



# 1 Corinthians

## INTRODUCTION

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### Corinth

- Ancient Greek city destroyed by Roman Army in 146 BC
- Julius Caesar rebuilt the city in 44 BC as a Roman Colony
- Populated with Roman freedmen, retired Roman soldiers

### Corinthian Context

- Social Context: Honor, status, rugged individualism, commercial competitiveness, self-advancement, patronage
- “The problem was not that the church was in Corinth but that too much of Corinth was in the church” (David Garland)
- Religious Context: melting pot, fertility cult, Imperial cult, rampant immorality (Romans 1:18-32)

### Paul and Corinth

- Paul visited Corinth (AD 50) and spent almost two years there, preaching, teaching, and established the church (Acts 18:1-22). Paul met Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth. Silas and Timothy joined him as well. Paul left Corinth and traveled to Ephesus and then returned home to Antioch.
- Paul returned to Ephesus (AD 52-55) and received news from Corinth. He wrote his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 5:9-11). This letter has been lost in antiquity.
- Paul received both reports and a letter from the Corinthian church about various issues (1 Cor. 1:11; 7:1; 16:17).
- Paul writes 1 Corinthians while in Ephesus (AD 55) to address the problems and issues in the church. He also sends Timothy to provide further instruction and encouragement (1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10-11)

## **1 Corinthians**

1 Corinthians is a personal, pastoral, and practical letter from Paul to the church at Corinth. He writes the church to warn the believers concerning the perils of power factions, sexual immorality, idolatry, broken fellowship, and faulty theology.

Oral Report Response: 1:10-4:17 / 4:18-6:20  
Response to Letter: 7:1-40 / 8:1-11:1

Oral Report Response: 11:2-34  
Response to Letter: 12:1-14:40

Oral Report Response: 15:1-58  
Response to Letter: 16:1-12

### **The Church in Corinth**

Paul is an Apostle of Jesus Christ, called by God

Church -ekklesia- an assembly, gathering

Church of God - Sanctified - Saints  
-called by God  
-called to serve God's purposes  
-bound by a call to holiness  
-holy community

Part of the broader community of believers

Grace and Peace - unique to Christianity