

GBC Joint Heirs  
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## Correction Concerning the Corinthian Church A Case of Spiritual Life Corruption First Corinthians

### Introduction of First Corinthians

#### The Church

Paul visited Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18 AD 51-52). Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla and joined them in tent making. Silas and Timothy joined later (Acts 18:5). Paul founded the church 3:6,10 and ministered in Corinth for 1 ½ years (Acts 18:8,11). During this time Paul wrote I and II Thessalonians.

#### The City

##### Historically

In 146 BC this city of Greece was burned to the ground by the Roman army. It was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 46B.C. and given the status of a Roman colony. It became the capital of Achaia and the residence of the Roman proconsul (Acts 18:12)

##### Commercially

This was a wealthy city that attracted all type of people and with it many problems. It had its own sporting industry as well as being known as a very decadent city morally. It became known to all that to act “Corinthian” was a euphemism for practicing fornication. The worship of Aphrodite the Greek goddess of love was practiced in a temple outside of the main city. Strabo the historian reported that this temple housed over 1000 slaves that served as prostitutes.

#### The Circumstances

Three men brought a report to Paul of difficulties and disorder in the church. 1:11 A report that Paul was waiting for from Timothy also triggered the letter 16:10-11. The three men also brought some questions that the church desired Paul to address. Hence the structure of the letter “Now concerning...” 7:1,25, 8:1, 12:1, 16:1,12

The Corinthians evidently brought into the church the lifestyle they had lived out before coming to Christ. They were engaged in division- following men, sexual immorality, taking each other to court, feasting and becoming drunk at pagan festivals, perverting the celebration of the Lord's supper, and being out of control with their worship misusing spiritual gifts. Yet in all this Paul refers to them as “saints, holy ones, members of the body of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit.

#### The Composition

It appears that there were at least three letters if not four written to the church at Corinth. Hence our first Corinthians may be the second letter, written after a previous letter (5:9) and our second Corinthians may be the fourth written in response to Titus' report from Macedonia. First Corinthians was written in AD 56 from Ephesus.

## First Corinthians 1:1-9

### I. The Salutation of Paul 1:1-3

A. The Author :1

B. The Audience :2a

C. The Affirmation :2b-3

### II. The Thanksgiving of Paul 1:4-9

A. The Pleasure of the Past and Present :4-7

1. Thankful for the Past Provision :4-6

2. Thankful for the Present Provision :7a

B. The Potential of a Good Future :7b-9

1. The Optimistic Confidence of the Corinthians Faithfulness :7b-8

2. The Absolute Conviction of Gods Faithfulness :9

Paul presents pastoral optimism for the people, but this does not automatically mean it will actually result in a positive outcome. People do not always do what their spiritual leaders ask. But God is faithful even if we are not. 2 Tim 2:11-13

Always remember the difference between our Position and our Condition.  
Between Justification and Sanctification  
Between Relationship and Fellowship