

Book 46: 1 Corinthians

Getting the Church to Grow Up

- Corinth was a port city and one of the larger cities in Greece.
- It was wealthy, full of idolatry and known for all the sex and craziness you might expect in a city full of sailors and tourists.
- Writing from Ephesus about 57 A.D., Paul the Apostle writes more to the church in Corinth than to any other church.

- This is a church full of problems, which actually benefits us in two vital ways:
 - It helps us not idealize the early church thinking it always oh so perfectly spiritual.
 - It gives us God-breathed Scripture, which teaches us how to deal with any number of problems in a church.

- The key to understanding 1 Corinthians is found in Chapter 3:1-2.
- This church simply needed to grow up.
- Some of the problems addressed in this letter by Paul are:
 - Divisions, Selfishness, Worldliness, Lack of Love, Immaturity and Sexual Sin

- A few important passages deal with:
 - 5:9-13 Church Discipline
 - 6:1-8 Lawsuits among Believers
 - 7 Sex, Divorce and Marriage
 - 11:17-34 The Lord's Supper
 - 12 & 14 Spiritual Gifts
 - 13 Agape Love
 - 15 The Resurrection

Gifts, Love and Unity 12:1 – 14:20

- Things to consider within this passage:
 - Finding Your Place in the Church
 - The Place of Others in the Church
 - Unity in the Church
- Also consider the outcome of not being content with the gifts God has given you.