First Corinthians

Problems In Corinth
Theme

• 1 Corinthians 1:10

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
Chapters of 1 Corinthians

Chapter 1 – No Reason for Divisions
Chapter 2 – Paul’s Message: The Wisdom of God
Chapter 3 – Corinthians’ Carnal Minds
Chapter 4 – Servant Evangelists
Chapter 5 – Sin in the Church
Chapter 6 – Lawsuits and Liberties (or Immorality)
Chapter 7 – Liberties: Marriage
Chapter 8 – Liberties: Meat Offered to Idols
Chapters of 1 Corinthians

Chapter 9 – Paul’s Liberties
Chapter 10 – Israel’s “Liberties” Lesson
Chapter 11 – Head Covering; Lord’s Supper
Chapter 12 – Spiritual Gifts: Members of One Body
Chapter 13 – Spiritual Gifts: Love is Better
Chapter 14 – Spiritual Gifts: Strive for Edification
Chapter 15 – Summary of the Gospel
Chapter 16 – Collection for the Saints
1 Corinthians 1: Paul, to the church in Corinth. Let there be no divisions. The cross is folly to those perishing, but to us it is the power of God.

• **They Were Enriched By God**
  – Called Out To Be Holy
  – Utterance and Knowledge
  – Waited On Christ’s Return
  – Could Count On God’s Faithfulness

• **They Suffered From “Preacher-itis”**
  – Only Christ Died For Our Sins
  – Only Baptized Into Christ

• **They Exalted Human Wisdom**
  – Treated The Gospel As Another “Wisdom”
  – All This Is Folly

• **THEREFORE PAUL APPEALS FOR UNITY**
  – Speak the Same Things
  – Eliminate Divisions
  – Be Perfectly United In Mind and Judgment
1 Corinthians 2: I knew nothing among you except Christ crucified. We speak the wisdom of God. Through the Spirit we know what God has revealed.

• **Paul’s Manner Of Preaching**
  – Paul Proclaimed Only Christ and Him Crucified (1-3)
  – In Weakness, Fear, and Trembling (3)
  – Demonstrated Of The Spirit And Of Power (4-5)
  – Faith Should Rest In Power Of God Not In Men (5)

• **True Wisdom Of God (6-16)**
  – The Hidden Nature Of God’s Wisdom (6-9)
  – The Spirit’s Revelation Of God’s Wisdom (10-13)
  – The “Natural Man” VS. Spiritual Man (14-16)
    • *Natural - Not Guided By Revelation*
    • *Spiritual - Guided By God’s Revelation*
LET NO MAN GLORY IN MEN (3:1-23)

• Division - Proof of Their Immaturity (1-4)
  – Carnal (1) Babes, Not spiritual, Made of Flesh
  – Carnal (2) They were Anti-Spiritual. Dominated by the Flesh

• Ministers Are Servants – Not Masters (5-9)
  – The Lord Gave to them

• The Test of Every Preachers Work (10-15)
  – How do they Build on the Foundation of Christ?
  – Does Their Work Last?

• Therefore Let No Man Glory in Men (16-23)
  – All things are yours (21)
1 Corinthians 4: Think of us as stewards of the mysteries of God. You are kings already (8)? We are fools for Christ. I admonish you as my dear children.

**Proper Estimation and Work of a Preacher (1-5)**
- Count Ministers for what they are
  - Ministers (*under-oarsman*) and Steward (*servant and manager*)
- Judgment of Men Matters Little
- Judgment of God is all that Matter

**Do Not Compare or Judge Ministers (4:6-13)**
- God Causes the Differences Between Men (7)
- You are Showing Superiority (8)
- True Ministers are put Last (9-10)
- True Ministers Serve – No Matter What (11-13)

**The Faithfulness / Purpose of Ministers (14-21)**
- Minister Does Not Shame – but Admonishes (14)
- Minister Shows a fatherly spirit (15)
- Minister Sets an Unmatched Example (16)
- Ministers Provides Growth for the church (17)
- Minister Wants to be with God’s People – to help them get better (18)
1 Corinthians 5: You boast about the sexual immorality among you. You should deliver that man to Satan. But I am not judging those outside the church.

