

An Introduction to 1 Corinthians

Pastor Nick Neves / Acts 18:1-19

What are some reasons that this letter is important to the New Testament Church?

What are some of the challenges that make this letter a difficult study?

Acts 18:1 – The Corinthian church is born in the midst of Paul’s _____ mission journey.

- Paul, Aquilla, Priscilla, Timothy, and Silas work together to build the kernel of the church
- The church is established in late 49 to early 50 AD, shortly after the Jerusalem Council
- By God’s grace, Paul spends about 18 months strengthening the believers there
- 1 Corinthians is written from Ephesus likely in early ____ AD.

List some relevant characteristics that defined the culture and climate of Corinth:

***Consider how these historical facts might impact our interpretation of the letter**

**Paul enters Corinth alone, having endured much persecution to this point on the journey.
The Lord ministered to His weary apostle in two ways:**

1. The Lord allowed Paul to serve alongside _____

2. The Lord comforted Paul with a _____

As the Gentiles began to believe, they were added to the brotherhood. But the widescale introduction of people from such diverse backgrounds, cultures, and religious histories had its share of _____.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Christianity is not a _____ of what you were before you heard the gospel – it is a complete _____ of one’s being.

Though Paul eventually moved on to new mission fields, his heart remained invested in the people of Corinth. 1 Corinthians is a letter within a series of correspondence between the Apostle and the members of that church.

***Of importance: 1 and 2 Corinthians do not comprise the total conversation.**

- 1 Corinthians 5:9 – there was a letter that we do not have that preceded 1 Corinthians.
- Paul had ministered to them at their start, but 2 Corinthians 12:14 and 13:1-2 reference a 3rd visit to them. That means a 2nd visit happened that is not recorded in Acts.
- 2 Corinthians 7:8 tells us that Paul sent a letter between 1 and 2 Corinthians... one he almost wished he could take back because it was quite harsh.
- So we don’t have the whole story – but we have the portions that God has determined will help us to know Him better and to learn how to guard ourselves from defilement.

“Although they were the Christian church in Corinth, an inordinate amount of Corinth was yet in them, emerging in a number of attitudes and behaviors that required radical surgery without killing the patient. This is what this letter attempts to do.”

- Gordon Fee