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.

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?
# First Corinthians

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**Key Verses**

- 6:9–11; 13:1–38
- 1 Corinthians

### Rebupe for Sinful Conditions

**Introduction (1:1–9)**

- Unity among the Corinthian Christians

**Exposition (1:10–17)**

- “I exhort you.” (1:10)

**Explanation (1:18–4:5)**

- “Now concerning the thing about which you wrote.” (7:1)

**Exhortation (4:6–21)**

- Clarity regarding six areas of concern

### Reply to Specific Questions

**Exposition (1:10–17)**

- “I exhort you.” (1:10)

**Explanation (1:18–4:5)**

- “Now concerning the thing about which you wrote.” (7:1)

**Exhortation (4:6–21)**

- “Now concerning the thing about which you wrote.” (7:1)

### Key

**Need**

- Unity among the Corinthian Christians

**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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