

1Corinthians – Week 1

I. Author:

A. Paul, the apostle

B. He traveled to Corinth in his second missionary journey

i. The City of Corinth

- 1. Located fifty miles east of Athens, in the province of Achaia (now referred to as Greece)**
- 2. It was destroyed in 146BC and rebuilt in 46BC by Julius Caesar**
- 3. It soon became a very important commercial center**
- 4. It was a place of all sorts of immorality:**
 - a. For example, the priestesses of the Temple of Venus (Aphrodite) were dedicated to prostitution in the name of religion**
- 5. There was also the problem of intellectualism:**
 - a. The Corinthians loved human wisdom**
 - b. The people of Corinth loved to gather in public squares and discuss the great philosophers of Greece's golden age**
- 6. Some of these problems were affecting the Church at Corinth**

II. Period Established

A. The church was planted on Paul's second missionary journey after his visit in Athens (cf. Acts 15:36; 18:1-18)

B. Paul stayed with a Christian couple, Priscilla and Aquilla, in Corinth for a year and 6 months, teaching the Corinthians while working as a fellow tent-maker (Acts 18:1-3, 11)

III. Time Written: circa AD 56-57

A. Paul wrote this epistle from Ephesus (1Corinthians 16:8), during his third missionary journey (Acts 19)

B. Chronology of events:

- i. Paul's first missionary journey (c. AD 49)**
- ii. Paul's second missionary journey (c. AD 50-52)**
 - 1. Paul arrives at Corinth (c. AD 50 or 51)**
 - 2. Paul leaves Corinth (c. AD 52)**
- iii. Paul returns to Syrian Antioch (c. AD 52)**
- iv. Paul's third missionary journey (c. AD 53-57)**
 - 1. First Corinthians written (c. AD 56-57)**

IV. Purpose:

A. Reason 1: To address the problems reported by some from Chloe's household (1:10-6:20)

- i. There were divisions in the Church (1:1-4:21)**
 - 1. The cause for the division:**
 - a. Members were resting their faith in the wisdom of men rather than in the power of God (1:18-2:16)**
 - 2. The result of the division:**
 - a. Immaturity (3:1-9)**
 - b. Loss of rewards (3:10-23)**
 - c. Prejudging other members (4:3-5)**
- ii. There was sexual immorality and lack of Church discipline (5:1-13)**
- iii. Members were suing other members (6:1-11)**
- iv. Lack of purity in the Church (6:9-20)**

- B. Reason 2: To reply to their questions regarding**
 - i. Marriage, celibacy and divorce (7)**
 - ii. Eating meats sacrificed to idols (8:1-11:1)**
 - iii. Women praying or praying with their heads uncovered (11:2-16)**
 - iv. The Lord's Supper (11:17-34)**
 - v. Spiritual gifts (12-14)**
 - vi. The resurrection of the dead (15)**
 - vii. The collection (16:1-4)**

V. The Theme

- A. 1Corinthians 1:10 (ESV), *"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."***

VI. Conclusion:

- A. The Corinthian Church had many problems stemming from pride:**
 - i. Their divisions, lack of church discipline, lawsuits, abuse of Christian liberty and over-emphasis of the gift of tongues, all illustrate this root problem.**
 - ii. Although Paul dealt with these problems separately, the main emphasis is found in chapter 13, "The Love Chapter."**
 - 1. Love for others is incompatible with pride**
 - 2. It is the foundational principle that guides all actions!**