

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
1 Corinthians Introduction
Todd E. Hammond, Senior Pastor
February 11, 2026

I. Geography, Politics, & Culture

A. The City of Corinth was destroyed by Rome in 146 B.C., then rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. By Paul's day, it was a **Roman colony**.

B. This strategic location made Corinth:

- 1) An influential **commercial** hub between two major ports.
 - a. **Lechaion** (west – toward Italy)
 - b. **Cenchreae** (east – toward Asia Minor)
- 2) A cultural **melting** pot
 - a. **Roman** soldier/war veterans
 - b. **Greek** locals
 - c. **Jewish** merchants
 - d. Travelers and sailors from **across** the empire
- 3) A **morally** corrupt city due to all the regional influences passing through.
 - a. Financial **prosperity**
 - b. **Intellectual** pride
 - c. **Sexual** immorality
- 4) A heavily **pagan** influenced city
 - a. The temple of **Aphrodite** dominated the city's reputation.
 - b. The phrase "to Corinthianize" meant to live immorally.
 - c. Corinthian girl became synonymous with prostitute. Greek counterpart to Venus.

Philippians 2:25 (KJV) *Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.*

- d. Epaphroditus in the Bible means "**devoted** to Aphrodite"

II. Paul's Journey to Corinth

A) Paul traveled here during his **Second** Missionary Journey (AD 50-52)

Acts 18:1 (KJV) *After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;*

B) Paul was **familiar** with the Greek and Roman worship of false gods.

Acts 18:2-3 (KJV) *And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.*

C) Paul met fellow **Jews**, whom they shared a **trade**.

Acts 18:4-6 (KJV) *And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.*

- D) Paul began brought the **Gospel** to those **willing** to receive it. First to the Jews in Corinth. He never forced it on anyone. Even in a place where he knew they so desperately needed it!

Acts 18:7-8 (KJV) *And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.*

- E) Paul **planted** the church in Corinth and it began to **grow** from a population that was very culturally diverse, and many doing well.

Acts 18:9-10 (KJV) *Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*

- F) Jesus **reassured** Paul of his **safety**.

Acts 18:1-11 (KJV) *And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.*

- G) Paul spends **1.5 years** in Corinth, preaching, teaching, and **living** among them.

III. When, Where, and Why Paul Wrote 1 Corinthians

- A. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians around **A.D. 55-57**, 2-3 years after he left.

1 Corinthians 16:7-8 (KJV) *For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit. But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.*

- B. Paul was in **Ephesus** during his **third** missionary journey when he wrote.

1 Corinthians 1:11 (KJV) *For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.*

- C. Paul had **ongoing** communication with Corinthians long after he left.

1 Corinthians 7:1 (KJV) *Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me...*

- D. Paul's letter was **purpose** driven addressing real, specific problems.

IV. Summary of the Letter - 1 Corinthians is not just **correction** — it's **hope**.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Division (Chapters 1–4) | 5. Food Offered to Idols (Chapters 8–10) |
| 2. Sexual Immorality (Chapters 5–6) | 6. Worship Disorder (Chapters 11–14) |
| 3. Lawsuits Among Believers | 7. Resurrection Confusion (Chapter 15) |
| 4. Marriage and Singleness Ques (Chapter 7) | |