

1 Corinthians

Introduction

Corinth was an important trade city on the Corinthian Gulf. The city has been referred to as the “Las Vegas” of the ancient world. Corinth was noted for its temple to Venus, wealth, art, and literature. Immorality and religion merged in to one practice for many. Travelers came and went, and it was a town of trade, commerce, and wickedness. It was in this town of great wickedness that a church was planted. Acts 18 details the occasion of the founding, and the persecution by the Jews of the city.

New believers from different backgrounds led to questions, tensions, and divisions. These issues led the church at Corinth to send a delegation to Paul for help, 1:11, 16:17-18. This book was written to deal with problems, answer questions. Chapters 1-6 deal with accusations and problems, 7-16 answer specific questions on a variety of issues.

Message- Paul's answer to the problems is to have a right perspective of the gospel. Right thinking about the gospel produces right behavior in the gospel. In other words, Paul is telling them to live like what you claim to be! He gives them the right focus in 1:30/10:31- we can live right because of our union with Christ in the gospel, “in Christ Jesus.”

Outline-NOTE- Outline sub points follow the paragraph divisions in the Greek text

I. Problems in the Church Chpts 1-6

A. Divisions 1:1-31

1. Salutation v1-9
2. Warning against divisions v 10-17
3. Wisdom from God v 18-31

B. Spiritual wisdom 2:1-16

1. Not man's wisdom but God's v 1-5
2. Not worldly wisdom, but the Spirit's v 6-16

C. True Christian wisdom 3:1-23

1. Loyalty to Christ v1-9
2. Based on Christ v 10-17
3. Wise in Christ v 18-23

D. Faithful Ministry 4:1-21

1. Stewardship of the mysteries v 1-5
2. Steadfast in persecution v6-13
3. Worthiness of being followed v 14-21

E. Immorality in the Church 5:1-13

1. The open sin judged v1-8
2. The open sinner excluded v 9-13

F. Lawsuits and fornication 6:1-20

1. Lawsuits not encouraged v 1-11
2. Fornication not tolerated v 12-20

II; Questions Answered chpt 7-15

A. Concerning Marriage 7:1-40

1. Immorality is not God's will v 1-7
2. Desertion is not God's will v 8-16
3. Discontentment is not God's will v 17-24
4. Divided purpose is not God's will v 25-40

B. Concerning Food 8:1-13

1. Love-true knowledge manifested v 1-6
2. Liberty- self control manifested v 7-13

C. Concerning God's servants 9:1-27

1. The rights of God's servants v 1-12
2. The financial support of God's servant v 13-18
3. The adaptability of God's servant v 19-23
4. The discipline of God's servant v 24-27

D. Concerning examples- past and present

1. The history of Israel v 1-13
2. The table of demons v 14-22

3. The conscience of the weak v 22-33

III. Directions for correct worship chpts 11-14

A. Conduct in the church 11:1-34

1. Between men and women v 1-6
2. In public worship v 17-22
3. At the Lords Supper v 23-34

B. Concernng Spiritual Gifts 12: 1-31

1. Submission to the Spirit v 1-3
2. Diversity by the Spirit v 4-11
3. Unity by the Spirit v 12-27
4. Work through the Spirit v28-31

C. Concerning love 13:1-13

1. Love contrasted to empty works v 1-3
2. Love's characteristics v 4-7
3. Love continued v 8-13

D. Concerning Prophecy and Tongues 14:1-40

1. Tongues inferior and less profitable than prophecy v 1-19
2. Tongues less effective than prophecy v 20-25
3. Tongues more restricted than prophecy v 26-40

IV. The importance of the doctrine of the resurrection 15:1-58

A. The message of the resurrection v 1-11

B. The meaning of the resurrection v12-34

C. The manner of the resurrection v 35-49

D. The mystery of the resurrection v 50-58

V. Conclusion 16:1-24

A. Preparation for the collection and the journey v 1-14

B. Joy in ministry v 15-18

C. Final greetings v 19-24