

1 Corinthians

Corinth

Key city in ancient Greece until it was destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C.

Rebuilt in 46 B.C. by Julius Caesar as a Roman colony. It grew and prospered very quickly due to its two seaports.

Corinth was filled with temples and shrines with the Temple of Aphrodite being the most prominent.

The Temple of Aphrodite (goddess of love) sat atop an 1,800-foot high point of land and had 1,000 consecrated temple prostitutes.

Corinth thrived on commerce, entertainment, vice, and corruption; pleasure seekers came here to spend money on a holiday from morality (think Las Vegas).

Corinth became so notorious for its evils that the term *Korinthiazomai* ("to act like a Corinthian") became a synonym for debauchery and prostitution.

Paul went to Corinth on his second missionary journey (Acts 18), and he remained there 18 months.

Corinth became one of 4 prominent centers in the New Testament account of the early church (the other 3 being Jerusalem, Antioch of Syria, and Ephesus).

Prominent Christian leaders associated with Corinth include Aquila, Priscilla, Silas, Timothy, Apollos, and Titus.

1 Corinthians is actually the second letter Paul wrote to the Corinthian church – 1 Cor. 5:9.

1 Corinthians 5:9

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁹When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin.

Paul writes from the city of Ephesus during his third missionary journey, probably around A.D. 56.

Two events prompted this – (1) Oral reports by the household of Chloe regarding division (1 Cor. 1:11); (2) To answer questions the church at Corinth had sent to Paul in a letter (1 Cor. 7:1)

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁰I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other.

Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. ¹¹For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹²Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ."

¹³Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!

Philippians 2:2-4

GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

²Then fill me with joy by having the same attitude and the same love, living in harmony, and keeping one purpose in mind. ³Don't act out of selfish ambition or be conceited.

Instead, humbly think of others as being better than yourselves. ⁴Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others.

1 Cor. 1:18-29 – The Wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:18

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁸The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:23

New Living Translation (NLT)

²³ So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

1 Corinthians 1:29

New Living Translation (NLT)

²⁹ As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

New Living Translation (NLT)

³⁰ God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.³¹ Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁷ No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. ⁸ But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:10,12

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁰ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.

¹² And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

Isaiah 55:8-9

GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

⁸ "My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways," declares the LORD.

⁹ "Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts."

1 Corinthians 3:5-6

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁵ After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. ⁶ I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

New Living Translation (NLT)

²¹ So don't boast about following a particular human leader. For everything belongs to you— ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Peter, or the world, or life and death, or the present and the future. Everything belongs to you, ²³ and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

New Living Translation (NLT)

4 So look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ who have been put in charge of explaining God's mysteries. ² Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.

1 Corinthians 5:6-7

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁶ Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

Today's New International Version (TNIV)

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with any who claim to be fellow believers but are sexually immoral or greedy, idolaters or slanderers, drunkards or swindlers. With such persons do not even eat.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁹ Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. ¹¹ Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:12

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹² You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything.

The Message (MSG)

¹² Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims.

1 Corinthians 6:13

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹³ You say, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food." (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁸ Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ¹⁹ Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

The Message (MSG)

¹⁶⁻²⁰ There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, "The two become one." Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever—the kind of sex that can never "become one." There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for "becoming one" with another.

Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body.

1 Corinthians 7:1

New International Version (NIV)

¹ Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."

1 Corinthians 8:1

New Living Translation (NLT)

8 Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols.

Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.

1 Corinthians 8:4

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁴ So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God.

1 Corinthians 8:6-7

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁶ But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.

⁷ However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated.

1 Corinthians 8:9

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁹ But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.

1 Corinthians 8:9

The Message (MSG)

⁸⁻⁹But fortunately God doesn't grade us on our diet. We're neither commended when we clean our plate nor reprimanded when we just can't stomach it. But God does care when you use your freedom carelessly in a way that leads a fellow believer still vulnerable to those old associations to be thrown off track.
