

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(First Corinthians)

I. General Introduction to 1 Corinthians

-Title: “To the Corinthians A” (1:2)

-Author: Paul the apostle and Sosthenes the brother (1:1)

-Date: from Ephesus ~AD 55-56, about 2-3 years after Paul founded the church (Acts 18:1-19:10)

-Purpose: address problems in the church he had heard about; address questions they had written to him about (1:11; 5:1; 6:1; 7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 15:12; 16:1)

-Structure:

I. Introduction (1:1-9)

II. Response to Chloe’s Report about Factions (1:10-4:21)

III. Response to a Report about Immorality (5:1-6:20)

IV. Answers to Their Questions about Various Concerns (7:1-16:4)

V. Conclusion (16:5-24)

II. General Overview of 1 Corinthians

-Introduction (1:1-9)

-Division (1:10-4:21): see 1:10-12, 18, 21-24; 2:1-5, 14; 3:3, 4; 4:1, 14, 15, 21.

-Immorality (5:1-6:20): see 5:1, 2, 5; 6:9-11, 18-20; lawsuits (6:1-8)

-Miscellaneous Questions: Marriage (7:1-40); Eating Meat Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-10:33); Public Worship (11:1-14:40): [role of women in the church [head coverings (11:1-16); women speaking in church (14:34-36)]; proper observance of the Lord’s Supper (11:17-34); proper use of spiritual gifts (12:1-14:40)]; Resurrection from the Dead (15:1-58); Benevolence Collections (16:1-4)

-Conclusion (16:5-24)

III. Prominent Themes in 1 Corinthians

-Nature of Gospel Preaching; Marriage and Sexual Purity; Christian Liberty; Spiritual Gifts; Resurrection

IV. Christ in 1 Corinthians

-Central to salvation (1:30); preaching (2:2); sexual purity (6:18-20); marriage (7:1-5); worship (chs. 11-14); doctrine (ch. 15)

V. Practical Lessons in 1 Corinthians

1) True churches will experience scandal and controversy (Acts 20:29, 30).

2) Maintain a clear and firm commitment to the centrality of preaching in the life and ministry of the church (Rom. 10:14, 17; 1 Cor. 1:21; 1 Pet. 1:23, 25).

3) Maintain a clear and firm commitment to the centrality of the gospel message in the life and ministry of the church (1 Cor. 15:3, 4).