

New Testament Survey  
1 CORINTHIANS

**Author:** Paul

**Date:** A.D. 55/56 (Written while Paul was in Ephesus - 16:8 - on the third missionary journey ).

**Theme:** Corrections. Paul writes to correct the Corinthians concerning divisions, disobedience and difficulties in their church.

**Misc.** Corinth was capital of Achaia & one of the most important cities in Greece at that time with a population of about 700,000 (2/3 were slaves). It was a center of trade due to its two seaports - one on the Adriatic Sea & one on the Aegean Sea. It was also a depraved society and a center of idolatry (esp. Aphrodite & Neptune)

Paul founded a church there on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-17). He was there for 18 months (A.D. 51-52) working with Aquila & Priscilla. He wrote 1 & 2 Thessalonians from Corinth during this time.

**Brief Outline**

- I. Correcting Divisions (1-4)
- II. Correcting Disobedience (5-6)
- III. Correcting Difficulties (7-16)

**Key Chapters & Verses:** (Bold required for Elders)

- 1. . . . . Report of Divisions and the Wisdom of God
- 1:10 . . . "that you all agree, & there be no divisions"
- 1:18. . . '...word of the cross...foolishness to those perishing...to saved - power of God'
- 2:2. . . . '...to know nothing among you except Christ..'
- 2:12-16..** Received Spirit of God - The mind of Christ
- 2:14 . . . '...natural man does not accept things of God'
- 3:1-3. . . . Fleshly - Still babes in Christ
- 3:11-15** 'builds - with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw... to be tested by fire
- 3:21-23 '...all things belong to you- & you to Christ'
- 5. . . . .** Discipline of the Immoral
- 5:1-3. . . . Incest rebuked
- 6. . . . .** Resolving Personal Disputes and Practicing Sexual Purity
- 6:9-11. . . Who inherit's the kingdom (list of sins)
- 6:12. . .** 'All things lawful..but not profitable'
- 6:18-20 Flee immorality, body is temple of H. Spirit
- 7. . . . .** Counsel on Marriage & Singleness
- 7:1-7. . . . Marriage & Celibacy
- 7:12-16 Marriage & divorce
- 7:25-35 Marriage & Christian Service
- 7:39. . . Marriage & remarriage
- 8-9. . . .** Principles of Christian Liberty
- 10:11. . .** Learning from Israel's example
- 10:12-13** Dealing with Temptation
- 11. . . . .** Counsel on Christian Worship

11:3. . . . 'headship: Christ > Man > Woman, God > Christ  
 11:4-10 Head covering when praying  
 11:23-30 Lord's Supper  
**12-14.** . . Counsel on Spirituality  
 12:13. . . All Baptized by Spirit into one Body  
 12:22-31 Spiritual gifts in relation to each other  
 13. . . . . The gifts & Love:  
 13:8-12 Love never fails - prophecy & knowledge will be done away, and tongues will cease  
 14. . . . . The gifts & order: Place of Tongues & women  
**15.** . . . . Proof & Importance of Jesus' Resurrection  
 15:22. . . "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive."  
 15:51-56 "mystery, all shall be changed...(Rapture)... Death is swallowed up in victory..."

## Detailed Outline

### I. Correcting Divisions (Chapters 1- 4)

#### A. Introduction (1:1-9)

##### 1. Salutation (1-3)

##### 2. Prayer of Thanksgiving (4-9)

##### a. God's Grace to Them (4-5)

##### b. Their Testimony (6-7)

##### c. God's Faithfulness (8-9)

#### B. Report of Divisions (1:10-17)

#### C. Reasons for Divisions (1:18-4:21)

##### 1. Misunderstanding the Gospel Message (1:18-3:4)

##### a. The Gospel is not earthly wisdom (1:18-2:5)

##### i. The foolishness of the Cross to the Unbelieving (1:18-25)

##### ii. God's Calling is Contrary to Earthly Wisdom (1:26-31)

##### iii. A Message Given in the Power of the Spirit (2:1-5)

##### b. The Gospel is Heavenly Wisdom (2:6-16)

##### i.

##### 2. Misunderstanding the Gospel Messenger (3:1-4:5)

##### a. Ministers are Fellow Workers with God (3:1-23)

##### i. Their Spiritual Immaturity (1-4)

##### ii. The Relationship of God's Workers (5-9)

- iii. Building a Temple of God (10-17)
- iv. Reliance upon God's Wisdom (18-23)
- b. Ministers are Accountable to God (4:1-5)
- 3. Misunderstanding Paul's Ministry (4:6-21)
  - a. Paul's Example (6-13)
  - b. Paul's Relationship to Them (14-21)