**Sexual Immorality & Church Discipline**

- **Mourn the Sin (5:1-2)**
  - But they were puffed up!
- **Judge the Sin (5:3-5)** –
  - Deliver him to Satan
- **Purge the Sin (5:6-13)** –
  - To Save the Sinner (5b)
  - To Save the Church (6-8)
Major Points in Chapter 6

• It is a sin to defraud your brother
• How dare you take your brother to a heathen court. It is an utter shame!
• As a Christian, you are Washed, Sanctified, and Justified – Act Like It!!
• You are different from the Unrighteous World in which you live.
• Your conduct should reflect who you are
• How you use your body matters – Always Glorify God!

1 Corinthians 6: Do you take one another to court? Why not rather be wronged? Your body is not for sexual immorality, it is a temple of the Spirit.
Church Discipline

• **Consider the Church (5:1-13)**
  – Mourn the Sin (5:1-2)
  – Judge the Sin (5:3-5)
  – Purge the Sin (5:6-13)

• **Consider the Lost (6:1-8)**
  – Presenting a Poor Example to the Lost
  – Failed to Live Up to Their Position in Christ
  – Christians Suing Brethren had Already Lost

• **Consider the Lord (6:9-20)**
  – Consider the Father (6:12-14)
  – Consider the Son (15-18)
  – Consider the Holy Spirit (19-20)
Now Concerning …

• Marriage (7:1)
• Divorce (7:10)
• Virgins (7:25)
• Food Offered to Idols (8:1)
• Spiritual Gifts (12:1)
• The Collection for Jerusalem (16:1)
• Apollos (16:12)
1 Corinthians 7: It is good to stay unmarried, but better to marry than to burn with lust. Each should live as God has called. I want you to be free.

- **Marriage is Good (1-9)**
  - Avoid Immorality (1-2) Marry or exercise self-control (7-9)
  - Maintain Affection (3-4)
  - A Time for Abstinence (prayer/fasting) (5-6)

- **Instructions on Divorce (10-24)**
  - Do Not Depart – Leave or Divorce your Spouse
  - Not “Under-Bondage” – To Reconcile, To Marriage Duties, to Save Them (NOT Free to Re-Marry)
  - Remain in the Condition You were Called (Social Status)
  - Keep the Commandments of God (19)

- **Instructions to the Single (25-40)**
  - “Present Distress” – Remain Single if you Can
  - Widows – Ok to Marry “in the Lord”, but might be happier single
1 Corinthians 8: About food offered to idols: An idol is nothing. There is only one God. But if food makes my brother stumble I will never eat meat.

- **Knowledge, Love and Eating Meat Offered to Idols (8:1-6)**
  - Knowledge Puffs Up **BUT** Love Edifies (1)
- **Applying Love Toward Those Whose Consciences are Weak (7-13)**
  - Not Everyone has Correct Knowledge / Strong Consciences (7)
  - Our “Liberty” (Right) Must Not Cause Others to Stumble (8-9)
  - We Can Abuse our Knowledge and Liberty – Leading to Sin (10-12) – both the strong and the weak.
  - Be Willing to Give Up Your Liberty for Your Brothers Sake (13)

“**I will never eat meat again if it causes my brother to stumble**”
1 Corinthians 9: You are the seal of my apostleship. Do we not have the right to material support? But I made myself a servant to all for the gospel.

- **Paul’s Liberty as an Apostle (1-14)**
  - Paul Affirms He is An Apostle (1-2)
    - Eyewitness of the Lord, His Work among the Corinthians
  - Liberties available to Paul
    - Eat and Drink, a Wife, and Support as a Preacher (4-5)
    - Illustrations of Soldier, Farmer, and a Shepherd (7)

- **Paul Restricted His Liberty (15-27)**
  - Concerning Support (15-18)—“Woe if I do not preach gospel”
  - Service toward Others (19-23) – To Save Others (22)
  - The Possibility of Apostasy (24-27) – Lest I be disqualified
Chapter 10 – Israel’s Liberties

• Realize the possibility of apostasy
  – Some in Corinth felt that they were in no danger - we are “Strong” we are “Knowledgeable”.
  – We have been baptized, we take the Lord’s Supper, we are protected from harm.
  – We can freely attend the idol feasts because they are nothing.
  – Paul uses the Example of Israel to show how wrong they are

• Appreciate the help of God in times of temptation

• Understand the importance of properly applying the principles of expediency
1 Corinthians 10: Do not desire evil as our fathers did. God will make you able to endure temptation. Flee from idolatry. Do all to the glory of God.

