

# the first letter to the CORINTHIANS

The Gospel shaped community

## What is the series about?

We'll be working our way through the 1st Letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. This series will cover what a Gospel shaped community looks like in many areas of life including relationships, sex, food, the gathered church, and the resurrection.

## Listen to the audio

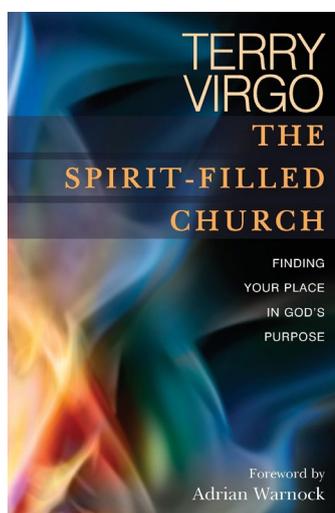
On the King's Norwich app or at: [kingsnorwich.com/1corinthians](https://kingsnorwich.com/1corinthians)

## Check out the blog

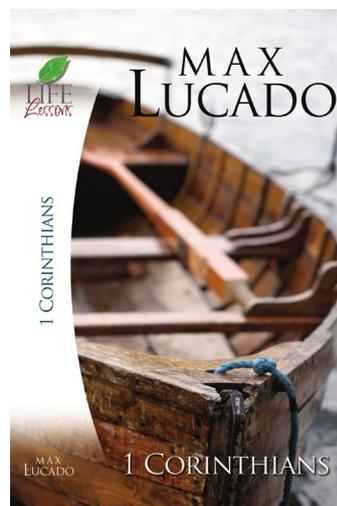
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## Recommended Reading

The Spirit Filled Church  
Terry Virgo



Life Lessons: 1 Corinthians  
Max Lucado



# the first letter to the CORINTHIANS

## **Title: The Gospel Shaped Community**

Speaker: Toby Skipper (City Centre)

Bible Ref: 1 Corinthians 1 v 1-9

### **Overview**

The Corinthian church was a community that had got out of shape. They had split into factions over leadership; social divisions were rife; they were getting drunk at Communion; distracting each other in worship; full of spiritual pride; puffed up on human wisdom; tolerated a bloke sleeping with his mother in law; sued each other in court; failed to love one-another; were dismissive of the cross & some denied the resurrection. They had allowed external social values, ethics and practices to continue to shape their lives together, one writer puts it this way, "their problems grew out of the Corinthians' **inability to let the gospel message fully reshape their lives...**they were trying to be Christians with a minimal amount of social & theological disturbance." (This is worth thinking about in relation to the church today.)

### **Questions to help your group understand the truth preached**

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. Why does Paul start by thanking God for the Corinthian church?
2. What does this tell us about Paul's confidence and hope for the church?
3. Paul starts and ends (sandwiches) his letter with key themes; what are they and why does he do this? (See 1:1, 10 & 15:58, 16:19-24; 1:4-9 & 16:23; 1:18-2:5 & ch15)

### **Questions to help your group apply the truth preached**

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. What does Paul's start to the letter teach us about the way we talk about and view, other Christ-followers and churches?
2. What cultural forces do we need to be aware of that could 'put us out of shape' as Christ followers? (one example = Consumerism)
3. How are we allowing (and how do we allow) the gospel to be the primary shaping influence in our lives, both individually and as a church?

### **Questions to help your group dig deeper**

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

1. What can we learn from how the Corinthian church was started (Acts 18) about how we do mission into our own city?
2. What do these verses tell us about the Character of God?
3. What do these verses tell us about the person of Christ?