

Week 1 Discussion Questions

Text: 1 Cor 1:1-9

Series Resources: See the back page for helpful graphics from the ESV Study Bible.

Icebreaker: In light of our series title, what happens when the church is divided? What is the potential impact of a church that is united?

1. Read all of chapter 1 (even though we're only focusing on the first 9 verses this week). What stands out to you from the text or from the sermon this week?

Application: Since 1 Corinthians is a letter, we're reading someone else's mail! If people in the future discovered and tried to understand a letter you wrote to someone, what kind of challenges do you think they would encounter? Is it fair to assume we should be mindful of similar obstacles as we read this book (v. 1)?

2. How does Paul describe himself in these first 9 verses? What does he say about the Corinthian church?

Application: As followers of Christ at Calvary, do you think Paul's descriptions of the Corinthians applies equally as well to us today? Why?

3. How does Paul describe God and his work in the Corinthians in these first 9 verses?

Application: Where can find confidence in our faith from what these verses describe about God?

4. Application: In our often-polarized society, being undivided is perhaps more countercultural than ever, yet it's what Jesus desires for his Church. What kind of attitude is required to live in unity with others?

Take time to pray together for your LifeGroup and for Calvary as a whole—that we would grow in unity during this series because God's unifying Spirit is at work within us.

See next page for additional resources.

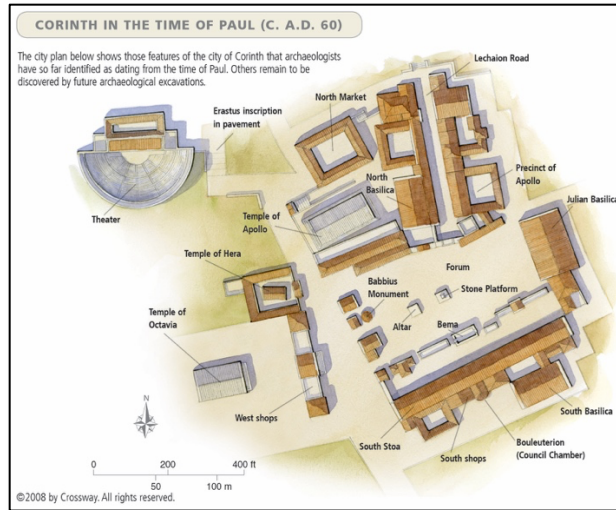


©2008 by Crossway. All rights reserved.

The Setting of 1 Corinthians

c. A.D. 53–55

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians during his third missionary journey, near the end of his three-year ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:21–22). Both Corinth and Ephesus were wealthy port cities steeped in pagan idolatry and philosophy. Corinth benefited both militarily and economically from its strategic location at one end of the isthmus that connected the southern Greek peninsula to the mainland.



©2008 by Crossway. All rights reserved.

	A.D.	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Death, resurrection of Christ (A.D. 33 [or 30]) [†]		■										
Paul's conversion (33/34*)		●										
Paul's first Jerusalem visit (36/37*)			●									
Paul's second Jerusalem visit (famine relief) (44–47*)				■								
Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)					●							
Paul's third Jerusalem visit (apostolic council) (48–49*)					●							
Paul's second journey (including 1.5 years in Corinth) (48/49–51*)					■							
Paul's third missionary journey (52–57*)						■						
Paul writes 1 Corinthians while in Ephesus (53–55)						■						
Paul writes "tearful letter," then 2 Corinthians (55–56*)							●					
Paul martyred in Rome (64–67*)									■			

* denotes approximate date; / signifies either/or; † see *The Date of Jesus' Crucifixion*, pp. 1809–1810

©2008 by Crossway. All rights reserved.

Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others.