



Outline of the Book of 1 Corinthians by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Origin of the Corinthian Church

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named **Aquila**, born in Pontus, **who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla** (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, **he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers**. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

When **Silas and Timothy** had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when **they opposed him and blasphemed**, he shook his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.' And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named **Justus, one who worshiped God**, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Then **Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized**. Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.' And **he continued there a year and six months**, teaching the word of God among them.

When **Gallio was proconsul of Achaia**, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, 'This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.' And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, 'If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters.' And he drove them from the judgment seat. **Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat**. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

So Paul still remained a good while. **(Acts 18:1-18a)**

Going Into the World of Corinth:

1. Paul worked and lived with Aquilla & Priscilla while he sowed the seed.
2. When "backup" arrived, Paul pressed a point offensive to the Jews.
3. With his preaching to the Jews, Paul was delivered from their blood.
4. Paul moved in with Justus next door to the synagogue.
5. Following church's beginning, Lord told Paul of "many people" He had.
6. Sosthenes "paid the price" for Paul and the Corinthian church

What Makes A Church "Unsound?"

Check the appropriate box(es)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sectarianism caused by "preacher-itis?" (1:10-17) | I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Snobbery" of those educated in worldly wisdom? (1:18-2:16) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritually shallow members subject to popular opinion? (3:1-4:21) | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic to an adulterous couple? (5:1-13) | o |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Settling spiritual matters in a court of law? (6:1-11) | r |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual satisfaction with prostitutes? (6:12-20) | i |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Splitting up" marriages "for every cause?" (7:1-40) | n |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scorning conscientious "issues" of new converts? (8:1-13) | t |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspending pay for preacher? (9:1-27) | h |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substituting idols/icons for God? (10:1-11:1) | i |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spurning man's authority over women? (11:2-16) | a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splitting the observance of the Lord's Supper? (11:17-34) | n |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subjecting Bible truth to "continuing revelations?" (12:1-14:40) | s |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shunning Jesus' resurrection from the dead? (15:1-58) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stingy giving? (16:1-4) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Showing lackadaisical knowledge of traveling brethren? (16:5-24) | |

Corinth Contained These, But Was Still "The Church of God" (1:2)

Was Paul "Unsound" In His Dealing With Corinth?

- Paul, before traveling there had already judged immoral man (**5:3**) and made urgent his sin and refusal to repent in **I Corinthians 5**
- Paul, however, "came no more to Corinth" to "spare" them.
2 Corinthians 1:23
- There were yet in Corinth other cases of sins needing attention and repentance (including fornication and lewdness).
2 Corinthians 12:20-21
- BUT Paul wrote to "those who have sinned before, and to all the rest," threatening to deal with them when he did come to them.
2 Corinthians 13:2

Wherein Did Paul Err?

- Was Paul in "fellowship" with their sins by his inaction?
- Was Paul "preaching error" to refuse to command the Corinthians (or any other church) to "withdraw" from all of these brethren?
- Did Paul render "unfaithful" all brethren (such as Timothy, Titus, et. al.) who worked with him or preached "on the same lecture program" with him?
- AND, isn't this exactly what Jesus had done with Thyatira? (**Revelation 2:18-29**)

There should be NO carnality of:

I. Concentration (mind/ wisdom) chapters 1 - 4

A. Gospel Wisdom From Above Gives Meaning Below 1:1-31

1. God calls through Jesus Christ:
 - a. Paul to be an apostle **1:1**
 - b. church of God at Corinth **1:2-3**
2. Grace of God "was confirmed" in message of Christ **1:4-9**
3. Sectarianism [denominationalism] is not of Christ **1:10-17**
 - a. Identifying with Christ unites **1:10** **Cf James 3:13-18**
 - b. Identifying with preachers separates **1:11-17**
4. Worldly "wisdom" considers Gospel "effete" **1:18-25**
5. Gospel values what world overlooks **1:26-31**

B. Gospel's Heavenly Message Is In Understandable Words 2:1-3:23

1. Persuaded:
 - a. without human verbiage **2:1-2** **Cf Ephesians 3:1-8**
 - b. without human persuasiveness **2:3-5**
2. Presented:
 - a. in spite of worldly ignorance of it **2:6-8** **Cf Acts 13:26-30**
 - b. as only God knew **2:9-11**
 - c. in words that reveal truth to its investigators **2:12-16**
3. Planted:
 - a. to correct carnal divisions among spiritually immature **3:1-4**
 - b. by cooperation of laborers in God's field **3:5-8**
 - c. for a life's solid foundation on Christ **3:9-15**
 - d. to build temple for God's Spirit **3:16-17**
4. Precluded:
 - a. worldly wisdom for salvation **3:18-20**
 - b. glorying in men **3:21-23**

C. Gospel Service Requires: 4:1-21

1. Concern that God is Judge, not men **4:1-5**
2. Deflated "egos" **4:6-13**
3. Knowledgeable teachers **4:14-21**

II. Carcass (body) chapters 5 - 7

A. Immorality Identified 5:1-13

1. Incest outlandish **5:1**
2. Infectious impenitence **5:2-8**
3. Insulate from sexually immoral brethren **5:9-13**

B. Illegal "Court" 6:1-20

1. Non-members should not settle Christian issues **6:1-8**
2. Salvation & moral line distinguish church from outsiders **6:9-11**
3. Christ paid to deliver Christian from fornication **6:12-20**

C. Ingenious Solutions to Fornication 7:1-40

1. EITHER sexual satisfaction in marriage to one spouse **7:1-6**
2. OR sexual austerity outside of marriage **7:7-9**
3. Divorce is NOT a solution but rather a sin **7:10-11**
4. Abide with unbelieving spouse who is faithful **7:12-16**
5. Gospel call is NOT reason for divorce **7:17-24**
6. Unmarried must factor social conditions into decision **7:25-38**
7. Permanence of marriage vow must be considered **7:39-40**

