

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Corinth*



Corinthians

**INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST
EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH AT
CORINTH**

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Jan-May 2016

CORINTH





THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL
 ACTS 15:36-18:32

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Via Egnatia
- ⌋ Pass
- ← Route of Paul and Silas

Jerusalem Conference, A.D. 49, [Acts 15:1-30; Gal 2:1-21]





A Grecian city, on the isthmus which joins the Peloponnesus to the mainland of Greece. It is about 48 miles west of Athens.

History Of Corinth

- The ancient city was destroyed by the Roman general Mummius in 146 B.C., and the new city was rebuilt 100 years later by Julius Caesar with its gaining of a Roman colony in 46 B.C.
- It was noted for its wealth, and for the luxurious and immoral and vicious habits of the people.

History of Corinth

- When Paul first visited the city (A.D. 51 or 52), Gallio, was proconsul.
- Here Paul resided for eighteen months (Acts 18:1-18).
- Here he first became acquainted with Aquila and Priscilla, and soon after his departure Apollos came to it from Ephesus.

History of Corinth

- After an interval he visited it a second time, and remained for three months (Acts 20:3). During this second visit his Epistle to the Romans was written (probably A.D. 55).
- Although there were many Jewish converts at Corinth, yet the Gentile element prevailed in the church there.

History of Corinth

- In Paul's time it was capital of Achaia, and seat of the Roman proconsul (Act_18:12).
- Its people had the Greek love of philosophical subtleties.
- The immorality was notorious even in the pagan world; so that "to Corinthianize" means "to live a life of sexual immorality and drunkenness."

Religion Of Corinth

- The worship of Venus, whose temple was on Acrocorinthus, was attended with shameless profligacy, 1,000 female slaves being maintained for the service of strangers. Hence, arose dangers to the purity of the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 5-7), founded by Paul on his second missionary journey (Act 18:1-18).

Why The Epistle Was Written

- 1. The church had written to consult Paul on some doctrinal issues.**
- 2. Paul heard of certain problems facing the church and addressed them.**

INTRODUCTION

- **AUTHOR:** PAUL, the apostle (**1:1; 16:21**)
- **PLACE OF WRITING:** EPHESUS (**16:8**)
- **TIME OF WRITING:** Probably in the spring of 57 A.D., shortly before the Jewish feast of Pentecost (**16:8**), during his third missionary journey (**[Ac 19:1-41](#)**).

PURPOSE OF WRITING

**TO CORRECT SINFUL
PRACTICES AND REFUTE
FALSE DOCTRINES.**

THEME OF EPISTLE

1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH CHURCH

- 1. The establishment of the church occurred during Paul's second missionary journey. (Acts 18:1-18)**
- 2. After Paul left Athens, he came to Corinth. (Acts 18:1)**

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH CHURCH

- 3. Here he made friendship with Aquila and Priscilla, and stayed with them. (Acts 18:2)**
- 4. He laboured at tentmaking with them. (Acts 18:3).**

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH CHURCH

- 5. Paul preached in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. (Acts 18:4)**
- 6. The Corinthians were not receptive to his preaching. (Acts 18:6).**

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH CHURCH

- 7. Paul withdrew to the house of a man called Justus and continued his ministry there. (Acts 18:7)**
- 8. Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. (Acts 18:8).**

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH CHURCH

- 9. One night, the Lord appeared to Paul in a vision and assured him that He had much people in the city. (Acts 18:9-10)**
- 10. Paul spent 18 months teaching and preaching in the city. (Acts 18:11).**

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH CHURCH

11. After 18 months, when Gallio became proconsul of the city, the unbelieving Jews brought a fresh charge against Paul. (Acts 18:12)

12. The charges was: This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law. (Acts 18:13).

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH CHURCH

- 13. But Gallio refused to interfere in a matter about their religion and drove them away. (Acts 18:15-16)**
- 14. The Greeks then laid hands on Sosthenes, who had succeeded Crispus as chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him. (Acts 18:17).**

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH CHURCH

- 15. Paul stayed still “many days” in Corinth before leaving for Syria with Priscilla and Aquila. (Acts 18:18)**
- 16. At about the same time, another Christian leader called Apollos went from Ephesus to Corinth (Acts 18:24 to Acts 19:1).**

PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH (1/3)

1. Divisions. (1 Cor 1).
2. Questions on Apostolic Preaching. (1 Cor 2).
3. Carnality (1 Cor 3).
4. Sexual immorality (1 Cor 5).
5. Tolerating Sin & Lack of church discipline (1 Cor 5).

PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH (2/3)

- 6. Lawsuits among brethren. (1 Cor 6)**
- 7. Marriage problems (1 Cor 7)**
- 8. Eating meats sacrificed to idols. (1 Cor 8-10)**
- 9. The Rights of an apostle. (1 Cor 9)**
- 10. Murmuring against God. (1 Cor 10)**
- 11. The woman's covering and being holy. (1 Cor 11:1-16)**

PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH (3/3)

12. Perversion of the Lord's Supper. (1 Cor 11:17-34)
13. Irregularities and disorder in public worship. (1 Cor 14)
14. Abuses of spiritual gifts. (1 Cor 12-14)
15. Mistaken views of the resurrection. (1 Cor 15)
16. Misunderstanding about the collection. (1 Cor 16:1-2).