## II. Correcting Disobedience (Chapters 5 & 6)

### A. Correction of Incest (5:1-13)

#### 1. The Sins Described (1-2)

##### a. The Man (1)

##### b. The Corinthians (2)

#### 2. The Sins Corrected (3-8)

##### a. The Man (3-5)

##### b. The Corinthians (6-8)

#### 3. The Principle of Church Discipline (9-13)

### B. Correction of Personal Lawsuits (6:1-8)

### C. Disobedience & Salvation (6:9-11)

### D. Correction of Sexual Immorality (6:12-20)

#### 1. Our Bodies are for the Lord (12-14)

#### 2. Our Bodies are not for Fornication (15-18)

#### 3. Our Bodies are the Temple of the Lord (19-20)

### III. Correcting Difficulties (Chapters 7-16)

#### A. Counsel on Marriage & Singleness (7:1-40)

##### 1. Principles of Marriage (7:1-9)

a. Marriage Avoids Immorality (1-2)

b. Marital Duties of Spouses (3-6)

c. The Gift of Celibacy (7)

d. Instructions to the Unmarried (8-9)

e. Instructions to the Married (10-16)

i. The Lord's Instructions Concerning Separation & Reconciliation (10-11)

ii. Paul's Instructions to the Unequally Yoked (12-16)

##### 2. Principles of Abiding in God's Call (7:17-24)

a. Regarding Religious Heritage (17-20)

b. Regarding Slavery (21-24)

##### 3. Principles for Marriage in View of the Current Distress (7:25-40)

a. Advice & Freedom in Marriage (25-31)

b. Concerns of the Unmarried & Married (32-35)

c. Freedom of Fathers & Daughters (36-38)

d. Advice to Widows (39-40)

#### B. Counsel on Liberty (8:1-11:1)

##### 1. Concerning Things offered to Idols (8-10)

a. Principles of Idolatry (8:1-6)

b. Principles Concerning the Weaker Brother (8:7-13)

2. Paul's Example in Using Liberty (9:1-27)
  - a. Paul Lists His Rights as an Apostle (1-14)

- b. Paul Limits His Rights for the Sake of Ministry (15-27)

3. Israel's Example of Failure (10:1-13)
  - a. Their Heritage (1-4)

- b. Their Sin (5-10)

- c. Their Lesson to Us (11-13)

4. The Proper Use of Liberty (10:14-11:1)
  - a. Avoiding Idolatry (10:14-22)

- b. Glorifying God (10:23-11:1)

C. Counsel on Public Christian Worship. (11:2-34)

1. Principles Concerning Public Prayer (11:2-16)
  - a. Principles of Headship (2-3)

- b. Principles of Submission (4-12)

- c. Principles of Propriety (13-16)

2. Principles Concerning the Lord's Supper (11:17-34)
  - a. Improper Practice (17-22)

- b. Proper Practice (23-34)

D. Counsel on Spirituality (Chapters 12-14)

1. The Evidence of the Spirit's Leading (12:1-3)

2. The Origin, Purpose & Description of Spiritual Gifts (12:4-11)

3. The Unity & Diversity of the Body of Christ (12:12-31a)
  - a. Entrance into the Body (12-13)
  - b. The Unity of the Body (14-21)
  - c. The Importance of Each Part of the Body (22-27)
  - d. The Gifts in the Body (28-31:a)
4. The Priority of Love (12:31b-13:13)
  - a. The Failure of the Gifts Apart from Love (12:31b-3)
  - b. Love Defined (4-7)
  - c. Love's Endurance (8-13)
5. The Superiority of Prophecy
  - a. The Priority of Edifying the Church (1-4)
  - b. The Proper Use of Tongues (5-19)
  - c. The Purpose of Tongues & Prophecy (20-25)
  - d. The Purpose & Practice of Corporate Worship (23-25)
    - i. All Things Done for Edification (23)
    - ii. The Orderly Practice of the Gifts (24-33)
    - iii. Submission of the Women (34-36)
    - iv. Following the Lord's Command (37-40)