III. Conscience Chapter 8

A. Idol Truth 8:1-6

1. Christians know better but should not boast **8:1-3**
2. Idols are false, their worship is meaningless **8:4-6**

B. Christian Consideration 8:7-13

1. Some converts conscious of their up-bringing **8:7-8**
2. Other Christians should be sensitive to their plight **8:9-13**

IV. Commitment Chapter 9

A. Paul's freedom as an apostle 9:1-7

1. Qualified as eye-witness of Jesus & work in Corinth **9:1-2**
2. Had right to choose:
 - a. his meals **9:4**
 - b. his companionship **9:5**
 - c. his source of financial support **9:6-7**
 - 1) wars are financed by others
 - 2) farmer feeds from his harvest
 - 3) shepherd drinks milk from his flock

B. Preacher's "right" for support from the church:

1. God's principle of provision for oxen & its application **9:8-11**
2. Paul's right to forego this in Corinth **9:12** **Cf Acts 18:1-3**
3. God's example of provision for priests under Moses **9:13-14**
4. Paul's right to forego this in Corinth **9:15-18**
5. Paul was flexible in his support in consideration for his audience, but nowhere adapted his gospel message! **9:19-23**
6. Spreading the Gospel may require sacrifices **9:24-27**

V. Communion Chapters 10 - 11

A. Of Obedience 10:1-13

1. All Israel delivered from Egypt were one **10:1-4**
2. However, some fell away and were lost **10:5-10**
3. Christians may also fall away and be lost **10:11-13**

B. Of Worship 10:14-22

1. Christian wisdom forbids compromise of altar **10:14-17**
2. with Israel after the flesh **10:18-19**
3. with Gentile idolatry **10:20-22**

C. Of Hospitality 10:23-11:1

1. Christian liberty with eating meats **10:23-26**
2. Christian awareness of others' ignorance **10:27-11:1** [cf #III]

D. Of Gender Roles 11:2-16

1. Clearly defined in worship **11:2-6**
2. Defined by creation, NOT Christ **11:7-12** Cf **Genesis 2:18-25;**
Galatians 3:26-29
3. Head covering is "hair" to reflect creation **11:13-16**

E. Of Lord's Supper 11:17-34

1. Divided assemblies deny purpose of Lord's Supper, but also reveal who is divisive **11:17-20**
2. Disrespect for brethren & Lord's Supper rejected **11:21-22**
3. Re-statement of real observance **11:23-26** Cf **Matthew 26:26-30;**
Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20
4. Purpose is self-evaluation, not selfish factions **11:27-34**

VI. Church

Chapters 12 - 14

A. Holy Spirit Miracles Manifested Living Word 12:1-31

1. Revealed united truth, though differing gifts **12:1-11**
2. Christ's spiritual body united, though many members **12:12-31**

B. Love Is Lasting Truth When Miracles Cease 13:1-13

1. Miraculous Tongues, prophecy or knowledge, or even total, non-miraculous sacrifice useless without "love" **13:1-3**
2. Love's enduring qualities **13:4-8**
3. Miraculous gifts end when love message completed **13:9-13**

C. Miraculous Limited By Holy Spirit 14:1-40

1. Prophecy more useful to church than tongues **14:1-5**
2. Tongues meaningless without visitor or interpreter **14:6-25**
3. Tongues & prophecy controlled for revealing truth, NOT personal glory **14:26-33**
4. Women forbidden to interrupt in public assembly **14:34-36**
5. Written word of God supersedes all truth **14:37-40**

VII. Convictions

Chapter 15

A. Gospel Includes Jesus' Bodily Resurrection 15:1-11

1. Essential Gospel fact **15:1-4**
2. Verification of resurrection **15:5-8** Cf **Matthew 28:1-10;**
Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-48; John 20:1-31
3. Apostolic origin of doctrine **15:9-11**

B. General Resurrection Thus Undeniable

1. Because of Gospel of Christ **15:12-19**
2. Because current kingdom of the saved will end **15:20-28**
3. Because Christians' obedience and persecution is in view of resurrected Lord, NOT dead one **15:29-34**
4. Because Bible teaches origin and end of death **15:35-49**
5. Because of spiritual nature of victory **15:50-58**

VIII. Collection

Chapters 16

A. Law of Contribution 16:1-4

1. Universally applied **16:1**
2. Regularly practiced **16:2**
3. Generally shared **16:3-4**

B. Opportunely Appropriate 16:5-12

1. Paul in Ephesus till Pentecost, then may travel **16:5-9**
2. Timothy may come, Apollos may not **16:10-12**

C. Christian Rules 16:13-24

1. Let love guide all **16:13-14**
2. Appreciate Stephanas' family, first followers in Achaia **16:15-16**
3. Accept works of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus **16:17-18**
4. Kindest regards to Asian churches, Aquila and Priscilla, all the brethren **16:19-20**
5. Loving sign-off by Paul **16:21-24**

Corinthian Corroborations:

- Their problems were centered in their "egotism" or over-inflated sense of self-worth: **I Corinthians 4:6; 5:2; 8:1; 13:4; Cf Colossians 2:18.**
- Paul never contrasts his teaching with that of Jesus, but makes some specific application(s) that were not already included in Jesus' biographies **I Corinthians 7:10, 12, 17**
- Paul holds the cross of Jesus Christ before the Corinthians as their means of deliverance from philosophical ignorance, moral ineptitude, worship corruptions, and life's ambition. In no other book are the benefits and beneficence of being in Christ so clearly shown.