

First Corinthians Outline

Introduction: The isthmus of Corinth connects the large Peloponnesian peninsula and the mainland of Greece. As a connecting ground it was an extremely popular trade route- like New Jersey, all roads didn't lead to Corinth; they led through it. Because of trade a huge number of different kinds of people and ideas wound up in this place- and this riot of diversity finds expression in the Christian community Paul is trying to nurture. There are questions about sexual practice, marriage, eating food that's been sacrificed to idols, the role of women in the church, and the unique gift of tongues. Paul's main goal in working with a congregation like the one in Corinth is to focus as much attention as possible on unity- often acknowledging one practice or another may be justifiable but not recommended in light of it's effect on the rest of the group.

Section One: Foolishness of Christ Wiser Than Wisdom of the World

Chapter 1: Salutations; a plea for unity in Christ; foolishness of Christ wiser than wisdom of world

Chapter 2: Paul knowing nothing except Christ crucified

Chapter 3: Corinthians not ready for food- only milk; Paul laid good foundation but up to Christ to build; individuals the temples of God

Chapter 4: Paul criticizes Corinthians for thinking too highly of themselves; notes the apostles live A life of suffering; sending Timothy to be an example

Section Two: Disputes and Words on Living Together in Community

Chapter 5: Case of sexual immorality- son living with father's wife; expel the man; yeast example

Chapter 6: Settle legal disputes within the church; abstain from sexual immorality- prostitution

Chapter 7: Good not to marry, but better to marry than to burn; bodies belong to one another; Ok to marry unbelievers; stay in present state- the end is coming fast

Chapter 8: Food sacrificed to idols; idols not real- eating ok, but abstain because of others

Chapter 9: Church should support the apostles; Paul becomes all things to all people; race to win

Chapter 10: Warnings from Israel's past; avoid idolatry; everything permissible- but not beneficial

Section Three: Faithful Worship and Theology

Chapter 11: Women and head coverings; abuse of Lord's supper

Chapter 12: Spiritual gifts; one body- many members

Chapter 13: Love and the impartial knowledge we have now

Chapter 14: The special gift of tongues; importance of order in worship; silence for women

Chapter 15: Account of resurrection; importance of resurrection; the resurrection body

Section Four: Final Words

Chapter 16: Collecting money for other churches; personal requests, final greetings

Stories to know: One body many members (Chapter 12); love and the impartial gift of knowledge (13); tongues (14)