E. Counsel on the Resurrection (15:1-58)

1. The Testimony to Christ's Resurrection (1-11)

a. Paul's Gospel Message (1-4)

b. Witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection (5-8)

c. Paul's Apostleship & Ministry (9-11)

2. The Importance of Christ's Resurrection (12-19)

3. The Hope Given by Christ's Resurrection (20-34)

a. The Order of Resurrection (20-23)

b. The Reign of Christ (24-27)

c. The Exaltation of God (28)

4. The Moral Implications of the Resurrection (29-34)

5. The Nature of the Resurrection Body (35-49)

6. The Hope of an Imperishable Body (50-58)

F. Counsel on the Collection (16:1-10)

G. Conclusions & Greetings (16:11-24)

1. Concerning the Various Workers (11-18)

2. Greetings & Salutation (19-24)

New Testament Survey  
2 CORINTHIANS

**Author:** Paul

**Date:** A.D. 56 (Written while Paul was in Macedonia)

**Theme:** Apostolic Defense. Paul's personal letter to the Corinthians defending his ministry, message and apostleship, and encourage the collection for the poor.

**Misc.** - See information in notes on 1 Corinthians

**Brief Outline**

- I. Character of Paul (1-7)
- II. Collection for the Saints (8-9)
- III. Credentials of his apostleship (10-13)

**Key Chapters & Verses:** (Bold required for Elders)

- 3. . . . Their changed lives defend his apostolic ministry; the ministry of the New Covenant
- 3:18. . "... we all, ...beholding...the glory of the Lord ...are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,
- 5. . . . Motivations of ministry: knowledge, judgment, fear, unselfishness, love, reconciliation.
- 5:10.** .
- 5:14. . "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;"
- 5:17-20.** . "New creatures in Christ who are ambassadors of God
- 8-9. . . Giving: example of Macedonians & Christ; its purpose, instruction and encouragement.
- 9:6-15.** Rewards of generosity.
- 11. . . . Credentials of his apostleship; His service; his suffering.
- 12:7-10.** . "Paul weakness and God's sufficient grace - *"for power is perfected in weakness"*
- 13:5.** . Test yourselves to see whether you be in the faith
- 13:14. "...grace of Lord Jesus Christ, love of God, & fellowship of Holy Spirit be with you all"

Detailed Outline

I. Paul's Character (Chapters 1-7)

A. Introduction

- 1. Salutation 1:1-2
- 2. Thanksgiving for God's Comfort (1:3-7)

- 3. Thanksgiving for God's Deliverance from Death in Asia (1:8-11)

B. Paul's Ministry to the Corinthians 1:12-2:13

- 1. Paul's Integrity 1:12-14



2. Paul's Change of Plans 1:15- 2:4

a. His Original Plan (1:15-22)

b. His Sparing of them (1:23-2:4)

3. Paul's Appeal to Forgive the Repentant Sinner 2:5-11

a. His Appeal for them to Forgive and Comfort (5-8)

b. His Own Forgiveness (9-11)

4. Why Paul Went on to Macedonia 2:12-13

A. Paul's Philosophy of Ministry 2:14-6:10

1. Christ is the Source of Triumph 2:14-17

2. Their Changed Lives are the Proof of His Ministry 3:1-3

3. Paul is a Servant of the New Covenant 3:4-18

a. His Adequacy is in God (4-6)

b. The Ministry of the Spirit is Glorious (7-11)

c. The Ministry of the Spirit Removes the Veil (12-18)

