



# 1 Corinthians

## Saints & Sinners: An Opportunity For Growth

### SYLLABUS

**1. Instructor: Chuck Gianotti**

**2. Course Description**

This is an indepth study of Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Church. An emphasis will be given to both the overall message of the book, as well as the details of given issues presented in the letter. Encompassing this will be a comprehensive understanding of the book in its first century context and its application to our present day situation.

**3. Stated objectives for the course**

- A. At the end of this course, the student should be able to:
- B. Identify the literary form of the book, including the basic outline, literary conventions and figures of speech exhibited in the letter.
- C. Understand and restate the basic issues the letter deals with.
- D. Explain the intimate relationship Paul had with the Corinthian church
- E. Articulate the cultural, philosophical, political and religious influences on Paul's letter to the Corinthians.
- F. Apply the solutions presented in the letter to present day equivalent issues.
- G. Show how this book uniquely contributes to the overall message of God in the NT.

**4. Suggestions to enhance learning**

- A. Class notes: details outlines will be handed out for following the lectures. These provide plenty of space for note taking. In the end, the student will have comprehensive set of notes for further study on his or her own.
- B. Reading
  - 1) Read through the book of 1 Corinthians once each week for the duration of the class.
  - 2) Read handout articles from time to time, as provided by the instructor
- C. Written assignments: Questions and/or projects will be provided each week to engage the students in additional out-of class learning opportunities. For those who wish, feedback will be provided.
- D. Classroom interaction and small group discussion is encouraged.

***CLASS SCHEDULE***

9/20	Session 1	11/1	Session 6
9/27	No class	11/8	No class
10/4	Session 2	11/15	Session 7
10/11	Session 3	11/22	Session 8
10/18	Session 4	11/29	Session 9
10/25	Session 5	12/6	Session 10

# NOTES

## GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BOOK:

1. From your past reading of the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Corinthians, how would you describe it someone?
2. The Problem book? The Carnal Church?
  
3. A glorious book?

## INTRODUCTION

1. Authorship (1:1, 16:21, Acts 18:17) - Paul and Sosthenes

2. Date & Place of Writing: Ephesus (1 Cor 16:8)

A. Referred to by early church fathers

- 1) "The Epistle of the Blessed Apostle." Clement of Rome (A.D. 95)
- 2) Ignatius (no later than A.D. 110), et. al.
- 3) Widely quoted by other early church fathers (Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Tertullian).

B. Multiple visits and letters

C. Written from Ephesus during 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey, around A.D. 55

Gallio, mentioned in Acts 18:12-17 during Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> visit to Corinth as the proconsul of Achaia, was known historically to have held that office of for the first seven months of A.D. 52 (Carson & Moo, 447). See 16:8, 9, 19

3. Destination

A. Corinth (southern Greece)

B. Climate

C. Background

D. Geography

E. Character of the city

F. Population

G. Jews

4. Purpose

## 5. Overall Place in Scripture:

### A. Placement in the canonical list

- 1) General order of NT books
  - a) Historical books
    - (1) Four Gospels
    - (2) Acts
  - b) Paul's letters to churches
    - (1) To churches, then to individuals
    - (2) Longest to shortest
    - (3) 1 Corinthians is 2<sup>nd</sup> in line of Paul's letters
  - c) General letters (of other writers)
  - d) Revelation

### B. Major contributions:

# GENERAL OUTLINE

## Introduction (1:1-9)

1. Divisions in the Church (1:10-4:21) – “I appeal to you...that all of you agree with one another” (1:10)
  - A. Due to pride (1:10-2:5)
  - B. Due to carnality (2:6-3:23)
  - C. Due to disrespect of Apostles and ministers (4:1-21)
2. Disorders in the Church (5:1-6:20) – “It is actually reported ...” (5:1)
  - A. Tolerance of Sin (5:1-13)
  - B. Lawsuits (6:1-11)
  - C. Fornication (6:12-20)
3. Difficulties (7:1-15:58) – “Now for the matters you wrote about...” (7:1)
  - A. Marriage (7:1-40)
  - B. Christian Liberty (8:1-11:1)
  - C. Worship (11:2-34)
    - 1) Male and Female (11:2-16)
    - 2) Lord's Supper (11:17-34)
  - D. Diversity and Unity (12:1-13:13)
    - 1) Gifts (12:1-31)
    - 2) Love (13:1-13)
    - 3) Propriety in Worship (14:1-40)
  - E. Resurrection (15:1-58)

## Final greetings (16:1-24)



## **INTRODUCTION (1:1-9)**

### 1. Paul's authority for writing (1)

A. "Paul"

B. "called"

C. "an apostle"

D. "of Christ Jesus"

E. "by the will of God"

F. "Sosthenes, our brother"

### 2. To the church of God at Corinthians (2)

A. "Church of God"

B. "At Corinth"

C. Description of Corinthians:

1) Sanctified in Christ Jesus (1:2)

2) Progression

3) Unity

4) Enriched (1:5)

5) Not lacking any spiritual gift (1:7)

6) They have expectancy of Lord's return (1:7)

3. Prayer for the Corinthians (1:4-6)

4. Promise (1:8-9)

5. Application