

Study 1. 1 Corinthians 1-17

1. Intro:

Who wrote the book, to whom and what was their purpose in writing?

*Snapshot of Corinth in AD55.

Corinth was a key commercial and trade centre due to its strategic location. It was affluent, with lots of people of diverse backgrounds living there and engaging in many secular activities. It was the New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas of the ancient world....quite a bit like Sydney too!

Paul founded the Corinthian church (see Acts 18). He wrote a previous letter to them (see 1 Cor 5:9) where he raised the problem of sexual immorality and idolatry with them. It seems that some in the church have taken offense at his previous letter and question his authority to lead and advise them. The church had been heavily influenced by the surrounding culture's view on leadership, wisdom and power.

2. Corinth was a church that was being influenced by their surrounding culture. In what specific ways are we as Christians living in our current context likely to be influenced by our surrounding culture? (world view, values etc)

3. What things is Paul thankful for in the Corinthians lives? (brainstorm)

4. What do you notice about the way Paul talks about these blessings in the Corinthians lives? (It's God honouring and Christ centric.."his grace given you", "you have been enriched"..they are the recipients of grace. This is their status as redeemed people and therefore they are to live that out)

5. What things is he concerned about in the Corinthians lives?

6. What sorts of divisions are we susceptible to as Christians today?

7. Is Paul saying that Christians have to agree about everything? What should we do when we disagree with other Christians or have been hurt by them?