4. Paul Preaches Christ 4:1-6

5. Trials in Ministry is the Stage for Demonstrating God's Power 4:7-18

a. Paul Suffered Many Trials (7-10)

b. Christ Manifested Himself through Paul (11-15)

6. Paul Kept an Eternal Perspective (4:16-5:10)

a. Present Suffering Does not Compare to Future Glory (4:16-18)

b. Paul Looked Forward to a Heavenly Body (5:1-5)

c. Paul Looked Forward to being with the Lord (5:6-8)

d. Paul Sought to Please the Lord Who would Judge Him (5:9-10)

7. Paul's Ministry was Controlled by the Love of Christ 5:11-21

- a. He Sought to Persuade Men (11-13)
- b. He Lived for Christ (14-17)
- c. He was an Ambassadors for Christ (18-21)

8. Paul Commended Himself as a Servant of God 6:1-10

A. Paul's Exhortations to the Corinthians 6:11-7:16

- 1. He encouraged them to be Open with Him (6:11-13)
- 2. He Exhorted Them to be Separate from Evil (6:14-7:1)
  - a. Do Not be Unequally Yoked (6:14-16)
  - b. Be Cleansed from All Defilement (6:17-7:1)
- 3. He Comforts & Commends Them 7:2-16
  - a. Paul Assured Them They were in His Heart (2-4)
  - b. Paul was Comforted by Titus' Report about Them (5-7)
  - c. Paul Commended Them for Their True Repentance (8-10)
  - d. Paul Commended Them for Their Growth (11-13)
  - e. Paul Assured Them of Titus' Affection (14-16)

II. Paul's Collection for the Saints at Jerusalem 8:1-9:15

A. Examples of Giving 8:1-9

- 1. The Example of the Macedonians (1-7)
- 2. The Example of Christ (8-9)

B. The Purpose of Their Giving 8:10-15

C. The Collection of the Gift 8:16-9:15

- 1. Precautions in the Collection 8:16-9:5
  - a. The Integrity of those Making the Collection (8:16-24)
  - b. A Warning for them to Be Ready (9:1-5)

- 2. Principles of Giving 9:6-15
  - a. The Attitude of the Giver (6,7)

- b. God's Supply to the Giver (8-10)

- c. God Glorified by the Gift (11-15)

### III. Paul's Defense of His Apostolic Authority 10:1-12:18

#### A. Paul Addresses the Accusations Against Him 10:1-18

- 1. The Accusation (1-3)
- 2. Paul's Spiritual Warfare (4-6)
- 3. Paul Letter to Them (7-10)
- 4. The Foolishness of Making Comparisons (11-12)
- 5. Paul's Work Among Them (13-18)

#### B. Paul Supports His Apostleship 11:1-12:13

- 1. His Apostleship Supported by His Declaration & Ministry to Them (11:1-15)
  - a. His Concern for Them (1-4)
  - b. His Declaration of Apostleship & Example to Them (5-6)
  - c. His Humility before Them (7-9)
  - d. His Love for Them (10-12)
  - e. His Warning About False Apostles (13-15)
- 2. His Apostleship Supported by His Example of Suffering for Christ (11:16-33)
  - a. Their Gullibility (16-20)
  - b. Paul's Credentials as Jew (21-22)
  - c. Paul's Credentials as a Servant of Christ (23-33)

3. His Apostleship Supported by His Visions (12:1-10)

a. His Vision of Paradise (1-6)

b. His Thorn in the Flesh (7-10)

4. His Apostleship Supported by the Signs He Performed (12:11-13)

IV. Paul's Planned Future Visit and Concluding Remarks 12:14-13:14

A. Paul's Concerns 12:14-21

1. Not to be a Financial Burden (14-18)

2. Not to Find them Carnal (19-21)

B. Paul's Admonition for Them to Examine Themselves 13:1-10

1. We are to Live by the Power of God (1-4)

2. They are to Examine Themselves (5-6)

3. Paul's Desire to Edify Them (8-10)

C. Final Commands & Greetings 13:11-13

D. Closing Salutation 13:14