- **Israel’s Example**
  - God was not pleased (5)

- **Serves as an Example to Us;**
  - We might not desire evil (6)
  - We must not indulge in Sexual Immorality (8)
  - We must not put Christ to the test (9)
  - We must not grumble (10)

- **Faithfulness of God when we are Tempted**
  - If you think you Stand – Be Careful, You may fall (12)
  - God will always provide an escape so you might endure (13)

- **Do All Things to Glorify God (32)**
  - Look to Build Up, Look to the Good of our Neighbor (23-24)
  - Try to Please Everyone in what you do – that they might be saved
• The Covering (1-16)
  – Hair, Custom, Miraculous Gifts, Divine Command.
  – Headship

• The Lord’s Supper (17-34)
  – All worship is not acceptable to God
  – The Corinthians even had divisions when they came together
  – Treated the Lord’s Supper as a common meal

• How to Take the Lord’s Supper
  – Look Back (23-26a) – Remember His Death
    • Remember THAT, WHY, and HOW He Died
  – Look Ahead (26b) Until He Comes
  – Look Within (27-28; 31-32) – Worthy Manner
  – Look Around (33-34) – Wait!

1 Corinthians 11: The head of a woman is her husband. I hear that some go hungry when you meet! With the bread and cup you proclaim the Lord's death.
• All Spiritual Gifts, Though Diverse, Come From the Same Spirit and Are to be Used for the Benefit of All (1-11)

• All Members (and Spiritual Gifts) Are Important. (12-27)
  – Paul Compares the Church to a Body with Many Different, but Essential Members.

• Not Everyone Had the Same Gifts or Function (28-31)
  – Desire the Greater Gifts (Apostleship, Prophecy, Teaching) the Gifts that Instruct People in the Word of God.
  – “Gifts” Do Not Make One a Better Christian, But Love Will.

1 Corinthians 12: Now there are various spiritual gifts, but one Spirit. If the whole body were an eye, how would it hear? You are the body of Christ.
1 Corinthians 13: Without love I am nothing. Love is patient, does not boast, love endures all things. Tongues will cease, but faith, hope and love remain.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOVE IS</th>
<th>LOVE IS NOT</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Long Suffering</td>
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Miraculous Gifts will Cease When the New Testament Comes Together

So now Faith, Hope, and Love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love (13:13)
1 Corinthians 14: Tongues edifies the speaker, prophecy edifies the church. Each of you brings a hymn, a lesson or a tongue. Let all be done in order.

- **Edification (14:1-5, 26b)**
  - Edify – *To build-up*, Body-Building Exercises
  - We are all part of the same body, so we need to be busy building each other up!
  - *We Must Share The Word Of God!*

- **Understanding (14:6-25)**
  - “Understanding” – used eight times in this section!
  - Illustrations: *Music, Bugle Call, and Conversation*
  - *What We Share, Must Be Understood To Do Any Good!*

- **Order (14:26-40)**
  - Let all things be done unto edifying (26)
  - Let all things be done decently and in order (40)
  - *When We Share, Do It In A Manner That Is Orderly*
1 Corinthians 15: Christ was raised from the dead. If not then your faith is futile. But he is the first-fruits. At the trumpet we will all be changed.

- **The Resurrection Of Jesus is The Basis Of Our Faith.**
  - He Died (3), was Buried (4), Was Seen (5-7)
  - The Corinthians Were Taught This and they Believe This! (11)

- **Why Do We Believe That Jesus Was Raised From The Dead?**
  - If Not – Then we Are to be Most Pitied (19)

- **What Is The Sequence Of Events At The end Of Time?**
  - What Body will we have? (35-49)
  - How are we Raised? (50-58)

Since death ends nothing for the Christian, since Jesus conquered death – what we do in this life for God means Everything!

“Be Steadfast, Immoveable, Abound in the work of the Lord!”
1 Corinthians 16: Put aside an offering for the saints. I will come to you. The churches of Asia greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

- **15:58** – “...know your labor is not in vain”
  - What better chance to be “steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the Lord’s work” – than to help their brethren in Judea.

