

1 CORINTHIANS

1. TITLES:

- A. The First Epistle to the Corinthians
- B. The Book of Correction
- C. The Book of N.T. Church Order

2. AUTHOR:

Written by Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

3. DATE:

Probably written between 53 and 57 A.D. during Paul's stay at Ephesus on his third missionary journey (Acts 19). Later he visited Corinth again (Acts 20:1, 2).

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Body – 44
- B. Spirit (Greek word) – 41
- C. Wise (dom, er) – 31
- D. Tongue (s) – 22
- E. Prophet, Prophecy, etc. – 21
- F. Charity, Love (same Greek word) – 16

5. KEY VERSES: 1:24, 30; 3:10, 11

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To answer questions that the Corinthians had addressed to him concerning problems in the church (7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1).
- B. To reprove and correct abuses in the mental, moral, social, and spiritual life of the Corinthian church.

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7. MESSAGE:

- A. Recognition of the Lordship of Jesus is the solution to division in the body of Christ.
- B. God's church must be built by God's wisdom and power rather than by man's.
- C. To have order in the church we must conform to God's order.
- D. That which edifies the church is sound doctrine and that which motivates the church is God's love.

8. OUTLINE:

- I. Corrective Section: Carnalities 1:1-8:13
Divisions/Immorality/Marriage/Idolatry
- II. Construction Section: Spiritualities 9:1-16:24
Ministry/Communion/Spiritual Gifts/Body of Christ
Love/Resurrection/Collections

9. SUMMARY:

The church at Corinth was founded by Paul, as recorded in Acts 18. It had enjoyed the ministries of Paul, Peter, and Apollos and factions had arisen around these three personalities. Other carnalities such as immorality, idolatry, and heresy had arisen. Thus Paul wrote this first epistle to reprove the Corinthians of these and to correct disorders concerning the Lord's Table, spiritual gifts, and the collection. He also answered questions and clarified misunderstandings concerning the resurrection. All of these things are evidence of a lack of spirituality, the essence of which is love.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as the Power of God (1:24), the Wisdom of God (1:24, 30), our Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption (1:30), the Love of God (13), and the Resurrection (15).