

1 Corinthians 1 Pt 1 vv 1-17

Jesus

- **Author:** Apostle Paul
 1. Established Church in Corinth AD 50
 2. Stayed as a Tentmaker 18 months
- **Date:** AD 55
 1. Written from Ephesus
 2. 2nd Letter to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

IOWs 1st Corinthians: Second of Three letters written to the Church in Corinth
The first letter was written/sent/lost

- **Purpose:** Correction Letter
 1. Paul responds from Ephesus to a delegation w/questions from Corinth
 2. Problem: Paul's standing/authority as an Apostle was also in question

The city of Corinth was so bad a new Greek word was coined
Korinthia-zomai: To be sexually out of control

- 4-mile stretch of land. Carry boats on carts
- 100's of thousands people. Great cultural center
- Temple prostitutes flooding the streets at night

Intellectually superior/ Morally depraved

- **1 Corinthians:** Paul's letter to set straight what is crooked
 1. Spiritual/Intellectual Pride leading to Competition/Contention
 2. Compromise in discipline leading to Corruption/Moral Decay

IOWs Corinth was becoming Laodicea/Lukewarm before Laodicea existed

I. Greeting

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

- "to be" not in original

Paul called an Apostle.

Saul the Pharisee now Paul the Apostle by the will of God

- **Apostle:** Sent one: Formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am

- **Sosthenes:**

1. Former ruler: Synagogue in Corinth
2. Brother in Christ to those in Corinth
3. Now Paul's faithful Scribe [later]

2 To the church of God which is at **Corinth**, to those who are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints**, with all who in every place **call on** the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both **theirs and ours**: 3 **Grace** to you **and peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Set-Up: This is who you are...
You are the Church of God in Corinth

- **Church:** Assembly of called-out ones. From the sent one to the called-out ones
- **Sanctified:** To those set apart *from sin to God*
- **Saints:** *To be* not in original. Lit To those **called Saints**

To those around the world who call on the Lord Jesus Christ
Their Lord. Our Lord. Your Lord...Grace and Peace

Romans 5:10 ...Once enemies [but now] **reconciled to God** through the death of His Son

Colossians 1:20 ...[Jesus who by Grace] made peace **through the blood of His cross**.

Grace the greeting of Greeks/Peace the greeting of the Jews
Vv 1-3 Greetings to/from all those who have peace w/God by His grace

II. Spiritual Gifts and Sanctification

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the **grace of God** which was **given to you by Christ Jesus**, 5 that you were **enriched in everything** by Him in all **utterance** [speech] and all **knowledge**, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you **come short in no gift, eagerly waiting** for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who **will also confirm you** to the end, that you **may be blameless** in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul gives thanks for the faithfulness of Jesus...

- His Grace
- His Riches
- His Word [Logos]
- His Knowledge
- **His Gifting**...you are rich in these

Jesus testified that He would grant Spiritual Giftings. *Now Confirmed*
Jesus testified He would confirm them blameless. *Yet to be Confirmed. In process...*

9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the **fellowship of His Son**, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus will finish the Good Work in us to be found blameless when He comes
Sanctification/Practical Righteousness vs Positional

1 Thessalonians 3:13 ...[we pray] He may **establish** your hearts **blameless** in holiness before our God and Father at the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify** you **completely**; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved **blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

God is faithful to do what it takes to bring us in line with His will
That we may be found *eagerly waiting* for His coming

Philippians 1:6 ...being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...**

Only those who are doing His will be eagerly waiting for Him

Romans 8:23 ...we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting** for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also **eagerly wait** for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

Jesus Christ will confirm you blameless
Paul's confidence is in Jesus who is faithful even if Corinth is not

1 Thessalonians 5:24 **He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**

Jesus did confirm His Word to Corinth concerning Spiritual Gifts
Jesus will confirm His Word to Corinth in their Sanctification

For some blameless will be painless...For others, not so much
Presently the church in Corinth is both Gifted *and* Carnal...