- **Concerning the Collection for the Saints**
  - “Upon the First Day of the Week” (2)
  - “Lay something aside” – store up, deposit
  - As he may Prosper – as one is able
  - So – No Collections When I Come

- **Watch, Stand, Act Like Men, Strength (13)**
- **But, Don’t Forget to be Loving… (14)**
  - Quarrels and Factions (chaps 1-3)
  - Attitude toward Paul (Chap 4 & 9)
  - Lawsuits (chap 6)
  - Husband – Wife Relationships (chap 7)
  - How they treat each other (meat) – chap 8)
  - How you view your “rights: - chap 9
  - How you serve each other (with your gifts) – chaps 12-14)
Second Corinthians

A Heart Open Wide
Chapters of 2 Corinthians

Chapter 1 Past Suffering and Future Plans
Chapter 2 Forgive the Brother
Chapter 3 New Covenant Ministers
Chapter 4 Earthen Vessels
Chapter 5 Motives of Ministers
Chapter 6 Holy Living
Chapters of 2 Corinthians

Chapter 7 Paul’s Emotional Struggle
Chapter 8 Collection: Generosity
Chapter 9 Collection: Blessings
Chapter 10 Arguments Against Paul’s Apostleship
Chapter 11 Arguments For Paul’s Apostleship
Chapter 12 Paul’s Thorn
Chapter 13 Warnings Before Visiting
Chapter 1 – Past Suffering

- **COMFORT - COMFORT - COMFORT!!!**
  - **REMEMBER** What God Does FOR You

- **THAT** We Might Trust in God (9)
  - **REMEMBER** What God is TO You

- **THAT** We Might Comfort Others. (4)
  - **REMEMBER** What God Does THROUGH You

- **THAT** God Would Receive the Glory (11)
  - **REMEMBER** What God Does FOR You

- PRAYER CHANGES THINGS (11)

- PRAISE CHANGES THINGS (11)
Chapter 1 – Future Plans

- Paul Practiced what He Preached
  - His Conscience was Clear
  - His Conduct Was Above Reproach
- All of God’s Promises are “YES” in Jesus Christ
- What Paul Changed His Travel Plans
  - To Spare Them
  - Because He Loved Them
Chapter 3 – New Covenant Ministers

- The Corinthians were Paul’s Letter of Recommendation
  - Our Lives are Open Letter for the world to read – What does the world read in you?

- The New Covenant Has More Glory than Old
  - Changed Lives (vs 1-3)
  - Brings Live (4-6)
  - Has Increasing Glory (7-11)
  - Is Open, Has Nothing to Hide (12-18)

- Men Must Turn to God (16)
Chapter 2 – Forgive the Brother

- **Tenderness in Discipline** – *Compassionate Heart.*
- **Forgive** - **Comfort** - *Confirm the penitent member.*
- **Don’t give Satan the advantage**
  - *Over Churches or Over Christians*
- **Don’t neglect new members** - **Help them grow!!**
- **Follow Christ** - **and Triumph!!!**
  - *Paul Knew God Was Leading Him*
  - *Paul Knew God Was Leading Him in Triumph*
  - *Paul Knew God Was Using Him*
- **Our Active Faith Gives us this Victory.**
- **The Gospel need not be changed to save souls today**

2 Cor 2:5-17
Chapter 4 – Earthen Vessels

We FAINT NOT

- We do not lose heart, since we have this Glorious Ministry that changes lives (1)
- We have a Valuable Treasure
  - We are but Clay Jars (7)
  - We must be kept clean for service
- We have a Confident Faith - How Paul was able to Endure Suffering
  - Our Affliction is Bearable (Light)
  - Our Affliction is Temporary (For a Moment)
  - Our Affliction is Beneficial (working for us)
Chapter 5 – Motives for Ministers

■ **Motives for Serving God**
  ■ **HOPE** – Assurance of Eternal Life.
    ■ WE have a Heavenly Body prepared
  ■ **FEAR** – We must all stand before he judgment seat.
    ■ W make it our AIM to Please Him
  ■ **LOVE** – Christ Died and Took our Sin
    ■ The Love of God Compels Me to Service Him
  ■ **COMMISSION** – We are His Ambassadors

■ **Results of Christ’s Death**
  ■ **A New Way to Live** (15) – Live for Christ not ourselves
  ■ **A New Outlook** (12,16) – What we are Spiritually
  ■ **A New Creation** (17) – Only when we are IN Christ
  ■ **A New Relationship** (21) – Reconciled to God, Righteous
Chapter 6 – Holy Living

