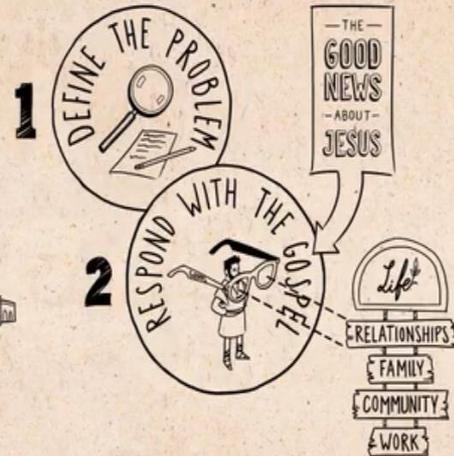


READ ABOUT THIS IN  
ACTS: CHAPTER 18

# 1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL



1-4      5-7      8-10      11-14      15      16



<p><b>DEFINE THE PROBLEM</b></p>	<p><b>DIVISIONS</b></p> <p>THIS IS NOT A POPULARITY CONTEST!</p> <p>PAUL    APOLLOS    PETER</p>	<p><b>SEX</b></p> <p>GUY    STEPHEN</p> <p>WE ARE FREE IN CHRIST</p>	<p><b>FOOD</b></p> <p>DON'T EAT IT!    DON APPETIT</p> <p>JEWISH CHRISTIANS    NON-JEWISH CHRISTIANS</p>	<p><b>THE GATHERING</b></p> <p>????</p> <p>DON'T DISTRACT OTHERS</p> <p>OWN SPIRIT WINGS THROUGH EVERYBODY IN A DISORDERLY WAY</p> <p>HAVE ORDERLY MEETINGS</p>	<p><b>THE RESURRECTION</b></p> <p>THERE IS NO RESURRECTION!</p>	<p><b>FINAL GREETING</b></p>
<p><b>RESPOND WITH THE GOSPEL</b></p>	<p>CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE CENTERED AROUND JESUS</p> <p>LEADERS AND TEACHERS ARE SERVANTS</p>	<p><b>JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS</b></p> <p>BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS    SEXUAL MISCONDUCT</p> <p>OUR BODIES WILL BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD</p> <p>WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR BODY MATTERS</p> <p>FUTURE</p>	<p><b>SCENARIO 1</b></p> <p>THANK YOU FOR THIS FOOD, AGEN</p> <p>NOT GOOD</p> <p>CORE PRINCIPLE:</p>	<p><b>SCENARIO 2</b></p> <p>TOTALLY FINE</p> <p>THESE ARE THE THINGS WE CAN DO</p> <p>SO WE CAN</p> <p>BUILD UP</p>	<p><b>RESURRECTION IS INDISPENSABLE</b></p> <p>JESUS VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH</p> <p>SOURCE OF HOPE FOR US</p> <p>MEANINGLESS WITHOUT RESURRECTION</p>	

BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION WE HAVE →

A REASON FOR UNITY

MOTIVATION FOR Sexual Integrity

POWER TO LOVE OTHERS MORE THAN YOURSELF

VICTORY OVER DEATH

**THE GOSPEL:** AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT JESUS THAT OPENS UP A NEW REALITY

# 1 Corinthians & the City of Corinth

146 BC

Destruction of  
Ancient Corinth



City destroyed  
by Rome.

44 BC

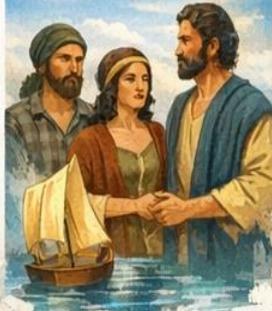
Refounding of  
Corinth



Roman Colony  
Established.

AD 50-52

Paul's First  
Visit



Paul Ministers  
in Corinth.

AD 52

Gallio's Judgment



Paul Tried  
Before Gallio

AD 54-55

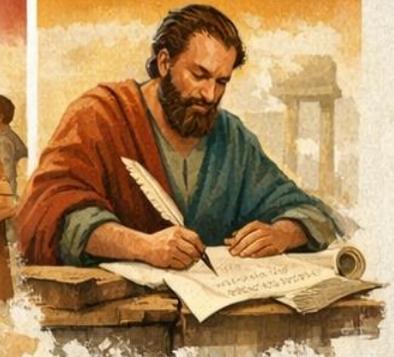
Church Problems



Reports of Division  
& Immorality

AD 55

1 Corinthians Written



Paul Writes  
from Ephesus.

rightnow MEDIA



THE BOOK OF

# 1 CORINTHIANS

ERIC MASON

## The Book of 1 Corinthians

### Session 1

### *Called Together in Christ*

1 Corinthians 1 (ESV)

### Theme

A divided church needs a  
gospel-centered identity



**BIO:**

**Dr. Mason is the founder and senior pastor of Epiphany Fellowship in Philadelphia, where he leads a mission to holistically engage urban communities with the transformative power of the gospel. With over three decades in ministry, Dr. Mason is known for his global ministry, commitment to biblical justice, and theological depth and precision. Dr. Mason has a passion for biblical literacy, believing that deep understanding of Scripture is essential for spiritual growth and community impact. His heart to see biblical literacy flourish in the church drives much of his teaching and leadership.**

# ***Questions to Consider as We Watch This Morning's Video Lesson by Dr. Mason***

**What is the dominant theme of 1 Corinthians 1?**

**How does God feel about division among believers?**

**How can the church behave so that it attracts the next generation?**



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# Unity, Belonging, and the Cross

1 Corinthians 1

# The Big Idea

When the church prioritizes Jesus's sacrificial death, it becomes a place where people belong.



