

Analytical Outline of 1 Corinthians

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1) Paul greets the church. 1:1-9

- a) Paul and Sosthenes greet the church in Corinth. 1:1-3
- b) Paul gives thanks to God for evidence of the grace in them. 1:4-9

2) Paul argues for unity in the church, not divisions centered around Christian leaders. 1:10-4:21

- a) Paul exhorts the brothers to live in unity. 1:10-17
- b) The cross of Christ is the basis of the believers' unity. 1:18-2:5
 - i) The cross of Christ seems foolish and weak, but is the wisdom and power of God. 1:18-25
 - ii) God chose to save weak and foolish people so they can only boast in Him. 1:26-31
 - iii) Paul did not proclaim the cross by human wisdom or power, but in demonstration of the Spirit. 2:1-5
- c) Fleshly believers are not able to live in unity. 2:6-3:4
 - i) By God's Spirit, Paul imparts God's wisdom to spiritual people. 2:6-13
 - ii) Unspiritual people cannot understand what comes from the Spirit of God. 2:14-16
 - iii) By living in division, the Corinthians prove they are fleshly, not spiritual. 3:1-4
- d) Paul and Apollos are merely servants of Christ, not leaders to rally around. 3:5-4:7
 - i) Paul and Apollos are working for God. 3:5-17
 - (1) Paul and Apollos are merely God's servants, laboring on God's work. 3:5-9
 - (2) All work on God's building will one day be tested. 3:10-15
 - (3) The believers constitute God's holy temple. 3:16-17
 - ii) Paul and Apollos are servants of Christ. 3:18-4:7
 - (1) Christians belong to Christ and thus should not boast in people or their abilities. 3:18-23
 - (2) They should regard Christian leaders as servants of Christ. 4:1-5
 - (3) They should not boast in the teachings of Paul or Apollos, or be divided over them. 4:6-7
- e) The Corinthians should listen to Paul's plea since he is like a father to them. 4:8-21
 - i) Paul points out their feelings of superiority over the apostles. 4:8-13
 - ii) Paul is a father to them, unlike their many teachers. 4:14-17
 - iii) Some criticize Paul as being fickle and talk as if he won't come to visit again. 4:18-21

3) Paul urges them to judge immorality in the church. 5:1-6:20

- a) Don't associate with the immoral brother. 5:1-13
 - i) The Corinthians are arrogant about an immoral person in the church. 5:1-2
 - ii) They should rather judge this immoral brother. 5:3-5
 - iii) If they don't, like unleavened bread, it will affect them all. 5:6-8
 - iv) They should not associate with an immoral Christian. 5:9-13
- b) As Christians, they are able to judge these matters for themselves. 6:1-8
 - i) They should be able to judge among themselves instead of going to a secular court. 6:1-6
 - ii) To have a lawsuit among Christians is a defeat. 6:7-8
- c) Paul gives reasons for judging immorality. 6:9-20
 - i) The unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom. 6:9-11

ii) Their bodies are members of Christ and not meant for immorality. 6:12-20

4) Paul answers their question about marriage and divorce. 7:1-24

- a) Sexual relations in the context of marriage should keep them from immorality. 7:1-7
- b) Single people should only get married if they can't control their passion. 7:8-9
- c) Married people should not divorce. 7:10-11
- d) Those with unbelieving spouses should stay married or allow them to leave if they so desire. 7:12-16
- e) A Christian should be content to remain in whatever condition they were called by the Lord. 7:17-24

5) Unmarried people are better off remaining single. 7:25-40

- a) Due to the present distress, people should remain as they are, singled or married. 7:25-31
- b) Unmarried people are more free from earthly anxieties and able to care about pleasing the Lord. 7:32-35
- c) An unmarried man with his passions under control will be better off not to marry. 7:37-38
- d) A widow would be happier if she remained unmarried. 7:39-40

6) Paul answers question about properly handling food offered to idols: love not knowledge. 8:1-11:1