Should it not show us that gifts are nothing, unless they are laid on the altar of God; that it is nothing to have the gift of oratory; that it is nothing to have the power of eloquence; that it is nothing to have learning; that it is nothing to have influence, **unless they all be dedicated to God, and consecrated to His service?** [Spurgeon]

III. Engage the Mind of Christ

10 Now **I plead with you** brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

I plead w/you by the Name above all Names...The Lord Jesus Christ

- In 10 verses Paul mentions Jesus at least once
- **Letter of Priorities:**
 1. Sanctification over Gifting
 2. Jesus/Others over Selfish Ambition

Plead: *Parakaleō*: To call to one's side, call for, summon, beg, beseech
IOWs This is important!!!

10b ...speak the same thing and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be **perfectly joined** together in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**.

Division gr. *Schisma*. To tear or rend. Make useless

- **Affirm** the same things: Teaching of Jesus/Apostles
- **Unite** in understanding/purpose: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

IOWs Be Supernaturally of One Mind

2 Corinthians 13:11b Finally ...Become complete [sound/complete/repaired]. Be of good comfort, be of **one mind, live in peace**; [promise] and the God of love and peace will be with you.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you be of **one mind**, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous...

IOWs Be Supernaturally of One Mind...The Mind of Christ in you

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**

No more stinkin' thinkin' leading to selfishness/Self-centeredness/Self Pity
You have the Mind of Christ...Engage it

Philippians 2:1 ...if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, [IOWs if your saved] **2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded**, having the **same love**, being of **one accord**, of **one mind**. [I don't know what that means] **3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.** **4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.** **5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...**

Be Perfectly Joined: Reset what is now Disjointed
Not trying harder but by yielding to the Spirit who lives in you

1 Corinthians 3:3 ...you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and **behaving like mere men?**

1 Corinthians 2:14 ...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God ...6b ...But we have the mind of Christ.

If you are saved you have the Holy Spirit. If you have the Holy Spirit you have the mind of Christ. If you do not engage the mind of Christ that's because you are not yielding to His Spirit but walking in the flesh. When we each engage the mind of Christ we will all speak the

things of Christ, have no divisions, be perfectly joined in the same mind, one mind i.e. the **mind of Christ** [NJC]

E.g. Would Jesus commend infighting as a sin-sick world is dying for the Gospel of Life? A lost world He shed His blood to save?

11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that **there are contentions** [lit. quarrels] among you.

Delegation sent to Paul at Ephesus to deal w/Questions about issues

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now **concerning the things of which you wrote to me...**

- Marriage
- Quarrels
- **Competition w/in the church...**

12 Now I say this, that **each of you says**, "I am of **Paul**," or "I am of **Apollos**," or "I am of **Cephas** [Peter] " or "**I am of Christ.**"

Infighting/Contentions over which teacher was the best
Others: I only follow the Words of Jesus in red...Not the Apostles

Mark 16:20 And **they** [11] **went out** and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and **confirming the word** through the accompanying signs. Amen.

Acts 1:42 ... they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** and fellowship...

I only believe the Words in red...Not the Pauline Epistles
Paul was a male chauvinist? Careful...

2 Peter 3:15 [Peter confirms Paul/Scripture] ... our **beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also **in all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also **the rest of the Scriptures**.

They were proud of themselves for listening to such deep thinkers
Puffed up by knowledge they could then bestow on others...

1 Corinthians 8:1b ... We know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up**, but **love edifies**. 2 And **if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing** yet as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

Christian behavior is founded on love not knowledge; the goal of the Christian life is **not knowledge, but love**. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies... [Guzik]

Why are you lifting up men? You are causing division!
None of the teachers you follow were crucified for your sins

13 Is Christ divided? **Was Paul crucified for you?** Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

It wasn't so much they thought their teachers were great, but that *they were great for following them*. [Guzik para]

If love edifies others
Pride corrupts/demoralizes/degrades others...Causes schisms

I sit under _____ I was baptized by _____

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except **Crispus** and **Gaius**, 15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. 16 Yes, I also baptized the **household of Stephanas**. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

How busy was this guy?
Paul doesn't remember who he baptized?

