

**Saints By Calling**  
1 Corinthians, Volume 1

HBC 10/2/19

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Today we launch into 1 Corinthians. We know how this church got started. Read all about it in Acts 18:1-18.



I. **The City of Corinth**

Corinth is on an isthmus, with a seaport on each side of the narrow stretch of land.

The word **Corinthian** became synonymous with immorality. The Temple of Aphrodite was in Corinth.

Corinth was also the site of the **Isthmian Games**, which were a precursor of the modern Olympic Games.

Corinth was also the gathering place for philosophers, both renowned and amateur.

The strategy for reaching Corinth was Paul's usual approach.

Paul was specifically instructed by the Lord to continue in Corinth. Acts 18:8-10.

During Paul's third missionary trip, while he was at Ephesus, he apparently wrote a letter to the church at Corinth regarding morality. It had to be clarified (5:9-10).

The ***date of writing*** was probably spring of A.D. 55, shortly before Paul left Ephesus. As to the ***authorship*** of 1 Corinthians, there has never been any serious doubt that the author is the Apostle Paul.

At least three categories of problem people and groups show through in the words of this book. The connections between those groups in the first century church in Corinth and our world today will become obvious to you if they aren't already.

**Libertines:**

**Ascetics:**

**Ecstatics:**

## II. The Corinthians In The Lord (1:1-3)

*1 Corinthians 1:1–3: Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Sosthenes

### Saints<sup>1</sup>

***All Christians are SAINTS in the sight of God!***

## III. The Corinthians In Their World (Overview of 1 Corinthians)

**1:4-9.** Paul gives thanks for the Corinthians, saying that they are ***enriched in everything in Him*** and that they have it in ***all speech and all knowledge*** and that they ***are not lacking in any gift.***

**1:10-17.** The spirit of divisiveness.

**1:18-2:16.** The foolishness of human wisdom compared to the power of God's word.

**3:1-23.** Recapitulation of the issues in the first two chapters. Paul calls them ***babies.***

**4:1-21.** Re-states Paul's spiritual authority with the Corinthians.

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<sup>1</sup>Quotation in the sermon from the *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 5, p. 217)

- 5:1-8.** Dealing with a case of sexual immorality in the church.
- 5:9-13.** Clarifying Paul's *previous letter* which had been misunderstood.
- 6:1-11.** The issue of taking disputes between believers into secular law courts.
- 6:12-20.** Making moral judgments for yourself and abstaining from immorality.
- 7:1-40.** Marriage, preparation for marriage, separation, sexuality in light of marriage, singleness, believers married to unbelievers, and questions about remarriage.
- 8:1-13.** Deals with the weaker brother, particularly in light of meat sacrificed to idols. There are myriad applications to situations in our world from the principles in this chapter.
- 9:1-18.** The rights and privileges of apostles and others who labor in full time ministry.
- 9:19-27.** The proper use of Christian liberty for the greater purpose of evangelism.
- 10:1-13.** Lessons for the Corinthians (and us) from the experiences of Israel.
- 10:14-33.** More on meat offered to idols, especially in relationship to the Lord's table and idolatrous feasts.
- 11:1-34.** Disorders in public worship; men and women in the church and abuses of the Lord's Supper.
- 12:1-31.** Teaching concerning spiritual gifts in light of misunderstandings, abuses and perversions among the Corinthians.
- 13:1-13.** Love, as the highest virtue and greatest motive for action within the body of Christ.
- 14:1-25.** All about speaking in tongues, and its abuses and counterfeits.
- 14:26-40.** The importance of order in relation to solving problems in the church.
- 15:1-58.** The reality and centrality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 16:1-9.** Details concerning an offering from the Corinthians.
- 16:10-14.** Exhortation to receive Timothy and Apollos in love.
- 16:15-24.** Personal greetings.