- a) In dealing with food offered to idols, live by love, not by knowledge. 8:1-13
 - i) Christians should care for others when dealing with food offered to idols. 8:1-3
 - ii) Christians know that there is only one God and that an idol is nothing. 8:4-6
 - iii) Don't eat meat offered to an idol if it will damage the weak conscience of a brother. 8:7-13
- b) Even Paul does not use his rights as an apostle, but rather cares for them. 9:1-18
 - i) Paul's apostleship is shown by his relationship with the Corinthian believers. 9:1-2
 - ii) As an apostle, Paul has a right to be supported financially by the believers. 9:3-7
 - iii) The law of Moses confirms that the apostles should receive material support. 9:8-12a
 - iv) But Paul has not made use of this right. 9:12b-14
 - v) Paul has his reward by offering the gospel free of charge. 9:15-18
- c) Paul becomes like different people in order to save them. 9:19-23
- d) Paul disciplines himself that he may be rewarded. 9:24-27
- e) Israel's idolatry in the wilderness is an example for Christians. 10:1-22
 - i) Most Jewish forefathers died in the wilderness. 10:1-5
 - ii) Their example is a warning to Christians to not give into their temptation. 10:6-13
 - iii) Avoid idolatry, which amounts to worshiping demons, and thus avoid provoking the Lord. 10:14-22
- f) Eating meat offered to an idol is lawful, but not if it offends others. 10:23-30
- g) Seek to please others for the sake of their salvation. 10:31-11:1

7) Paul comments about the traditions he delivered to them. 11:2-34

- a) Paul commends them for properly practicing head-covering, which represents God's authority. 11:2-16

- b) Paul rebukes them for not properly practicing the Lord's Supper. 11:17-34
 - i) They were eating the Lord's Supper with divisions. 11:17-22
 - ii) Paul gave to them the tradition of the Lord's Supper from the Lord Jesus. 11:23-26
 - iii) They bring judgment on themselves by not properly discerning the Lord's body. 11:27-32
 - iv) They need to care for each other in eating, so as not to be condemned. 11:33-34

8) Paul answers their question about the proper use of spiritual gifts. 12:1-14:39

- a) Concerning spiritual gifts, a person with the Holy Spirit will confess that Jesus is Lord. 12:1-3
- b) But the Spirit gives various gifts to different people for the church's profit. 12:4-11
- c) Each part of the Christ's body has a function and gift from the Holy Spirit. 12:12-31
 - i) They are one body with many parts, all arranged by the Spirit. 12:12-13
 - ii) The body needs each and every part. 12:14-26
 - iii) They are the body of Christ and each member has a gift from the Spirit. 12:27-31
- d) Spiritual gifts must be controlled by love. 13:1-13
 - i) Gifts mean nothing if they don't have love. 13:1-3
 - ii) Love is selfless and seeks the best for others. 13:4-7
 - iii) Love is the greatest gift and the only one that will last. 13:8-13
- e) Spiritual gifts are for the building up of the church. 14:1-36
 - i) Prophecy is more useful than tongues in the church. 14:1-25
 - (1) Prophecy is a greater gift than tongues since it builds up the church. 14:1-5
 - (2) Speaking in tongues in a church meeting does not build up the church. 14:6-12
 - (3) It is more fruitful to speak intelligible words in a church meeting. 14:13-19
 - (4) Prophecy, not tongues, will bring conviction to unbelievers. 14:20-25
 - ii) Each one should speak in church in an orderly way for building up others. 14:26-33a
 - iii) Women should keep silent in the church. 14:33b-36
- f) A spiritual person will recognize that this teaching regarding spiritual gifts is true. 14:37-39

9) Resurrection is the Christians' hope and motivation for serving the Lord. 15:1-58

- a) As Christ was raised, so will Christians be raised. 15:1-28
 - i) They should hold fast the gospel Paul first preached. 15:1-2
 - ii) Paul message was that Christ died, rose, and then appeared to the apostles. 15:3-11
 - iii) If Christ has been raised, how can some say that there is no resurrection? 15:12-19
 - iv) If Christ was raised from the dead, then believers will also be raised. 15:20-28
- b) Why should Christians endure suffering if they don't believe they will be raised? 15:29-34
- c) Resurrection is the ultimate victory. 15:35-57
 - i) Christians must die physically in order to take on a resurrected body. 15:35-41
 - ii) The physical body will become a spiritual body in resurrection. 15:42-50
 - iii) At the last trumpet, Christians will be changed and experience the victory of immortality. 15:51-57
- d) Therefore Christians should continue in the Lord's work. 15:58

10) Paul gives final instructions. 16:1-24

- a) The Corinthians should put aside offerings each week, which Paul will collect when he visits. 16:1-4
- b) Paul tells of his travel plans and those of his fellow-workers. 16:5-12
 - i) Paul hopes to spend some extended time with the Corinthians. 16:5-9
 - ii) They should help Timothy in his travels when he visits them. 16:10-11
 - iii) Apollos will come to visit them when he has the opportunity. 16:12
- c) Paul gives final exhortations. 16:13-18
 - i) They should be strong in the faith and do everything out of love. 16:13-14
 - ii) They should give proper recognition to others working for the Lord. 16:15-18
- d) Paul gives final greetings. 16:19-24
 - i) The saints with Paul send their greetings. 16:19-20
 - ii) Paul sends his personal greetings. 16:21-24