- “My Heart Is Wide Open For You”
- Do Not Receive the Grace of God in Vain (1-2)
- Paul Lived the Way He Did
  - To give not Offense – no occasion for stumbling
  - TO Commend Himself – He lived the way he should
  - In all things (trials, principles) – Paul was Consistent
- Separate from the World
  - Do not be Unequally Yoked
  - We are to Cleanse and Purify ourselves
Chapter 7 – Paul’s Emotional Struggle

- Paul was Distressed when Titus did not meet him in Troas
  - But he rejoiced at the new he brought
- True Repentance Always Bears Fruit
  - Diligence
  - Clearing of Yourselves
  - Indignation
  - Fear
  - Vehement Desire
  - Zeal
  - Vindication

6:11: O Corinthians; Our heart is wide open.

7:2: Make room in your hearts for us
Chapter 8 – Collection: Generosity

- We Must FIRST Give Ourselves to God
- Giving Proves our Love
- How Can we Know We Are Giving Properly?
  - When we give in spite of circumstances (1-2)
  - When we give enthusiastically (3-4)
  - When we give as Christ gave (5-9)
  - When we give Willingly (10-12)
  - When we give by Faith (13-24)
- Motives for Giving
  - Love, Appreciation, Gratitude, Thanksgiving
Chapter 9 – Collection: Blessings

- **Giving Will Bless You (6-11)**
  - We reap in measure as we sow (6)
  - We reap as we sow in the right motives (7)
  - God loves a cheerful giver (7)
  - Generous giving is not hazard (8)
  - Trust in the Lord (8)
  - We share in His Righteousness (9)
  - We are Enriched (11)

- **Our Giving Meets Needs (12)**

- **God is Glorified in Our Giving (13)**
Chapter 10 – Arguments Against Paul Apostleship

- Christ was Paul’s Example - Meek and Gentle
- Christ should always get the glory.
- We are at WAR - Be ready with your weapons.
- Don’t Judge by Appearances.
- Use Christ and His Word as the Standard.
Chapter 11 – Arguments For Paul Apostleship

- Personal Boasting is sometimes needed.
- The church & its members are to be pure & holy.
- Hold fast to the simplicity of Jesus.
- Satan desires to destroy us.
- Our Religion Cost much - What we enjoy is the fruit of others sufferings.
- We should be willing to suffer for it to.
- The Christian Religion is true - based on facts.
Chapter 12 – Paul’s Thorn

- ‘My grace is sufficient for thee’ - God will never let us down.
- We should gladly give ourselves to the service of God (vs. 15)
- Our supreme desire should be to please God (vs 19a).
- We should do all things to edify others (vs 19b).
- We should have a deep love for souls of men (vs 15).
Chapter 13 – Warnings Before Visiting

- Be Complete - *Mend your ways*
- Be of Good Comfort - *Have Hope.*
- Be of One Mind - *Live in Harmony*
- Holy Kiss - *Reconciled to Each Other*
- *God will be with you*
THE TEST (13:5)

- Do you comfort others? (1:1-11)
- Is Your Conscience Clear, & Conduct Pure? (1:12 – 2:4)
- Do You Forgive, Confirm, and Comfort the Penitent? (2:5-11)
- Are You Following Christ in Triumph? (2:14-17)
- Is Your Faith Active? (2)
- Is Your Life Changed By The Glorious NT? (3)
- Have You Turned To God? (3:16)
- Are You Sincere & Committed In Your Service? (4)
- Do You Lose Heart?
- Does God Get The Glory (we are only clay jars)? 4:7
- Do You Have A Confident Faith?
- Are Your Afflictions Light, Momentary, and Beneficial?
- Are You Motivated To Serve Him? (5)
- Do You Have Hope, Fear, and Commission?
- Are You Separated From The World? (6)
- Are You Consecrated To Him (Cleansed and Purified)?
- Are You Truly Penitent? (7)
- Have You Given Yourself To God FIRST? (8)
- Do You Give To Help Others? (9)
- Do You Use The Talents God Gave You? (10)
- Are You True To Christ - Your Betrothed? (11)
- Is God’s Grace Sufficient For You (12)