

1 Corinthians

*. Where is Corinth?

Located on the isthmus that connects northern and southern Greece; major commercial city; very wealthy; very immoral.

*. Who wrote the letter?

Paul – this is one of the four uncontested letters written by Paul; authorship stated in the preface – see 1 Cor. 1:1;

*. When was it written?

Written about 54-55 AD;

*. Why was it written?

Paul had help to establish the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey. The church was experiencing some challenges so they wrote to Paul seeking answers. He included in this letter discussions about the following issues:

Divisions within the church (1:10-4:21)

Church discipline (5:1-6:20)

Marriage (7:1-40)

Food offered to idols (8:1-11:1)

Public worship (11:2-34)

Spiritual gifts (12:1-14:40)

The resurrection (15:1-58)

*. What is the main topic?

The Christ-centered life must be demonstrated.

1 Cor. 1:10-17: 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.

1 Cor. 3:1-9: And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere men*? ⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Cor. 8:9: But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

1 Cor. 10:31-11: Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; ³³ just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the *profit* of the many, so that they may be saved. ¹ Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

1 Cor. 12:12-14: For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many.

1 Cor. 16:13-14: Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.