

New Testament Survey

Class 11: 1 Corinthians

Background:

- Paul helped plant the church in Corinth with Aquila and Priscilla in 51 AD (see Acts 18:1-17)
- Before 1 Corinthians, Paul had already written to the church at Corinth (1 Cor 5:9), and they had written to him. In this letter he responds to some of the issues they had written to him about (see 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12). He also responds to a verbal report about divisions in the church (1:11).
- Paul wrote First Corinthians “from Ephesus (16:8, 19) sometime before the final day of Pentecost (16:8), and therefore in the spring... of A.D. 53, 54, or 55... near the end of his three-year ministry in Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:5–9; cf. Acts 19:21–22)” (*ESV Study Bible*, “Introduction to 1 Corinthians”)

1. Introduction and thanksgiving (1:1-9)

2. An appeal for unity and a warning against divisions (1:10-4:21)

- a. Concerns about unity and divisions (1:10)
- b. The gospel is central (1:17-18) and causes unity because...
- c. ...it is the power and wisdom of God (1:22-24)
- d. The wisdom of God is revealed to us by the Spirit (chap 2, esp. v.10)
- e. Spiritually mature people unify around Christ (chap 3), but God will judge anyone who causes divisions in the church (3:16-17)

Note: Old Covenant temple → New Covenant church

NT Survey: Class Schedule

11	19-Nov-23	1 Corinthians
12	26-Nov-23	2 Corinthians

3. **Purge the evil person from among you by church discipline (5:1-13)**
 - a. "Purge the evil person from among you" (v.13 = Deut 17:7)
Note: Old Covenant execution → New Covenant church discipline
Note: Old Covenant leaven → New Covenant evil
4. **The church should handle legal cases between believers (6:1-11)**
 - a. ...because the church is competent! (6:2-3)
 - b. Court cases before unbelievers are a shame (6:5)
 - c. It would be better to be defrauded than go to court (6:7)
 - d. The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom, but Christians have been washed, sanctified, justified! (6:9-11)
5. **Flee from sexual immorality (6:12-20, see esp. v.18)**
 - a. *Only* sexual sin is against the body (6:18)
6. **"Concerning" sex, singleness, divorce, and contentment with your status (7:1-40)**
 - a. The goal: undivided devotion to Christ (7:35)
7. **Do not demand your freedom, but rather give up your rights¹ (8:1-9:27)**
 - a. "Concerning" food offered to idols (chap 8): for the sake of love (8:1-3), you should willingly give up your right to eat anything that makes your brother or sister stumble (8:11-13).
 - b. Compare Paul's apostleship (chap 9):
 - i. He has a right to expect compensation for his service to the church (v.1-14), but he willingly gives up this right (v.15-18).

- ii. He is free from all people, but he uses this freedom to serve all people (lit. "to be enslaved to all," 9:19), both Jews and Gentiles (v.19-27).

8. **Learn from OT examples: flee from idolatry (10:1-22)**
Note: Old Covenant rock → New Covenant Christ

9. **Learn from Paul's example: do what is best for others (10:23-11:1)**

10. **Regarding the traditions Paul left (11:2-34)**

- a. Commendation: head coverings (11:2-16)
- b. No commendation: divisions when eating the Lord's Supper (11:17-34)

11. **"Concerning" spiritual gifts (12:1)**

- a. The Spirit empowers each person with different gifts for the good of the whole body (12:1-31)
- b. But love is even better than spiritual gifts (13:1-13)
- c. Desire prophecy more than speaking in tongues (14:1-40)

12. **A reminder about the gospel: Christ has been raised from the dead (15:1-58)**

- a. ...and you will be too! (v.35-57)
- b. Transition: therefore, serve the Lord (15:58)

13. **"Concerning" the collection for Jewish brothers and sisters (16:1-11)**

- a. How to collect donations for those in Jerusalem (16:1-4)
- b. When Paul will travel deliver the collection (16:5-11)

14. **"Concerning" Apollos and conclusion of letter (16:12-24)**

¹ The word "rights" occurs once in chapter 8 and six times in chapter 9.