4 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

1Cor. 1:5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—

1Cor. 1:6 because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

1Cor. 1:7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

1Cor. 1:8 He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Cor. 1:9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage. What stood out to you? Was there anything that you found surprising or confusing?

2. Count how many times Paul refers to Jesus in the opening of his letter (vv. 1-9). What is the point Paul wants to drive home?
3. In v. 5, Paul tells the Corinthian believers that God has enriched them in every way. What do you think he means? In what ways has God enriched your life?
4. The purpose of every spiritual gift is to enrich the lives of others (cf. Eph. 4:11-13). One way to discover your spiritual gift is to look at how you bring benefit to the people around you. If someone were to guess your spiritual gift, what do you think they would say?
5. Read v. 8. The word “strong” in the Greek has the sense of being sustained or kept steadfast. What do you think it means to be “strong in the end?” What would that mean for you?
6. How can having confidence that God won’t let you fail (vv. 8-9) motivate you to bring your best every day? How would it be different if you thought the outcome of your life was only up to you?
7. As you kick off 2026, how are you going to start this year on track to make your greatest contribution yet to enriching the lives of the people around you?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God’s power.

- Thank God for 2025 and all the ways that he blessed you through the good and the bad.
- Confess any discouragement, tiredness, or apathy that you feel, knowing that God loves you and cares for you.
- Ask God to give you the strength you need to bring your best every day to bless others with the gifts he’s given you.
- Praise God that you will be “strong to the end” because he will never fail you.