

First Corinthians

Chapters 1-16

Background

- This letter (epistle) was written by the Apostle Paul to the holy-people (Christians) who were living in the area of Corinth. Paul had lived and preached the good-message (gospel) for eighteen months there before journeying to other areas.
- However, after Paul traveled away from the area of Corinth he received correspondence containing some questions from them, and also he found out about some of the things going on in their meetings, etc.
- Paul wrote this letter in accordance with the information that God and the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to him via his holy spirit-life, which included answers to some of their questions plus additional information that they had not been taught previously.

To whom is this written?

- Paul wrote to the church of God in Corinth.
 - I Corinthians 1:1-3:
 - ^{1:1}Paul, called, an apostle of Christ Jesus by means of *(the)* intention of God, and Sosthenes, the brother - ^{·2}to the church of God, the *(church)* being in Corinth, *(consisting of people)* having been made-holy² in Christ Jesus, called, holy, together with all the *(people)* calling-upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to-themselves in every place, theirs and ours; ^{·3}grace to you and peace from God our Father and *(our)* Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Corinthian holy-people were already saved and were sharing in common of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - I Corinthians 1:9:
 - ^{·9}God *(is)* believable, by means of Whom you were called into *(the)* sharing-in-common of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Some were not behaving correctly

- Some of the holy-people were not conducting themselves in the correct manner.
 - I Corinthians 1:11 and 12:
 - .¹¹for it was made-clear to me concerning you, brothers, by the (*people*) of Chloe that there are strifes among you -
 - .¹²and I say this: that each of you says, "I indeed am of Paul" and "I (*am*) of Apollos" and "I (*am*) of Cephas" and "I (*am*) of Christ"!

Christ sent Paul

- Paul was sent as an apostle to preach the good message.
 - I Corinthians 1:17 and 23-25:
 - .¹⁷For Christ did not apostle me to baptize but to good-message, not in wisdom of word in order that the cross of Christ may not be emptied,
 - .²³but we herald-forth Christ having been crucified² - indeed to *(the)* Judeans an offense and to *(the)* Gentiles dullness, .²⁴but to the called-people themselves both Judeans and Greeks Christ *(is the)* ability of God and *(the)* wisdom of God, .²⁵because the dull-thing of God is wiser-than men and the weak-thing of God *(is)* stronger-than men.

Paul taught about Jesus Christ

- Paul provides information about himself as an example of how he preached to them.
 - I Corinthians 2:1-5:
 - ^{2:1}And I, having come towards you, brothers, came not according to superiority of word or of wisdom messaging to you the mystery of God, ^{·2}for I did not judge to have known² something among you - except Jesus Christ and this-person having been crucified²; ^{·3}and I became in weakness and in fear and in much trembling towards you, ^{·4}and my word and my heralded-proclamation (*were*) not in persuasions of wisdom but in pointing-out of spirit and of ability ^{·5}in order that your belief may not be in men's wisdom but in God's ability.
 - Note: in verse 1 the Greek texts read “mystery” instead of “testimony” as the King James Version.

God's wisdom in a mystery

- God kept His wisdom in a mystery hidden away but now revealed via the gift of holy spirit.
 - I Corinthians 2:7, 8, 12, and 13:
 - ⁷but we utter-forth God's wisdom in a mystery, the (*wisdom*) having been hidden-away², which(-*wisdom*) God marked-out-definitely-beforehand before the ages into our glory, ⁸which(-*wisdom*) not-one of the rulers of this age knew for if they knew they did not ever crucify the Lord of glory,
 - ¹²and we did not receive the spirit of the world but the spirit, the (*spirit*) out-from God, in order that we may have known² the-things having been graced to us by God, ¹³which-things also we utter-forth, not in taught words of manly wisdom but in taught-things of spirit - judging-together spiritual-things with spiritual;

Soulish verses Spiritual

- There is a difference!
 - I Corinthians 2:14 and 15:
 - .¹⁴but a soulish man does not accept the-things of the Spirit of God for they are dullness to him and he is not able to know (*them*) because they are spiritually judged-up, .¹⁵but the spiritual-person judges-up all-things - but he is judged-up by not-one (*person or spirit*),

God gives the increase

- Paul and Apollos were ministers.
 - I Corinthians 3:5-7:
 - ⁵Therefore who is Apollos? And who is Paul? Ministers, by means of whom you believed, even to each-person as the Lord gave: ⁶I planted, Apollos gave-to-drink, but God used-to cause-increase, ⁷so-that neither the (*person*) planting is something nor the (*person*) giving-to-drink, but the (*One*) causing-increase – God;

Assistants and Stewards

- Assistants of Christ and Stewards of the mysteries of God.
 - I Corinthians 4:1 and 2:
 - 4:1 Thus a man must calculate us as assistants of Christ and stewards of (*the*) mysteries of God; ·²here from-now-on you must seek-after among the stewards in order that someone may be found believing.
 - Note: in verse 1 the word “mysteries” is the same word as in I Corinthians 2:1 and 7, even though the King James Version reads “testimony” in 2:1.

