

FIRST CORINTHIANS 55 AD

“Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.” 15:1

Author: Paul

Written From: Ephesus

Sent To: Church in Corinth

Purpose: Correct behavior by correcting doctrine Theme: The Christian’s new life is to be applied to everyday life. Basic Outline:

Chapters 1-6 - Paul attempts to correct issues in the Corinthian church made known to him by members of Chloe’s household who had crossed the Aegean Sea to speak with Paul. The problems included:

1. 1:10-4:21 – Divisions over church speakers, factions, jealousy and quarrelling in the local Corinthian church that resulted from a misunderstanding of the message of the cross and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. 1:18-2:5 – Greek philosophy vs. Word of God
 - b. 2:6-2:16 – Greek philosophy vs. Spirit of God
 - c. 3:1- Spiritually Mature vs. Worldly Infants
 - d. 4:1 – Apostles vs. Philosophers. Servants of God are ministers of the Word. The Word is the universal standard of the content of the preachers’ message.
2. 5:1-13 - Immorality
3. 6:1-11 - Legal Battles
4. 6:12-20 – Immorality and the body’s resurrection

Chapters 7-16 - Paul addresses questions brought by an official delegation that presented him a letter with concerns that arose from Paul’s previous letter to the Corinthians. These each begin with περι δε in the Greek which translates “now concerning” and include:

1. 7:1, immorality and marriage
2. 7:25, celibacy and marriage
3. 8:1-11:1, food sacrificed to idols. Chapter 8-10 involves Christian liberty and responsibility. This leads into Paul discussing his apostleship and the Lord’s Supper
4. 11:2-14:40 – Divisions concerning Congregational worship services
 - a. 11:2-16 - Head coverings
 - b. 11:17-34 – social status at the Lord’s Table
 - c. 12:1, spiritual gifts
5. 15:1, the gospel and the doctrine of resurrection
6. 16:1, collection of money for the Jerusalem saints
7. 16:12, Paul’s fellow teacher, Apollos

Corinthians thought they had superior “wisdom”, “spiritual” experience, application, life style, etc.

So, in rebuking the Corinthians Paul asks them TEN times, “Don’t you know?” Basically saying to them, “Surely, a people of your superior spiritual experience and loftier wisdom would know this basic truth?”

1. 3:16 – Don’t you know that you are God’s temple and that God’s spirit lives in you.
2. 5:6 – Don’t you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.
3. 6:2 – Don’t you know that the saints will judge the world.
4. 6:3 – Don’t you know that we will judge angels.
5. 6:9 – Don’t you know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom.
6. 6:15 – Don’t you know that your bodies are members of Christ himself.
7. 6:16 - Don’t you know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body.
8. 6:19 - Don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you.
9. 9:13 - Don’t you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple.
10. 9:24 - Don’t you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets a prize.
11. 15:58 – DO YOU KNOW that your labor in the Lord is NOT in vain

1 Corinthians 1:1