

# 1 Corinthians: *At Corinth—In Christ*

## Introduction

### I. The Author—The Apostle Paul

**II. The Audience**—The city of Corinth occupied a key location on the isthmus between the Peloponnese and Mainland Greece. The city also with access to two ports: Cenchreae (on the Saronic Gulf in the east) and Lechaion (on the Corinthian Gulf in the west). In 27 B.C. Corinth became the Roman provincial capital of Achaia and a flourishing commercial center. Corinth had a large Jewish community estimated to have been as large as 20,000. The city had a reputation for sexual vice, perversion and materialism. Homer links the city with wealth and immorality (Iliad 2.569-70). Plato referred to a prostitute as a “Corinthian girl.” (Republic 404d). A playwright named Philetaerus titled a burlesque play *Ho Korinthiastes*, or “The Lecher” (Athenaeus 13. 559a). The church in Corinth was established by Paul on his second missionary journey in the summer or fall of A.D. 50 (Acts 18:1-10). There he met Aquila and Priscilla who had left Rome in the wake of Cladius’ decree expelling all Jews from Rome in A.D. 49. Paul stayed in Corinth for eighteen months teaching the Word (Acts 18:11). He wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus during his third missionary journey in Spring AD 55.

**III. The Aim**—To call the Corinthians to match their practice to their position. They were to translate their position spiritually (“in Christ”) into practice in their position geographically (“at Corinth”). The phrase “in Christ” is found in the salutation (1:2) and the benediction (16:24) and three times in the introduction the letter (1:4, 5, 9). This is the key. They are to live like people in Christ at Corinth (1:2)

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## IV. The Arrangement—

### Charting Corinthians

#### **Divisions in the Church**

	1:1-9	Prologue
	1:10-3:4	Misconception of the Gospel Message
<i>News from Chloe's House Chapters 1-4</i>	3:5-4:21	Misconception of the Gospel Ministry

#### **Disorders in the Church**

	5:1-13	Lack of Church Discipline
	6:1-11	Lawsuits before the Lost
<i>Report from Three Men Chapters 5-6</i>	6:12-20	Laxity in Morals

#### **Difficulties in the Church**

	7:1-40	Marriage and Divorce
	8:1-11:1	Christian Liberty
<i>Letter from the Corinthians Chapters 7-16</i>	11:2-34	Public Worship
	12-14	Spiritual Gifts
	15:1-58	Resurrection
	16:1-12	Collection for the Saints

#### **Directions to the Church**

	16:13-24	Final Instructions
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## V. The Analysis

## VI. The Application