

Message Notes

"Thankful?!?!? For what?!?!?"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *"Something just doesn't seem right..."*

From 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, Acts 18

Paul the Church Planter

Paul the Leadership Developer

Sosthenes

Background to the book of 1st Corinthians

Corinth – the City

Corinth – the People

What Paul should do to this church!

Paul's reaction to this church that is keeping the fun in dysfunctional! (1 Cor 1:4a)

How could possibly be thankful for this messed up church?

1. The grace of Jesus was upon them. (1 Cor 1:4b)
2. Jesus gave them riches in every way ~ speech and mind. (1 Cor 1:5)
3. Jesus changed them through the message of His Gospel and transformation was evident in their lives (1 Cor 1:6)
4. Jesus was coursing through their spiritual veins (1 Cor 1:7)
5. Paul's trust was secure because of God's faithfulness (1 Cor 1:8-9)

Application – *"Who do you love?"*

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours: ³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

⁴I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way – in all your speaking and in all your knowledge – ⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Colossians 3:12-14

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

1 Peter 4:8b

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

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Paul's opening remarks to the church in Corinth

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First Corinthians: The Letter



LIFE

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Paul was the
founding pastor of
the church in
Corinth
(c. AD 49-51)



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Actually Paul's
second letter



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Actually Paul's
second letter

1. Wrote first to
them about an
issue of sin to be
dealt with:

1 Corinthians 5:9



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Actually Paul's
second letter

2. The church
writes Paul back:

"Now for the
matters you wrote
about ..."

(1 Cor 7:1)



LIFE

First Corinthians: The Letter

Actually Paul's
second letter

3. Paul now
writes this letter to
address issues in
the church he has
heard about in
addition to issues
they are concerned
about.



LIFE

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Paul's Second Church Planting Journey - Acts 15:40-18:23 (c. AD 49-52)

Corinth: The City





Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up



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- Divisions among the leadership



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- There are many in the church who think this is great!
“Freedom in Christ” is their montra



Corinth: The People in the church

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- Divisions among the leadership
- A man is having an affair with his stepmother
- There are many in the church who think this is great!
“Freedom in Christ” is their montra
- The rich and sophisticated are taking advantage of others, even taking each other to court



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Some like to visit prostitutes in the pagan temples



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- Some like to visit prostitutes in the pagan temples
- Others say anything enjoyable is sin, so they abstain from all things pleasurable, even marital sex



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Some like to visit prostitutes in the pagan temples
- Others say anything enjoyable is sin, so they abstain from all things pleasurable, even marital sex
- Big debates about how to be involved with their pagan religious background



Corinth: The People in the church

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- The Spiritual Gifts of God are present, but it is charismania and absolute bedlam in their meetings



Corinth: The People in the church

10 issues Paul has to bring up

- Worship was an absolute mess – disorder, cultural issues regarding men and women, and people getting drunk on the communion wine!
- The Spiritual Gifts of God are present, but it is charismania and absolute bedlam in their meetings
- Some people in the church do not actually believe that Jesus rose bodily from the dead.

A woman in a white wedding dress and veil stands in the center of the frame, holding a bouquet. She is positioned in front of a large, arched opening in a stone wall, which appears to be part of a ruined church. The architecture features Gothic-style arches and stone masonry. The ground is paved, and the background shows some trees and a hillside. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

the affection of Jesus: what was he thinking
by making the church his bride?

A FOUR WEEK MESSAGE SERIES ON THE CHURCH

January 25th - February 15th, 2009

photo by Jim Blackie (cc - creative commons use)

Welcome to the
Church in
Corinth:



Welcome to the
Church in
Corinth:

The Bridezilla
of Christ!

What I would have done if I was Paul...



***YOU ARE HERE.**

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² To the church of God in Corinth,
to those sanctified in Christ Jesus
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³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

How Paul deals with all of this...

Let 'em have it, Paul!!

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

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*How could Paul possibly be thankful
for this motley crew?*

1. The Grace of Jesus was on them

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2. They were now rich

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3. Gospel Transformation was evident

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4. Jesus' Spirit was coursing through their veins

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5. Their growth, perseverance and behavioral changes were in God's hands

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Are you willing to love on the very
least people, even people you struggle
to like?

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