

## Outline of 1 Corinthians

- 1-4 Divisions in the Church
- 5-6 Moral Disorders in the Church
- 7 Instruction on Marriage
- 8-10 Questionable Practices
- 11 Instruction on Public Worship
- 12-14 Spiritual Gifts
- 15 Certainty of the Resurrection
- 16 Personal Matters

### Author

There is little doubt that Paul was the author of 1 Corinthians. The letter was written toward the end of His three-year residency in Ephesus (Ac.16:5-9; 20:31).

### City of Corinth

In 146 B.C. a Roman named L. Mummius Achaicus destroyed the city. It was later re-founded by Julius Caesar as a Roman colony and the capital. The population consisted of Roman citizens who migrated from Italy, native Greeks, Jews, as well as other people from various places (Ac.18:4). It was situated on an isthmus, a narrow neck of land between the Corinthian Gulf (Port of Lechaem) and the Sardonian Gulf (Port of Cenchrea). This guaranteed its commercial prosperity. Corinth's

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ". — 1Co.15:55-57

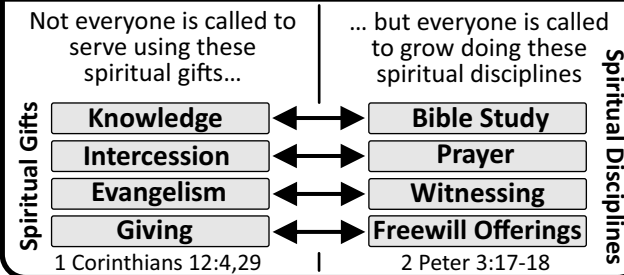
strategic location brought commerce and all that goes with it to its populace. It bought wealth, a steady stream of

# I CORINTHIANS

*First Corinthians deals with abuses of liberty. Paul's correction does not question their salvation, but to challenge them in their sanctification. Thus, the general theme is the practical implications of sanctification in the context of the Christian community.*

travelers and merchants. Corinth had gained a reputation for sexual vice (450-385BC) that the verb *korinthazo* (to commit fornication) was synonymous with to act like a Corinthian. It was the most populous and wealthy city in Greece. The finest athletes were attracted to the Isthmian Games.

## Spiritual Gifts & Spiritual Disciplines



### Message

While Paul was on his third missionary journey, in Ephesus, he heard disquieting news about immorality in the Corinthian church. So he wrote a letter commonly called the "former letter" referred to by Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:9. He wrote this letter out of a sense of the church's responsibility for the city of Corinth. They had a powerful spiritual message that could not be heard because carnality drowned out the message. It keep them from fulfilling the purpose for which God left them there. The spirit of the city had invaded the church like a virus. The root issue was that the church failed to recognize its uniqueness. We must

## PAUL'S LETTERS

BOOK 46  
**1Co.**  
1 CORINTHIANS  
16 CHAPTERS

appreciate our life as a church to fulfill our function by invading the city rather than allowing the city to invade us. The key issue was what it means to be "spiritual." We do this by proclaiming that Jesus is the only Lord.

There developed a conflict between the Corinthian church and its founder Paul. His authority and the gospel itself were questioned. Christians are still powerfully influenced by their cultural environment, and most of the questions and problems that confronted the church at Corinth are still very much with us. The power of the church is the resurrection life of Christ (ch.15). Presently we live between two resurrections, the resurrection of Christ, and our own.

Between these resurrections the church must fulfill its function in the world. The power behind Christ's resurrection is now the believer's power for life. The One who overcame death has given this power to us.



### CHRIST IN 1 CORINTHIANS

- Likely the most significant theme of the book of First Corinthians centers on the reality of the resurrection of Christ. This is affirmed by Paul's list of eye witnesses of Jesus' resurrection.