- **Crispus:** Ruler of synagogue in Corinth when Paul arrived. **He threw Paul out...**

I'm going to the Gentiles!
Goes next door to Gaius' house [AKA Justus]

- **Gaius** the Gentile **gets saved** at his house
- **Crispus** listens in from next door/**gets saved**
- **Sosthenes:** New leader of synagogue leads a revolt against Paul/Fellow Jews not happy w/his leadership...beat him up. **Sosthenes also gets saved**

The people who are most vehemently and violently opposed to you and your faith are those often times who are most convicted by the Spirit and they're close to conversion... Just let them take a few more hits from their countrymen. [Courson]

Paul Baptizes Crispus, Gaius and *Stephanus*...
An example of devotion to Jesus

1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done with love. 15 I urge you, brethren—you know the **household of Stephanas**, that it is the **firstfruits of Achaia**, and that they have **devoted** themselves to the ministry of the saints— 16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. 17 I am glad about the coming of **Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus** [Uh-kay-uh-kuhs] ...18 For **they refreshed my spirit** and yours. **Therefore acknowledge such men.**

- **Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus**

1. Delegation w/questions from Corinth for Paul in Eph answered in 1 Cor
2. Paul asks Corinth to receive these men back graciously
3. **Fortunatus/Achaicus:** Common names for slaves/former slaves

Stephanas? Yep I remember him. I baptized him too

17 For [but] **Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words**, lest the **cross of Christ** should be made of no effect.

The city of Corinth was as whitewashed tomb
Paul wrote the Book of Romans during his stay in Corinth...

Romans 1:22 [Philosophers] Professing to be wise, they became fools... 24 **God** also **gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts ...26 **gave them up** to vile passions. ...28 **God gave them over** to a debased mind...

What else did Paul see on his 18-month stay in Corinth?

Romans 1:28-32 ...things which are not fitting; ...unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness ...whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful. Those who know the righteous judgment of God and that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

- **Intellectually alert**, materially prosperous, but morally corrupt. [Morris]
- **Completely destroyed** by an earthquake in 1858

How is that worldly wisdom working?

IOWs What is the end of those who *do what's right in their own eyes*?

The world is now infiltrating the church. Lukewarm frog ready to die
Pride/Division/Offence for any/every reason: Paul personally baptized me. *So what?*

Baptizing is *not essential* to Salvation/*Not God's priority* for Paul's life...
Nor was being a great orator so all would look at him/his wisdom [Ch. 2:1-13]

God's priority is for us to decrease
That Jesus might increase as we direct others to Him/Cross/Salvation

Next week: I am called to preach the Message of the Cross
To turn peoples gaze upon the Cross of Christ/Away from me

Topic of conversation in the Church of God in Corinth?
Who they know. How much they know about God.

1 Corinthians 8:3 But if anyone **loves God**, this one is **known by Him**.

IOWs More important than *how much* we know about God...is that *He knows us*
We know we are known by Him...because we love Him

Eternally Fatal Flaw

Many church/bible study attendees will be surprised/terrified/horrified as they stand before the Lord at judgment. Expecting to hear the words *Well done good and faithful servant* they will instead hear *I never knew you depart from Me you cursed into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Why?* Fatal Flaw. They mistook their knowledge *about God* for a relationship *with God* exemplified by selflessness, humility and love for God and others. [NJC]

I am no one. My worldly wisdom exalts only me/saves no one
There is only one message that saves souls...and it's not eloquent

*You are a sinner separated from God
The penalty for sin is death. The only reconciliation is the cross. Look at it*

*You deserve to be on that cross but Jesus went in your place
Jesus sacrifice on the Cross was accepted on our behalf. He rose from the dead*

*Faith in Jesus/what Jesus did grants us Complete Forgiveness/Eternal Joy
Q. Can two bloody pieces of wood and 3 nails do that?*

Communion

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

- Remember First Coming
- Proclaim His Second Coming

... whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man **examine himself**, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

Examination: See Lord if there be any wicked way in me

- **Unbelievers:** Forgiven Cleansed unto Salvation
- **Believers:** Forgiven Cleanses unto Restoration

Bread: Body of Christ

... I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

- Greg gives thanks for Jesus body and sacrifice

Cup: Blood of Christ

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- Patrick gives thanks for the blood of Jesus that takes away our sin