

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 1

9 June 2017

The believers at Corinth wrote the apostle Paul a letter outlining some of the problems in their church. When Paul responded, he didn't address their specific problems until chapter seven (see 7:1). In the first six chapters, he tells them why they have the problems that they have. They had a heart problem. Each individual refused to deal with their own sins (attitudes, habits, feelings, pet sins). As long as we continue to dismiss our own sins instead of seeking God to help us to eliminate them, we're going to continue to have problems with other people.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE BELIEVERS IN CORINTH

(Chapter 1:1-8)

1. Sanctified (vs. 2).
 2. Saints (vs. 2).
 3. Recipients of God's grace (vs. 4).
 4. Rich in speaking and in knowledge (vs. 5).
 5. Their testimony has been confirmed (vs. 7).
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(Chapter 3:1-3)

1. Not spiritual, carnal (vs. 1).
 2. Babies (vs. 1).
 3. Unable to eat meat (receive stronger doctrine, vs. 2).
 4. Plagued with envy, strife, and divisions (vs. 3).
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(Chapter 4:6-7)

1. They'd forgotten that all their gifts, talents, and abilities came from God.
 2. They became puffed up with pride against each other. (See also 4:19 and 5:2).
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(Chapter 6:8)

1. Wrongdoers / defrauding the brethren.
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(Chapter 1:11)

1. Contentions among them.
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THE SOLUTION

1. Talk about Christ and the cross (compare chapter 1, vs. 5 with vs. 18).
2. Be aware that Jesus Christ is present (1:29-30).
3. Make sure that your faith stands in Jesus Christ, not in other faithful believers (2:5).
4. Make sure you are building your life on Jesus Christ and biblical principles, not the ways of the world with a Bible knowledge to accompany that. (3:11).
5. Don't make hasty judgments about people. Leave judgment for the Lord (4:3-5).
6. You need the right leaders (4:15-16).
7. Follow the right leaders (4:15-16), keeping in mind they're faulty and need God's help.
8. Deal with your sin immediately (5:6-8). Don't give it a chance to grow and spread.
9. Go farther than you have to (6:12).