

Message #1

Various Texts

QUESTION #1 – Why study I Corinthians?

- 1) Because it is God's Word.
- 2) Because I Corinthians is understood at a surface level.
- 3) Because many have Corinthian hearts.
- 4) Because I Corinthians give us many guidelines for N.T. operation.
- 5) Because I Corinthians is a book for our time.
- 6) Because I Corinthians is a book of life-changing power.
- 7) Because I Corinthians is a book of direct confrontation.

When all is said and done, I Corinthians is a good book to study because, as Frederick Godet said, “it is just so practical.”

QUESTION #2 – What was Corinth like?

Fact #1 - It was a key political city.

Two types of Roman provinces: Type #1 – The Imperial province = directly controlled by emperor; Type #2 – The Senatorial province = directly controlled by a proconsul or governor who would report to the emperor. Achaia was a Senatorial province, whose capital was Corinth, whose governor was Gallio (Acts 18:12, 14, 17).

Fact #2 - It was a strategically located city.

The technical name for the narrow neck of land on which Corinth was located was isthmus, which connected two other bodies of land.

Fact #3 - It was an intellectual and philosophical city.

Corinth was located 40-45 miles west of Athens.

Fact #4 - It was an industrial city.

In spite of all of its commerce and money, Corinth was a desperately lost city without morals and without God.

Fact #5 - Corinth was an athletic city.

Every two years the Isthmian games were held in Corinth. Paul challenged himself and the Corinthians to live so they would finish winners.

Fact #6 - Corinth was a religious city.

The steep 1800 foot hill was called the Acrocorinth, and at the top of the hill was the most famous of pagan temples, the temple of Aphrodite.

Fact #7 - Corinth was an immoral city.

Corinth became a term synonymous with immorality. “To live like a Corinthian” meant to live in drunken and immoral debauchery. Paul used the term “Corinthian girl” to refer to a prostitute.

QUESTION #3 – What were the problems in the church?

Problem #1 - There were divisions. 1:10-4:21

Problem #2 - There was immorality. 5:1-13

Problem #3 - There were lawsuits. 6:1-8

Problem #4 - There were marital problems. 7:1-16

Problem #5 - There were vocational problems. 7:17-24

Problem #6 - There were gray-area problems. 8:1-13; 10:23-33

Problem #7 - There were financial problems. 9:1-14; 16:1-2

Problem #8 - There were fellowship problems. 10:16-22

Problem #9 - There were submission problems. 11:2-16

Problem #10 - There were worship problems. 11:23-34

Problem #11 - There were spiritual gift problems. I Cor. 12-14

Problem #12 - There were doctrinal problems. I Cor. 15

In spite of all these problems, this church WAS STILL a church of God (1: 2).

QUESTION #4 – What is the theme of I Corinthians?

It is the responsibility of every believer to stay in the church and to spiritually develop both individually and collectively, regardless of the external or internal circumstances or problems; and each believer will be held accountable by God for his development.

Regardless of the past problems or pressures, past sins or failures, we are to work together as a church of God to develop in a God-honoring manner. I Corinthians demands development for the glory of God.