Unity is central to our witness.

# God's Grace at Work (1:1–9)

## A Gifted but Divided Church

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- **Paul affirms the Church's calling**
  - Spiritually gifted
  - Relationally fractured
  - Doctrinally immature
- **Points to God's consistent faithfulness**
- **Emphasizes believers' identity in Christ**
  - Saints by calling, not performance
  - United by Christ, not preferences
  - The Church's owner, God

### Key Insight:

Gifts do not necessarily equal spiritual maturity



# The Problem: Division (1:10–17)

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## Factions form around leaders (1:10–12)

- Personality loyalty vs. Christ loyalty
- Misplaced identity - Leader comparison (“I follow Paul... Apollos... Cephas...”)
- Unity replaced by Rivalry
- Ministry styles elevated over the Gospel
- Division is a character issue.

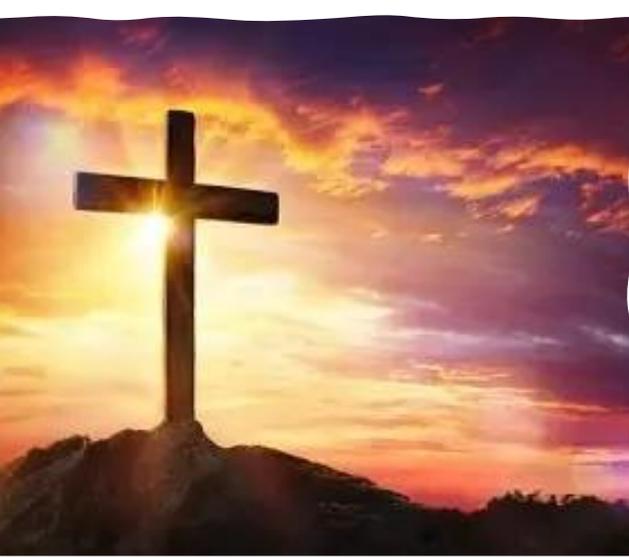
## Christ is not divided (1:13–17)

- Identity must rest in Christ above all
  - One Cross
  - One Savior
  - One Foundation for unity

### Key Insights:

The Church drifts when leaders “replace” the Lord  
The Cross gives us identity and dismantles all boasting





# The Cross: God's Wisdom (1:18–25)

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- **The Cross: Foolishness to a dying world**
  - Offensive to human pride
  - Powerful to those being saved
- **God overturns societal definitions of success**
  - Strength shown through weakness
  - Wisdom shown through surrender
- **Reveals God's power and wisdom**
- **The Gospel unites across ALL divides**

# God Chooses the Humble (1:26–31)

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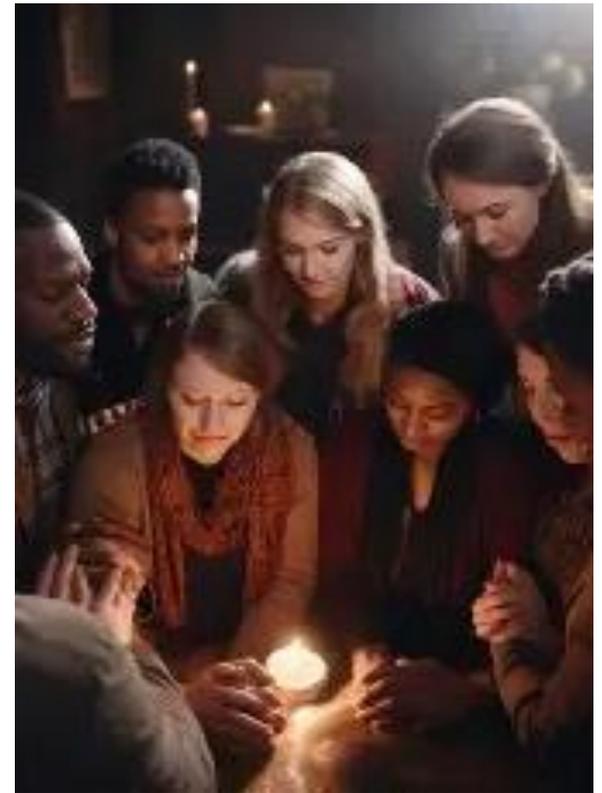
- **God calls people from every background**
  - Not based upon credentials
  - Irrespective of wealth or social status
- **We boast only in the Lord**
  - No room for personal pride
  - All glory belongs to God
- **Unity grows through humility and obedience**



# Living as a Unified Family

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- Families make room for mistakes and forgiveness
- Unity creates belonging
- Provides a genuine example of God's love to future generations
- Let differences fade in the light of Christ



Back -up

# Why Corinth Matters?

## Background:

- Influential Port City
- Wealthy, diverse, Morally Permissive Society
- Center of Philosophy, Status, and Success

## Key Insight:

The Church struggled to live distinctly from the culture

**Acts 18:1-11**