



# I Corinthians: A Call to Unity by Wisdom A Stern Correction of the Church



## Paul and the Corinthians

- Paul started the church at Corinth on his Second Missionary Journey beginning in the Synagogue and then moving to a house next door (Acts 18:1-22). **AD 51-52**
- Paul wrote a letter to the church, which we do not have, addressing, at least, the issue of sexually immoral people (5:9).
- Paul writes 1 Corinthians to correct the church and answer questions but gets no response / repentance. **AD 56**
- Paul visits the church (2 Cor. 1:15; 2:1) with no response.
- Paul writes another letter we do not have (2 Cor. 2:4). They respond positively to this letter.
- Paul writes 2 Corinthians to address criticism of his apostleship and reaffirm his concern for them.

## Corinthian Culture

A city between the ports of Cencheera and Lechaion and only 45 miles from Athens, Corinth was a hub for shipping, trade and all sorts of entertainment.

The Temple of Aphrodite (Love Goddess) was a central feature of Corinth and had, at one time, more than 1000 female prostitutes leading to the characterization of a prostitute as a "Corinthian Woman."

The Isthmian Games, held every two years, were a huge attraction making the city an major athletic training center.

		Divisions	Disorders	Difficulties
Epistolary Prescript: Salutation and Greeting	1:1-3			
Thanksgiving: A Spiritually Gifted Church	1:4-9			
<b>Theme: Restore Unity with God's Wisdom</b>	1:10			
A Report from Chloe's Household: A Cliques Spirit Exists	1:11-17			
The Cause of Divisions	1:18			
A Wrong Evaluation of the Message - Worldly Wisdom (1:18-3:4)	1:18-3:4			
The Wisdom of the Cross (1:18-3:1) • Wisdom for the Mature (2:1-3:4)				
A Wrong Evaluation of the Messengers - Popular Influence (3:5-4:5)	3:5-4:5			
Messengers as Servants (3:5-2:3) • Messengers as Guardians (4:1-5)				
Application and Conclusion	4:1-5			
Repent of Arrogance (4:6-13) • A Humble Stern Example (4:14-21)	4:21			
A Lack of Discipline for a Sinning Brother	5:1			
Problem: Immoral Believer in the Church (5:1-5)	5:1-5			
Purity: Remove the Immoral Believer from the Church (5:6-8)				
Principle: Do Not Fellowship with Immoral Believers (5:9-13)	5:9-13			
<b>Lawsuits Before Unbelievers</b>				
Problem #1: Lawsuits Between Believers - Should Not be Taken Before Unbelievers (6:1-6)	6:1-6			
Problem #2: Lawsuits Between Believers Should not Exist At All (6:7-11)				
Moral Laxity in the Church	6:20			
Principle #1: Pursue Activities That are Beneficial and Not Enslaving (6:12-18a)	6:20			
Principle #2: Use Your Body to Glorify God (6:18b-20)				
Marriage and Divorce	7:1			
The Married and Formerly Married (7:1-16)	7:1-16			
The Principle: Don't Seek to Change your Status (7:17-24)				
The Never Married and Widows (7:25-40)	7:25-40			
<b>Issues of Christian Liberty</b>				
Things Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11:1)	8:1-11:1			
The Principle of Love (8:1-13) • Paul's Example (9:1-27) • Application (10:1-11:1)				
Women in Public Worship (11:2-16)	11:2-16			
Abuses at the Lord's Supper (11:17-34)				
Guidance for Spiritual Gifts	12:1			
Body Life: The Need for Unity in Diversity (12:1-30)	12:1-30			
Love: The Context for Gifts to Flourish (12:31-13:13)				
Order: Regulation and Proper Use of Gifts (14:1-40)	14:1-40			
<b>The Doctrine of the Resurrection</b>				
Resurrection and the Gospel (15:1-11)	15:1-11			
Christ's Resurrection & Christian's Resurrection (15:12-34)				
Resurrection Questions and Answers (15:35-58)	15:35-58			
<b>The Collection for the Saints &amp; Apollos' Availability</b>				
A Word to the Wise; Exhortation and Examples	16:1-16:18			
Epistolary Postscript: Personal Greetings and Benediction	16:19-20			
Prescript		[Responding to a Report from Chloe]		[Responding to a Letter from the Church]
Exordium		<b>Probatio</b> (Development and Defense)		
Propositio				
Narratio				
Peroration				
Postscript				

Paul wrote to the troubled church at Corinth in response to a report from Chloe's household to address the factions and moral disorders in the church (chs. 1-6) and in response to a letter from the church addressing difficulties raised by the church related to marriage, gray issues, woman, worship, spiritual gifts, the resurrection and giving (chs. 7-16) in order to correct the worldly attitude and arrogance which had splintered the church and to encourage them to pursue a Godly lifestyle and doctrinal purity based on the wisdom of God.