Behavior is important

- Holy-people should not mix with those who reject what God says.
 - I Corinthians 5:9-11:
 - ⁹I wrote to you in the letter not to be mixed-up-together with fornicators - ¹⁰not altogether (*mixed-up-together with*) the fornicators of this world or the covetous-people or catching-people or idolaters, since you owe-it consequently to go-out from the world! - ¹¹but now I wrote to you not to be mixed-up-together if-ever someone being named "brother" may be a fornicator or a covetous-person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or a catching-person - with the person-of-this-kind not-even to eat-together!

Bought of price

- Holy-people were bought with the price paid by the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - I Corinthians 6:18-20:
 - .¹⁸You must flee fornication; every sin which if-ever a man may do is outside-of the body, but the (*person*) fornicating sins into (*his*) own body. .¹⁹Or, you knew² that your body is (*the*) interior-temple of the holy spirit in you which you have from God, and you are not of yourselves, don't you? – (*yes*) – .²⁰for you were bought of price; indeed you must glorify God in your body.

Interaction of men and women

- It is acceptable to be single or to be married
 - I Corinthians 7:1 and 2:
 - ^{7:1}But concerning which-things you wrote: (*it is*) beautiful for a man not to touch a woman, ²but because-of fornications each (*adult-male*) must have the wife of himself, and each (*woman*) must have (*her*) own husband.
- Husband and wife should be in agreement so that satan does not tempt you in this category
 - I Corinthians 7:5:
 - ⁵you must not deprive one-another if (*it is*) not-something out-from agreement towards a time in order that you may have-convenience for prayer, and again you must come-together on the same-objective in order that satan may not tempt you because-of your incontinence.

Bought of price

- Jesus Christ is the one who paid the price that was necessary for redemption.
 - I Corinthians 7:23 and 24:
 - .²³You were bought of price, you must not become slaves of men. .²⁴Each-person in that-which he was called, brothers, in this he must remain with God.

Knowledge puffs-up – Love edifies

- Knowledge about idols puffs-up but God's kind of love edifies.
 - I Corinthians 8:1 and 4:
 - 8:1 But concerning idol-sacrifices we knew² that we all have knowledge - but knowledge puffs-up but love¹ edifies
 - .4 Therefore concerning the eating of idol-sacrifices we knew² that *(there is)* not-one idol in *(the)* world, and that *(there is)* not-one God except one:

Paul's apostleship

- Paul gives some details regarding his apostleship.
 - I Corinthians 9:1 and 2:
 - ^{9:1}I am a freeman, am I not? - (yes.) I am an apostle, am I not? - (yes.) I saw² Jesus our Lord, didn't I? - (yes.) You are my work in (*the*) Lord, aren't you? - (yes.) ²If I am not (*considered to be*) an apostle to other-people, but indeed I am to you for you are the seal of my apostleship in (*the*) Lord.

Temptation

- The only true God does not tempt anyone to go against His Word. It is the devil (satan) who tempts with evil.
 - I Corinthians 10:13:
 - .¹³A temptation has not taken² you except a manly (*temptation*) – but God (*is*) believable Who will not let you to be tempted over that-which you are able but He will make together with the temptation even the way-out-from (*it for you*) to be able to bear-up.

Remembrance of the Lord Jesus Christ

- Paul received this information directly from the Lord and then he taught it to the Corinthian church.
 - I Corinthians 11:23-25:
 - .²³For I received from the Lord that-which also I gave-over to you that the Lord Jesus, in the night which he was given-over, took bread .²⁴and having expressed-thanks he broke (*it*) and said, "This is my body on behalf of you, this you must do with-a-view-to my remembrance"; .²⁵likewise also (*he took*) the cup after the meal saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, this you must do as-often-as if-ever you may drink with-a-view-to my remembrance";

First Corinthians Chapters 12-14

- First Corinthians chapters 12-14 include many details about spiritual-things and how we holy-people should behave ourselves.
 - Chapter 12 emphasizes from where and in connection with whom holy-people receive spiritual-things.
 - Chapter 13 emphasizes our attitude, motivation, and enthusiasm when manifesting spiritual-things.
 - Chapter 14 emphasizes our objective, goal, and focus when we assemble together in a group.

