

1 Corinthians

Study Outline

Background: The city of Corinth was located about 40 west of Athens and served as a commercial hub for the Roman Empire. Because Corinth had three harbors, the city was not only prosperous, but was a cultural melting pot. Known as the original sin city, Corinth boasted an enormous temple to Aphrodite (Greek goddess of sexuality) whose worship included some 1,000 temple prostitutes. The moral reputation of the city was so famous the term "Corinthianize" was used to describe a person who'd gone to the extreme in the pursuit of sexual pleasure.

Main Point: During his second missionary journey the Apostle Paul spent 18 months in the city of Corinth. (Acts 18:1-18) It was during this time that he met Aquilla and Priscilla and planted a church in Corinth comprised mainly of gentiles converts. Three years later, while in Ephesus, Paul exchanges a series of letters with this church. In the letter commonly known as 1st Corinthians, we see Paul function in two important leadership roles. First, Paul shepherds the church by addressing the report he had received of their sinful behavior. Secondly, as an apostle, Paul spends the remainder of the letter replying to a series of theological questions he had received from the Corinthians. The core issue with the Corinthians was the fact they had lost site of Jesus. A renewed focus on Christ was the solution to their issues whether moral, social or ecclesiastical.

1 Corinthians Outline:

1. PAUL'S INTRODUCTION

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9 AUTHORSHIP & GREETING

2. PAUL ADDRESSES SIN IN THE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-4:21 SECTARIANISM
1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13 SEXUAL IMMORALITY
1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11 UNFORGIVING SPIRIT
1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20 MORAL COMPROMISES

3. PAUL ANSWERS THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-24 MARRIAGE & CELIBACY
1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-11:1 EATING MEAT SACRIFICED TO IDOLS
1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16 WOMEN'S HEAD COVERINGS
1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34 LORD'S SUPPER
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-14:40 SPIRITUAL GIFTS
- DIVERSITY & UNITY OF GIFTS
- PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS
- THE GREATEST GIFT
- GIFTS OF PROPHECY, TONGUES & INTERPRETATION
- USE OF GIFTS IN THE CHURCH SERVICE
1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-58 RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST
1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4 ISSUE OF COLLECTIONS

4. PAUL CLOSES HIS LETTER

1 CORINTHIANS 16:5-12 PAUL'S PERSONAL PLANS
1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-24 EXHORTATIONS & FAREWELL



Day 1: Anti-Denominationalism.....

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Why are divisions among the church so destructive to the ultimate purpose and mission of the church? (2). What is Paul's remedy to this divisive spirit amongst the church in Corinth? (3). In what ways and over what matters does the universal church divide itself today?

Day 2: Temple of God.....

1 Corinthians 3:5-17 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Paul describes the believer as the "temple of God." What makes this description so radical and significant? (2). How can we "defile the temple of God?" (3). Since you are a temple and the Spirit of God dwells within you, how should these realities effect the way you live your life?

Day 3: Company.....

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 // THINKING POINTS: (1). How does Paul encourage the church to deal with the unrepentant sinner within the walls of the church? What is the purpose behind this punishment? (2). What distinction does Paul make between the way we interact with the sin of the worldly and the sin of a brother in Christ? (3). Why does Paul make this distinction?

Day 4: One Body.....

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Though Paul acknowledges that "all things are lawful for him," in what way does he challenge our perspective when it comes to our choices? (2). Why does Paul use "marriage language" when describing the intimate nature of our relationship with God? (3). Why then does sexual immorality have such a destructive result on the spiritual life?

Day 5: Prefer Others.....

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What is the natural manifestation of a true love for someone else? (2). How does Paul admonish these believers to actively show their love for their weaker brother? (3). In what ways should we lay down some of our own liberty to prefer and love a weaker brother or sister in the Lord?

Day 6: Greatest Gift.....

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 // THINKING POINT: (1). Of all the manifestations the Holy Spirit has in the life of the believer, what is the most important? (2). If Jesus was best described by His love, chapter 13 actually describes what? (3). Do you have a love for other people?

DEVOTIONS

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