

## 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians

The book of Corinthians appears to be Paul's response to a letter written to him (as well as reports that he has received concerning the growth and character of the church in Corinth).

Corinth was a beautiful city, a lovely city of palms and beautiful buildings, the center of pleasure for the whole empire, and it was devoted to two things -- the pursuit of pleasure (largely passion), and of wisdom. It was a Greek city, and its inhabitants loved to philosophize, and they were given to what Paul calls, "the wisdom of words." So the two major forces that were active in this city, creating the atmosphere in which the Corinthian church had to live, were these: intellectualism and sensualism.

The first epistle of Paul to the Corinthians is a very, very important letter for us because it so thoroughly captures the problems that we face as moderns living in this modern age. The reason is, of course, that Corinth was the most American city in the New Testament -- it was a resort city, the capital of pleasure in the Roman Empire.

This letter is especially written to those who live in a sex-saturated, wisdom-loving atmosphere and are trying to live as Christians in the midst of all the pressures that constantly come from these two areas.

### **Main Concepts and Select Verses**

#### **Christ the Wisdom and Power of God**

1:7-8 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup>He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

#### **Spiritual discernment**

2: 14-15 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

#### **Be a Church Undivided**

3:11& 16 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

#### **The job of the Apostles**

4: 4-5 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

### **Preach to the un-believer but stay clear of immoral brothers**

5: 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

### **Lawsuits and sexual immorality**

6: 12 "Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything.

6: 18-20 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

### **Marriage**

7: 4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife

### **Eating food offered to idols**

8:9 & 12 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak <sup>12</sup>When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

### **Rights and responsibilities of the Apostle**

9:19 & 22 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

### **Warnings from the past**

10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

10:31-32 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. <sup>32</sup>Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—

### **God, Christ, Men & Women and The Lord's Supper**

11: 3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

11:23-29 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. <sup>27</sup>Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of

sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

### **Spiritual Gifts**

12: 4-6 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

### **The most excellent gift LOVE**

13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

### **Prophecy, Tongues and orderly worship**

14:1 & 39-40 <sup>1</sup>Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. <sup>39</sup>Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. <sup>40</sup>But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

### **It's all about the Resurrection**

15: 2-8 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup>and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

15: 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

15:51-52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—<sup>52</sup>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

### **Final Greeting**

16:13-14 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. <sup>14</sup>**Do everything in love.**