

Filling in the Gaps

Have you ever listened to one side of a phone call? That’s what studying 1 Corinthians is like.

A Damaged Community

“Chloe’s people” (1 Corinthians 1:11) sent a report to Paul via Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus. The church was experiencing trouble!

Damage from division

Damage from unrepentant sin

Damage from lawsuits within the church

Damage from competition within its members

Confusion about marriage, idol worship, food, the Lord’s Supper, church worship, and the resurrection

A City’s Image Impressed Upon the Church

Big Idea: Nearly all of the problems in the church mirror the culture of the city in Corinth.

Location and history

The isthmus

Corinth’s history

Loose ethics and ambitious people

“We keep mistresses for pleasure; we keep concubines for the day to day needs of the body; we keep wives for the begetting of children and for the faithful guardianship of our homes.” - Demosthenes

Patrons and clients

Hope for Sinking Swimmers

Sanctified

*To those sanctified in Christ Jesus
Called to be saints
with all those who in every place call upon Jesus*

Even though they weren't very saintly!
Called by who? God.
We were called holy when we called on his name

To be holy, or sanctified, means to be set apart for God.

Exodus 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a **holy** [emphasis added] nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

Grace given

A grace that bestows gifts.

(We'll hit this topic at length in a later sermon. The main idea here is that, even though they were using their gifts selfishly, Paul points out the richness of God's grace to them, as an encouragement of his presence in their life and the reality of their salvation).

v. 4-7 “I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

A grace that preserves us to the end.

v. 8-9 “... who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Questions for Personal Study

1. What questions do you have about 1 Corinthians? Send any of them to pastor@hopefellowship.com!
2. There are many of ways American culture seeps into Christian lives. In what ways does American culture shape you in ways that are less than what God intends?
3. How is it possible for God to say the Corinthians are saints, even when they are all messed up?
4. You are God's treasured possession in Christ. How does that shape how you think, feel, and act? (Head, heart, hands)