

1 Corinthians

Author: Paul, an Apostle – Planter of the Church at Corinth

Origin: 54 AD, from Ephesus

Genre: Epistle

Audience: Jewish Converts from the Synagogue; Gentiles from the City – Merchants and Trades-folk, Civic Leaders and Slaves, Rich and Poor, Men and Women

Occasion: Support, Reports and Letter(s) Delivered by Stephanas (Fortunatus, Achaicus), and possibly Gaius and Sosthenes; *also Cloe's household/servants,*

Issues: Factions, Superiority and Status-Seeking, Immorality (Idolatry), Disbelief

Greetings: It's Me, Paul, Again

- 1 **Paul**, **called** {as} an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and **Sosthenes** our brother,
- 2 To the **church** of God which is at **Corinth**, to those who have been **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, **saints** by **calling**, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their {Lord} and ours:
- 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks Be to God: You're Already Blessed with Gifts

- 4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,
- 5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,
- 6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,
- 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 9 God is faithful, through whom you were **called** into **fellowship** with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

Matt 28:18-20: 'And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' "

What Happened? Factions Have Arisen; Testing Authority

- 10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no **divisions** among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.
- 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by **Chloe's** {people} that there are **quarrels** among you.
- 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of **Paul**," and "I of **Apollos**," and "I of **Cephas**," and "I of Christ."
- 13 Has Christ been **divided**? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
- 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except **Crispus** and **Gaius**,
- 15 so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.
- 16 Now I did baptize also the household of **Stephanas**; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.
- 17 For Christ did not **send** me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

Geography: Corinth Situated on the isthmus between Aegean and Ionian seas; Rebuilt into a Roman Colony 44 BC; now capital of province of achaia with 75,000 people; Host of Isthmian Games; Gulf of Corinth to West and Port of Cenchrea to East

History: Paul spent 18 months in Corinth, teaching and Working His Trade with Prisca and Aquila; returns in 55 AD (2 Corinthians),



Correlation: Acts 18:1-22; 1 Corinthians 16:5-22

Themes: Christ Crucified (1 Cor. 1:23), True Wisdom and Love (1 Cor. 2, 13), The Proper Operation of the Body (1 Cor. 12), Sanctification (Separation from the World), Reality of the Resurrection (1 Cor. 15),

Remedies: Unity in Christ, Leadership and Authority Found in Service, Love

Assignment: Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 through 1 Corinthians 2:16.