

Growing Up. Building Up. 1 Corinthians Book Chart

Purpose Statement: Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthian church in response to alarming reports he had recently heard and read. Paul exhorts the young church to set aside worldly wisdom, division, immorality, and arrogance and to instead pursue love and godly living based on sound theology.

Key Verse: But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love. (13:13)

INTRODUCTION: "You were called into fellowship with His son Jesus Christ our Lord." (1:1-9)

Part 1 1:10 – 6:20

Paul RESPONDS to what he has HEARD

I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you. (1:11)



(Paul and Apollos)

Paul addresses issues of

- Division (1:10-4:21)
- Incest (5:1-13)
- Lawsuits (6:1-11)
- Immorality (6:12-20)

1Cor. 3:3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Part 2 7:1-16:4

Paul RESPONDS to what he has READ

Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is not good... (7:1)

Paul answers their questions about

- Marriage (7:1-40)
- Food Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11)
- Worship Services (11:2-14:40)
- The Resurrection (15:1-58)
- Special Offering (16:1-4)



1Cor. 15:14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

MAJOR THEMES:

- Division
- Sexual immorality
- Practical application
- Importance of theology
- Paul's spiritual authority.

"I exhort you, brethren...that you all agree and that there be no division among you. (1:10)

TEACHING WITH CONTRASTS

- Wise / Foolish
- Powerless / Powerful
- Humble / Proud
- Spiritual / Natural
- Mature / Immature

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God." (3:19)

TONE OF LETTER

- Intense – tough love
- Combative
- Incredulous
- Sarcastic at times
- Yet hopeful

"You have already become rich, you have become kings without us." (4:8)

CONCLUSION: "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." (16:5-24)

Paul is writing to a three-year old church in the cosmopolitan city of Corinth: "The New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas of the ancient world" (Fee). They were enamored with fashionable ideas and philosophies, including the exaltation of eloquence, and struggled with how their new faith should impact how they live.