Manifestation of the spirit

- Paul continues teaching concerning spiritual-things:
 - I Corinthians 12:7-11:
 - ⁷But the manifestation of the spirit is given to each-person towards the-thing contributing,
 - ⁸for indeed, for which (*contribution*) a word of wisdom is given by means of the spirit, but for another (*contribution*) a word of knowledge according to the same spirit, ⁹but for a different (*contribution*) belief in the same spirit, but for another (*contribution*) gracious-gifts of healings in the spirit, ¹⁰but for another (*contribution*) in-workings of ability, for another (*contribution*) prophecy, for another (*contribution*) through-judgments of spirits, for a different (*contribution*) genera of tongues, but for another (*contribution*) interpretation of tongues –
 - ¹¹but the one and the same spirit in-works all these, diverging to each-person according as it deliberately-determines,

Love (*Agape*) in Chapter 13

- This word “love” comes from the Greek word *agape* which is God's kind of love. To love with His love means to love the same way as God loves, to manifest God's love towards another, whether it is towards God Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ, yourself, your Christian neighbor, or towards anyone else.
- God tells His children today (all who have the spirit of Christ within us) how to Godly-love by means of His previously-revealed written Word and also via our holy spirit-life whereby we receive information from Him regarding how to love in different specific situations.
- It is the carrying out of God's commandments, His Word, which is the correct usage or way to manifest God's kind of love according to His will (refer to I John 5:1-3). It is not the same as the brotherly or friendly kind of love, nor is it the same as the emotional/feelings/sexual kind of love.

What is Agape Love?

- God's kind of love:
 - I Corinthians 13:4-7:
 - ⁴The love¹ is patient, it is benevolent; the love¹ is not jealous, it does not vaunt itself, it does not puff itself up, ⁵it is not indecorous, it does not seek-after the-thing of itself, it is not sharpened, it does not calculate the bad-thing, ⁶it does not joy on the unrighteousness – but it joys-together with the truth, ⁷it protectively-covers all-things, it believes all-things, it hopes all-things, it patiently-endures all-things.

In the Church of holy-people

- Speaking with tongues plus the interpretation, or prophecy, allows the church to receive edification.
 - I Corinthians 14:5:
 - .⁵But I intend all of you to utter-forth with tongues, but rather in order that you may prophesy; but the (*person*) prophesying (*is*) greater than the (*person*) uttering-forth with tongues outside-of except he may thoroughly-interpret in order that the church may receive edification.

Behave ourselves in the Church

- God is the God of peace.
 - I Corinthians 14:33 and 40:
 - .³³for God is not of instability but of peace, as in all the churches of the holy-people.
 - .⁴⁰but all-things must come-to-pass decorously and according to arrangement.

Resurrections

- Christ is the first one who was raised up from being dead and he is still alive today.
 - I Corinthians 15:20 and 23-25:
 - .²⁰But now Christ was raised-up² out-from dead-people, a first-fruits-offering of the (*people*) having been caused-to-sleep²;
 - .²³but each-person in (*his*) own arrangement: (*the*) first-fruits-offering (*is*) Christ, next the (*people*) of Christ in his presence,
 - .²⁴then the completion, whenever he may give-over the kingdom to the God and Father, whenever he may render-ineffective all rulership and all authority and ability; .²⁵for it is necessary (*for*) him to reign-as-king continuously-until where He may put all the enemies under his feet,

Death is an Enemy

- Death will be destroyed.
 - I Corinthians 15:26 and 51-54:
 - ^{.26}death is (*the*) last enemy rendered-ineffective,
 - ^{.51}Look! I say a mystery to you – we will not all be caused-to-sleep but we will all be changed: ^{.52}in an atom, in a sinking of an eye, in the last trumpet, for it will trumpet and the dead-people will be raised-up incorruptible and we will be changed; ^{.53}for it is necessary (*for*) this corruptible-thing to clothe-itself-with incorruption, and this mortal-thing to clothe-itself-with immortality, ^{.54}but whenever this mortal-thing may clothe-itself-with immortality then the word, the (*word*) having been written², will come-to-pass, "Death was swallowed into victory."

Encouragement and Hope

- Paul encourages the Corinthians to behave correctly as we look forward to our hope coming to pass.
 - I Corinthians 16:13-16 and 22:
 - .¹³You must wakefully-watch; you must stand-firm in the belief; you must render yourselves as adult-males; you must be strong; .¹⁴all your things must come-to-pass in love¹.
 - .¹⁵But I encourage you, brothers – you knew² the house of Stephanas that it is a first-fruits-offering of Asia and they arranged themselves into (*the*) ministry to the holy-people – .¹⁶in order that also you may subject-yourself to the people-of-this-kind and to every-person working-together and laboring (*with them*);
 - .²²If someone does not love the Lord he must be a cursed-offering.

➤ Lord – come!