

1 Corinthians

- 1. Who was the writer? What was his situation at this time?** The apostle Paul was the writer as communicated in 1 Corinthians 1:1. This letter was written around AD 55 when Paul was completing his three-year stay at Ephesus -- see Acts 19:8-10, 20:31, and 1 Corinthians 16:5-9.
- 2. Who were the recipients? How were they connected to the author?** This letter was addressed to "the church of God which is at Corinth." Paul further describes the church there as "those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling." This letter is also applicable for "all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours." The Corinthian congregation was first established by Paul during his second missionary journey -- Acts 18:1-11. Paul spent a year and a half in Corinth, teaching the word of God, for the Lord had many people in that city. There apparently was ongoing written communication between Paul and the church at Corinth. Paul had written them a letter previously to 1 Corinthians (1 Corinthians 5:9), and it seems that they had responded with some questions (1 Corinthians 7:1).
- 3. What were some of the problems in the congregation in Corinth?** The church at Corinth consisted primarily of Gentiles from a very sinful culture. Because they had a difficult time fully separating from this degenerate culture, this congregation seemed to have more than its share of problems. The real root of the problems in Corinth was selfishness. Some of the major problems identified in this letter include:
 - There were quarrels and divisions among them – 1:11, 11:18
 - Jealousy and strife were prominent – 3:3
 - They were fleshly and walking like mere men – 3:3
 - Arrogance was prevalent – 4:6-7,18; 5:2,6; 8:1
 - Blatant immorality within the congregation – 5:1, 6:15-19
 - There were lawsuits among brethren – 6:1-8
 - Marriage problems – 7:1-40
 - Weak were being wounded in conscience – 8:11-12
 - They misused the Lord's Supper – 11:20-34
 - They were misusing the gifts of the Holy Spirit – chapters 12-14
 - Women were publicly speaking in the mixed assembly – 14:34
 - They had doubts about the bodily resurrection of Christians – chapter 15
- 4. What were some of the solutions that were presented for those problems?** The ultimate solution presented for all of these things is love. Here are some particular solutions given in this letter:
 - Unity – follow Christ the Head – 1:10-17, 11:23-26, 12:27
 - Spiritual mind growing through milk of the Word – 2:10-3:3

- Humility, God's honor, and love replace arrogance – 1:26-31, 4:7-8, 6:11, 8:1, chapter 13
- Immorality is replaced by faithful relationship with God and spouse (when applicable) – 6:12-7:40
- Situations are resolved in house with the help of church leadership when necessary – 5:13-6:8
- Good marriages come about by doing things God's way – 7:1-40
- Love governs our liberty – 8:7-13, 10:23-33
- The Lord's Supper is about Christ and the body, not about me – 10:14-22, 11:20-34
- Love dictates proper use of all gifts and abilities – chapter 13
- Women are to have submissive attitudes and ask their husbands questions – implied that men should be spiritual leaders – 14:34-35
- Christ's bodily resurrection is the guarantee of the resurrection of all Christians – chapter 15

5. What do we learn about foundations and buildings in this letter? The primary teaching in 1 Corinthians about foundations and buildings is found in 3:10-17. Here are a few key points:

- The only true foundation has already been laid and is Jesus Christ – 3:11
- Paul was a wise master builder and laid that foundation of Christ – 3:10
- We must be careful when we build on that foundation – 3:10
- Each man's work will become evident – 3:13
- Fire tests the quality of the work – 3:13
- If a man's work remains, he shall receive a reward – 3:14
- If a man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire – 3:15

6. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in the book of 1 Corinthians? The book of 1 Corinthians has much to teach us about the Holy Spirit. Here are some of the key points:

- God reveals His wisdom to us through the Spirit He has given us -- 2:10-14
- The Spirit of God dwells in Christians -- 3:16
- We have been justified in the Spirit of our God -- 6:11
- The Christian's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit -- 6:19
- True confession that Jesus is Lord is made only with participation of the Spirit -- 12:3
- The Spirit gave special gifts to the early church -- 12:4-11
- When we are immersed, the Spirit places us into the one body -- 12:13
- We were all made to drink of one Spirit -- 12:13

7. **According to this letter, who will not inherit the kingdom of God?** There are two distinct places wherein 1 Corinthians tells us who will not inherit the kingdom of God. The first is a list given in chapter 6, verses 9-10 under the heading of the unrighteous:

- Fornicators
- Idolaters
- Adulterers
- Effeminate
- Homosexuals
- Thieves
- Covetous
- Drunkards
- Revilers
- Swindlers

The second time this issue is addressed is in chapter 15, verse 50, which says, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.”

8. **What contrast do we see between Adam and Christ in this book?**

<u>Adam</u>	<u>Christ</u>
First Adam	Last Adam
Became a living soul	Became a life-giving spirit
From the earth, earthy	From heaven
Example of all who are earthy	Example of the heavenly

9. **To whom should the Christian be in subjection, according to 1 Corinthians?** Of course, we should be subject to the One to whom all things are in subjection under His feet ☺ -- 15:27. In a very practical teaching in 1 Corinthians 16:15-18, the apostle Paul set forth that the Christian should be in subjection to people like the household of Stephanas. This household devoted themselves to ministry for the saints. This passage says that we should be in subjection to everyone who helps in the works and labors.