

1 Corinthians

I. History

- A. Paul plants church on second missionary journey—stays 18 months and returns to Syria (Acts 18)
- B. On third missionary journey, Paul spent three years in Ephesus, during which:
 - 1. He writes a now-lost epistle about avoidance of immorality (1 Cor.5:9)
 - 2. Some teachers in Corinth criticize Paul in his absence
 - 3. He receives a report from Chloe's household about certain problems in the church (1 Cor.1:11)
 - 4. Stephanus, Fortunatus and Achaicus (1 Cor.16:17) arrive with a letter from the church containing pressing questions (1 Cor.7:1ff),
 - 5. Paul writes this letter and sends it back with Timothy.

I. Problems reported, and Paul's answers

- A. Divisions over loyalties to teachers (chs.1-4)
- B. A notable case of neglect in the area of church discipline (ch.5)
- C. Christians bringing lawsuits against each other (6:1-8)
- D. Confusion about the difference between fornication and unclean foods (6:9-20)
- E. Marriage and singleness (ch.7)
- F. Meat sacrificed to idols (chs.8-10)
- G. Church decorum:
 - 1. Women's attire (11:4-16)
 - 2. Misconduct at the Agape Feasts (11:17-34)
 - 3. Disorderly use of the spiritual gifts (chs.12-14)
- H. Resistance to the doctrine of the resurrection (ch.15)

II. Famous chapters:

- A. The love chapter (13)
- B. The resurrection chapter (15)

III. The subject of judging

1:10 / 2:15 / 5:3, 12 / 6:2, 3, 5 / 7:25, 40 / 10:15 / 11:13, 31 / 14:29