

New Testament Foundations: Session Eleven

I Corinthians: Problems and Questions

Authorship

1. Paul wrote to the Corinthians from Ephesus sometime between Passover and Pentecost in _____ AD.
2. The ancient city of Corinth was one of the _____ and most profligate in the entire Roman Empire.
3. Corinth was the _____ largest city in the Roman Empire (estimated population of 250,000) and the most important city of Greece. Its location on the isthmus between the Aegean and Ionian seas made it a center for commerce and trade. As a result, it had all the problems of a large port city.

Background and Chronology

1. Paul came to Corinth in _____ AD from Macedonia—after a brief stopover in Athens—during his second missionary journey. He soon befriended Aquila and Priscilla and began to work with them in their tent-making business.
2. Paul—according to his custom—preached in the _____ for a number of weeks, but finally amidst resistance from the Jews, began an aggressive ministry to the Gentiles from the house of Titius Justus who lived next door to the synagogue.
3. After eighteen months in Corinth, Paul left in _____ AD with Priscilla and Aquila, stopping briefly in Ephesus. Priscilla and Aquila remained in Ephesus and later met and instructed the gifted Alexandrian Apollos whom they subsequently sent on to Corinth for ministry there. (Acts 18:18-28)
4. Paul paid a short visit to Jerusalem and then stopped briefly at his home base in _____. While Apollos was ministering in Corinth (Acts 19:1), Paul left on his third missionary journey—visiting the churches in Galatia, and finally stopping in Ephesus for two to three years. Sometime during Paul's ministry in Ephesus, he wrote the letter mentioned in I Corinthians 5:9.
5. Sometime after Paul left Corinth, emissaries from the _____ of Palestine boasted of "letters of commendation" from Jerusalem. They did not insist on circumcision in refined Corinth, but they attacked the apostolic authority of Paul, some of them declaring themselves followers of Peter and others boasting that they belonged to Christ himself. They denounced Paul and challenged his authority.
6. Chloe's people visited Paul in Ephesus with news of _____ in the church. Around the same time, Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus visited him with financial support and a list of questions.
7. Paul responded to the Corinthians with the letter known as I Corinthians, answering their questions and telling them he would soon visit them.
8. Paul sent _____ to Corinth (maybe with the I Corinthians letter) and then made a brief visit himself with less than positive results. This is sometimes called "the painful visit." In response to this visit, he sent another letter to Corinth (referred to in II Corinthians 2:3, 4)—this time through Titus.

9. Titus meets Paul in _____ with news that his letter was well received by most of the believers in Corinth and that they responded with godly repentance. Paul then writes II Corinthians and follows it with another visit.

Themes

I Corinthians 1:18, 2:2

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing" and, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

It is from the perspective of the cross of Christ that Paul begins this letter of reproof. He is laying the foundation that only through the death of self and reliance on the power of God can the remedies be found for the problems that are confronting the church. The Gospel, and only the Gospel, is the answer to all our problems.

1. The themes of I Corinthians center on two things: problems *in* the church, and questions *from* the church.
2. Some of the problems in the church are as follows.
 - The first problem is _____.

I Corinthians 1:12

Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

- The second problem is _____ among believers.

I Corinthians 6:1

Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

- The third problem is _____.

I Corinthians 5:1

It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

I Corinthians 6:18-20

Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

3. Some of the questions from the church are as follows.
 - Questions about _____.

I Corinthians 7:1

Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

- Questions about Christian _____.

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

- Questions about the _____.
- Questions about _____ gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.

- Questions about the _____.

1 Corinthians 15:1

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand.

- Questions about the _____ for Jerusalem and Paul's plans.

1 Corinthians 16:1

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.