BRIEF OUTLINE (adapted from Dexter Sammons)

I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-9)

II. PROBLEMS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE OF CHLOE (1:10-6:20)

A. FACTIONS IN THE CHURCH (1:1-4:21)

B. SEXUAL IMMORALITY (5:1-13)

C. LAWSUITS AMONG BRETHREN (6:1-11)

D. MORAL DEFILEMENTS (6:12-20)

BRIEF OUTLINE (adapted from Dexter Sammons)

**III. PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN THE LETTER
FROM CORINTH (7:1-16:9)**

A. MARRIAGE & CELIBACY (7:1-40)

**B. EATING MEATS SACRIFICED TO IDOLS
(8:1-11:1)**

**C. WOMEN PRAYING AND PROPHECYING
WITH HEADS UNCOVERED (11:2-16)**

D. THE LORD'S SUPPER (11:17-34)

BRIEF OUTLINE (adapted from Dexter Sammons)

**III. PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN THE
LETTER FROM CORINTH (7:1-16:9)**

E. SPIRITUAL GIFTS (12:1-14:40)

**F. RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD
(15:1-58)**

**G. COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS
(16:1-4)**

**IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS,
INSTRUCTIONS, AND
BENEDICTION (16:5-24)**

Paul's Epistles To Corinth

- ◆ Paul addressed at least three letters to this church.
 - a. Ante-Corinthians (I Cor 5:9)
 - b. 1st Corinthians (54 or 55 AD)
 - c. 2nd Corinthians (56 or 57 AD)

What Can We Learn (1/3)

◆ **The church at Corinth was far from being a perfect church .**

What Can We Learn (2/3)

◆ **The problems in Corinth still exist in the churches today; a result of being a cosmopolitan city.**

What Can We Learn (3/3)

◆ **The solutions to those problems are the same today as then.**

THE CAUSES OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH (1/2)

1. Intellectualism
2. Immorality
3. Idolatry
4. Immaturity

THE CAUSES OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH (2/2)

5. Insubmissiveness
6. Ignorance
7. Indifference
8. Individualism

1 CORINTHIANS: MESSAGES FOR US

1. There is no perfect church.
2. The church will always have problems.
3. Worldliness is oppose to godliness.
4. Problems in the church have to be dealt with.

1 CORINTHIANS: MESSAGES FOR US

5. Members must have one mind for true unity to exist. 1 Cor 1
6. Follow Christ. 1 Cor 1
7. True Wisdom is Spiritual. 1 Cor 2
8. Carnality prevents spiritual growth. 1 Cor 3

1 CORINTHIANS: MESSAGES FOR US

9. Grow. 1 Cor 3

10. We have a stewardship. 1 Cor 4

11. Church discipline is scriptural
and loving. 1 Cor 5

12. The church must not tolerate
sins. 1 Cor 5

1 CORINTHIANS: MESSAGES FOR US

13. Remember your sanctification.

1 Cor 6

14. Settle your Differences with Love.

1 Cor 6

15. Marry a Christian. 1 Cor 7

16. Keep the Lock in Wedlock. 1 Cor 7

1 CORINTHIANS: MESSAGES FOR US

17. Watch your influence. 1 Cor 8

18. An idol is nothing. 1 Cor 8

19. There is a right and wrong
attitude towards preachers.
1 Cor 9

20. There is a limitation to Christian
liberty. 1 Cor 9

1 CORINTHIANS: MESSAGES FOR US

21. Take Care of Your Preachers. 1

Cor 9

22. Watch Out For Temptations. 1

Cor 10

23. Observe the sanctity of the
Lord's Supper. 1 Cor 11

24. The Role of Women. 1 Cor 11

1 CORINTHIANS: MESSAGES FOR US

25. Our Talents come from God.

1 Cor 12

26. We are One Family. 1 Cor 12

27. Practice Agape Love. 1 Cor 13

28. Use your “gift” properly. 1 Cor 14

29. Orderly Worship. 1 Cor 14

1 CORINTHIANS: MESSAGES FOR US

30. Worship God with Understanding.

1 Cor 14

31. No Women Preachers. 1 Cor 14

32. Look For the Resurrection. 1 Cor 15

33. Be steadfast in the faith. 1 Cor 15

34. Right Giving. 1 Cor 16

35. Remember your workers. 1 Cor 16

How To Solve Church Problems.

**Remember Who
We Are.**

1 Cor 1:2

1Co 1:2 Unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, to them that are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, called *to be **saints***, with all that in every place call upon the name of **Jesus Christ our Lord**, both *theirs and ours*:

Remember Who We Are.

“The church of God which is at Corinth”

- ❖ The church is a community of people governed by the will of God (1 Cor. 1:1).
- ❖ The city of Corinth was a community of people governed by sinful passion & lusts.
- ❖ The church must learn to be **IN** the world but not **OF** the world (Jn 17:14-16).
- ❖ The world was **IN** the church at Corinth.

Remember Who We Are.

**“Those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints”**

❖ **Sanctified** = to make holy, set apart

❖ **Saint** = a holy one, set apart

❖ Those who are holy/sanctified/set apart
are those who are “in Christ.”

❖ Those who are in Christ are to be
different than those who are in the
world!

Remember Who We Are.

“Call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord”

❖ When Christians...

1. Acknowledge Jesus Christ as LORD of their lives...
2. Live and work under the LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ...
3. Honour Jesus Christ as LORD of all things in their lives...
4. Submit to the authority of Jesus Christ as LORD...

Remember Who We Are.

**Then, all problems
caused by selfish and
ignorant pride will be
resolved!**

Solution to All Major Problems in the Church

**WHEN CHRISTIANS
REMEMBER WHO
THEY ARE**

WHO ARE WE?

1. CHURCH OF GOD
2. SANCTIFIED, SAINTS
3. CALLED BY THE LORD
JESUS