

1 Corinthians  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27; 14:26-40  
November 15, 2023

I. Introduction

II. City of Corinth

- A. Important commercial crossroads
- B. Isthmian games (9:24)
- C. Highly diverse population

III. Church in Corinth

- A. Mostly poor Gentiles (1:26; 12:2)
- B. Tensions (6:1; 11:21)

IV. Date

- A. Paul founded church and stayed 18 months (Acts 18:1-11)
- B. Paul is brought before Gallio (Acts 18:12-17, 51 AD)
- C. Writes from Ephesus 53-55 AD (16:8)

V. Occasion

- A. Second letter (5:9)
- B. Letter is a stopgap (11:34)
- C. Report from “Chloe’s people” (1:11; 11:18)
- D. Response to letter from the church (7:1)

VI. Structure

- A. Not a couple of big issues but a string
  - 1. Factions (1:12; 11:9)
  - 2. Sexual immorality (5:1-8; 6:12-20)
  - 3. Legal disputes (6:1-11)
  - 4. Marriage vs. celibacy (7:1-40)
  - 5. Eating meat sacrificed to idols (8:1-13)
  - 6. Abuses at the Lord’s Supper (11:17-34)
  - 7. Spiritual gifts (12:1-14:40)
  - 8. Resurrection of the dead (15:1-58)
- B. Emphases
  - 1. Calls to unity (1:10)
  - 2. Unity not uniformity (12:4-6)
  - 3. Community over individual (8:13; 12:7)
  - 4. Love (13:4-7)
  - 5. Over-realized eschatology (4:8)

VII. Passages from back

- A. The Body of Christ (12:12-27)
- B. Orderly worship (14:26-40)

VIII. Lessons

- A. Importance of community
- B. Stay together even in conflict—*adiaphora*

IX. What else?

X. LET US PRAY!

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

## 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

<sup>26</sup> What should be done then, my brothers and sisters? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. <sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three and each in turn, and let one interpret. <sup>28</sup> But if there is no one to interpret, let them be silent in church and speak to themselves and to God. <sup>29</sup> Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. <sup>30</sup> If someone sitting receives a revelation, let the first person be silent. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged <sup>32</sup> (and the spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets, <sup>33</sup> for God is a God not of disorder but of peace), as in all the churches of the saints.

<sup>34</sup> Women should be silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak but should be subordinate, as the law also says. <sup>35</sup> If there is something they want to learn, let them ask their husbands at home.<sup>[a]</sup> For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>36</sup> Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only ones it has reached?

<sup>37</sup> Anyone who claims to be a prophet or spiritual must acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command<sup>[c]</sup> of the Lord. <sup>38</sup> Anyone who does not recognize this is not to be recognized. <sup>39</sup> So, my brothers and sisters, strive to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues, <sup>40</sup> but all things should be done decently and in order.