



1

Overview of 1 Corinthians

- Factionalism (1:10-4:21)
- Greed and Sexuality (5:1-7:40)
- Worship and Idolatry (8:1-11:1)
- Order in Worship and the Right Use of Spiritual Gifts (11:2-14:40)
- The Resurrection of the Dead (15:1-58)
- Concluding Thoughts (16:1-24)

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Rich with Resources

- Good soil for farming
 - Clay for pottery and bricks
 - A natural spring that produced enough fresh water for the entire city
 - Lightweight sandstone for buildings
 - Harder stone for roads
-
- Corinth was naturally set up to flourish
 - One of the most important cities of the Roman Empire
 - The people were proud and self-sufficient

7

The Church in Corinth

“Each of the community problems Paul needed to address grew out of the Corinthians’ inability to let the gospel message fully reshape their gentile, Greco-Roman lives.... The Corinthians were simply trying to be Christians with a minimal amount of social and theological disturbance” (Lyle D. Vander Broek).

8

Paul and the Corinthians

18 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

9

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles...."

And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

10

Paul and the Corinthians

- Founded by Paul: he was not writing to strangers (Acts 18:1-11)
- Paul's profession (Acts 18:3)
- Written probably 2.5-3.5 years after Paul left Corinth (mid 50s AD)
- Written in Ephesus (16:8)

Why is Paul writing?

- A response to a report from Chloe (1:11), and a letter Paul has received (7:1)
- A response to issues in the church
- Solution = the Cross

11

The Letter

Salutation:

“Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus...” (1 Cor 1:1)

12

Opening Address

“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours...” (1 Cor 1:2)

- Who does the church belong to?
- How are the Corinthians described?
- Is this unique to them?

13

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

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

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

14

Opening Address

“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours...” (1 Cor 1:2)

- Who does the church belong to?
- How are the Corinthians described?
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15

The Thanksgiving

“⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Cor 1:4-9)

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you...”
(Eph)

16

The Thanksgiving

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