

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME SIX
LETTERS TO GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF ROMANS—PHILEMON
1 CORINTHIANS: CONFLICTS AT CHURCH
A SURVEY OF 1 CORINTHIANS



The Heart of the Matter

Corinth. Color her purple . . . gaudy . . . fast and vile, yet rich and influential. A city of about two hundred thousand free citizens plus half a million slaves, busy Corinth represented a lifestyle of loose living. Epicureanism mixed with prosperity, beauty, the arts, and sensual idolatry was the norm. *Korinthiazomai*, a Greek term coined by Aristophanes, describes a person who lives an immoral life.

Into the fast lane of this wicked city came Paul, who lived and worked among the Corinthians, ultimately establishing a local church. No ministry ever faced a greater challenge to survive . . . and few churches ever experienced greater conflicts. As we shall discover, this sixteen-chapter letter is comprised mainly of troubleshooting, confronting, exhorting, and correcting. No other New Testament letter gives the pastor of a church in conflict a broader base of preaching material as he leads his flock out of carnal dangers and into new territory of purity and unity.



Discovering the Way

1. The City: Background and Setting

Turn to the maps in the back of your Bible, find Corinth, and note its strategic location. Prosperous Corinth had everything important to the world—money, slaves, idolatry, and immorality—but not a church.

2. The Writer: Journey, Arrival, and Stay (Acts 16:7–12; 17:32–18:20)

Follow the apostle Paul from Troas to Corinth, from evangelist to tentmaker, and from synagogue to house church.

3. The Letter: Purpose, Style, and Content (1 Corinthians 1:10–13; 5:1–3; 6:1–11)

Explore why Paul wrote this letter, how he addressed the issues, and what he chose to include.

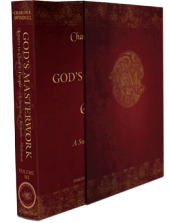


Starting Your Journey

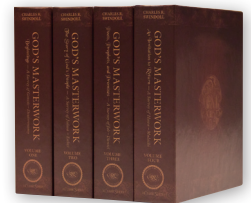
Do you solve conflicts or let them linger and fester? Do you resist “man-worship” or yield to it? Are you pure with the opposite sex or compromising? Are you a giver or a taker?



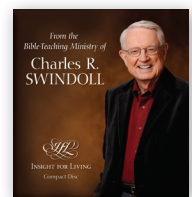
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FIRST CORINTHIANS

Rebuke for Sinful Conditions		Reply to Specific Questions
<i>Introduction (1:1–9)</i>	Divisions in the Church Exposition (1:10–17) Explanation (1:18–4:5) Exhortation (4:6–21) <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:10–4:21	Disorders in the Church Moral disorder (5:1–13) Legal disorder (6:1–11) Carnal disorder (6:12–20) <i>CHAPTERS</i> 5–6
		Difficulties in the Church Domestic difficulty—marriage and divorce (7:1–40) Social difficulty—liberty and license (8:1–11:1) Ecclesiastical difficulty—women and worship (11:2–34) Practical difficulty—gifts and body (12:1–14:40) Doctrinal difficulty—death and resurrection (15:1–58) Financial difficulty—gifts and body (16:1–9) <i>CHAPTERS</i> 7:1–16:9
	<i>Conclusion (16:10–24)</i>	
Key	“I exhort you.” (1:10)	“Now concerning the thing about which you wrote.” (7:1)
Need	Unity among the Corinthian Christians	Clarity regarding six areas of concern
Theme	Christian conduct in the local church	
Key Verses	6:9–11; 13:1–38	
Christ in 1 Corinthians	Jesus is the source of unity among believers who are baptized into the body of Christ and the basis of their ultimate resurrection and glorification (12:12–13; 15:1–58).	

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