

## 1 Corinthians

Background: Corinth had been a key city of Greece until conquered and destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC. It was rebuilt by Julius Caesar as a Roman colony in 46 BC and became a major center of commerce.

Located on the isthmus between the Aegean and Adriatic Seas it was the place that commerce naturally flowed through. There were @ 700,000 people living in Corinth at Paul's time, two thirds of which were slaves.

Filled with religious centers and temples, the chief of which was the temple to Aprodite or Venus with 1800 foot structure called the Acrocorinthus. There were 1000 temple prostitutes working there.

It was such a wicked place that the phrase to "corinthianize" was synonymous with drunken, lewd, sensual behavior, going to the very limit of sin.

Against this backdrop, Paul preached the gospel there, we see it in Acts 18. He spent 18 months there, establishing the church. It was there that he met Aquila and Priscilla. As usual his preaching in the synagogue eventually results in a riot and Paul leaves.

On his third missionary journey, he writes this letter from the city of Ephesus @ 55-57 AD.

We will deal with church discipline, marriage, Christian liberty, dress, order in the church, communion, spiritual gifts, doctrine of the trinity and resurrection, even giving as we go through this book.

We will be talking about issues that affect the church in this day. Be open to what the Holy Spirit would show you through this book.

**Go to Acts 17-18 for background**

### Chapter 1

v.1 Paul called to be an apostle- a sent one

- this is his calling, God called him, Jesus waylaid him on the road to Damascus, the Spirit of God taught him in the desert of Arabia. *See Gal. 1:11-18*

- through the will of God- we sometimes try to make things happen

v.2 to the church at Corinth- the church is the people

- sanctified- set apart, there are two aspects to sanctification as we saw in our study of Romans; positional sanctification, we are sanctified before God because of what Jesus has done for us and practical sanctification as the Holy Spirit deals in our lives and changes us day to day.

- called to be saints- set apart for God's purpose

- Christ (the title) Jesus (the name)

- those who call on the name- **not called by the name but on the name- have we really fully trusted in Him**

v.3 Grace and peace- always this order, there is no peace without grace

v.4 thanks for the grace of God- grace is not as some are now saying the opposite of obedience, grace is what enables us to be obedient

- grace is not just unmerited favor- it is unmerited favor in place of merited condemnation and judgement

- grace is given- (*Heb 4:16 NKJV*) *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

v.5 enriched- plutocrat, lavishly wealthy

- utterance and knowledge of Him

(*Col 3:16-17 NKJV*) ***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. {17} And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.***

(*Eph 5:17-21 NKJV*) *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. {18} And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, {19} speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, {20} giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, {21} submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

**" If to be filled with the Word is equal in result to being filled with the Spirit, then it should be clear that the Word filled Christian is the Spirit filled Christian" Ironside**

v.6 the testimony is confirmed or established in you

v.7 come short in no gift- you have everything that you need  
- looking for the coming of the Lord

v.8 His goal is to have us blameless, positionally and practically- ongoing work of the Holy Spirit

v.9 God is faithful- emphatic statement

- fellowship of His Son- ask a hard question as we go through this book, are you part of the fellowship of His Son ? I am not talking about salvation but are you really a useful part of the Body- the appendix and gall bladder are part of the body but mostly useless and are removed if they cause too many problems

v.10 I plead- parakletos, come alongside to assist, to comfort, to warn, to encourage

- speak the same things- psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, are we speaking for Him or using His name to speak to our desires

- no divisions- schisms, separations

- be perfectly joined together-katartizo, kat-ar-tid'-zo; to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (lit. or fig.) or adjust:--fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect (-ly join together), prepare, restore.

- same mind and in the same judgment- *see Philippians 2*

v.11 contentions- these are the things that destroy churches, that destroy moves of God

v.12-16 divisions over personalities, etc.

- some even claim super spiritual guidance " I am of Christ"

v.17 Baptism is important, it is commanded, it is not essential for salvation

v.18 message of the cross

- Jesus- the sinless, perfect lamb of God, God incarnate, died for our sins
- once and for all atonement
- there is no other way
- the purpose of the cross was not to be an example
- it was not to provide us a way that we could now walk holy
- it was to redeem lost sinners in the way that only His death could do

To those who are perishing or those who are lost it is foolishness has no meaning.

To those who are being saved it is the power of God