



# 1 & 2 Corinthians:

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Paul's Letters to a Troubled Church

# Context and Overview

- Paul wrote to the Corinthian church to address major spiritual and moral issues.
- These letters were responses to troubling reports and direct questions.
- Corinth was a major city known for its immorality, making Christian living difficult.
- Paul reminded them of the gospel (1 Cor 15:2) and to remain steadfast (1 Cor 15:58).







# The City of Corinth

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A Roman trade hub with a reputation similar to a modern-day 'sin city'.

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Full of idolatry, pagan practices, and sexual immorality.

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Church planted here faced cultural challenges and internal struggles.

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Yet it remains a symbol of the transformative power of the gospel.



# Author and Recipients

- Author: Paul (1 Cor 1:1)
- Recipients: The Church at Corinth
- Location: Written from Ephesus (1 Cor), Macedonia (2 Cor)
- Date: Around AD 56
- Key Word: Love (agape), Ministry (diakonia), Glory





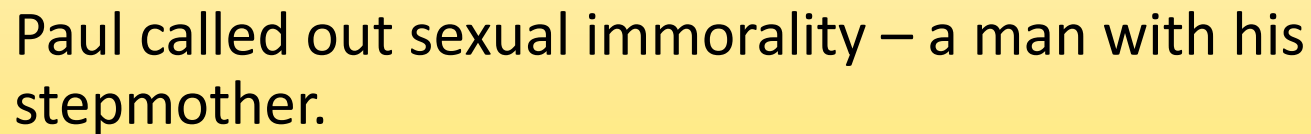
# Problems in the Corinthian Church

- Divisions over leadership (1:12-13)
- Sexual immorality – including incest (1 Cor 5)
- Lawsuits among believers
- Abuse of Christian liberty and public worship
- Misunderstanding the resurrection
- Spiritual pride and competition over gifts



# Moral Failures and Paul's Correction


Paul called out sexual immorality – a man with his stepmother.



Such sin was shameful even by pagan standards.



Paul instructed excommunication—not to condemn, but to lead to repentance.



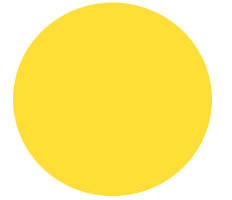
He also addressed greed and idolatry as serious sins that damage witness and unity.





# Worship and Order Issues

- Disorderly worship, especially misuse of tongues and prophecy.
- Improper conduct at the Lord's Supper – selfishness and irreverence.
- Paul taught: 'Eat at home' if you're hungry; come with reverence.
- Addressed marriage, singleness, and proper roles in worship gatherings.



# The Central Message: The Gospel

- Paul refocused them on the gospel:
- 'Christ died for our sins... was buried... and rose on the third day' (1 Cor 15).
- He challenged them to stand firm and not believe in vain.
- This gospel remains our foundation, hope, and guide for life.







# Love: The Greatest Gift (1 Cor 13)

Love is patient, kind, not proud or rude.

It keeps no record of wrongs, always protects, always perseveres.

Spiritual gifts are worthless without love.

Love is the principal Christian ethic and relational guide.

# 2 Corinthians: Paul's Heart



This letter is deeply personal and pastoral.



Paul shares his sufferings, hopes, and heart for ministry.



Themes: Strength in weakness, encouragement, God's power in frailty (2 Cor 4:7).



Encouragement for all ministers and leaders today.



# Application & Takeaways

## Strive

Strive for unity and humility in the church.

## Let love

Let love guide all your actions and attitudes.

## Live

Live a life shaped by the gospel and resurrection.

## Use

Use spiritual gifts to build others, not boast.

## Seek

Seek reconciliation and reflect the glory of Christ.