

The Corinthian Crisis

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 1:1-9.

B. I Corinthians is different than most of Paul's letter—from the very beginning he plunges into the problems of the church.

C. Paul is deeply engaged in very practical matters.

II. Paul's apostleship was called into question, so he has to defend it.

III. Paul's greeting is based upon sanctification in contrast to justification.

A. Justification is the description of the change that God makes within an individual when he comes to Christ.

B. Sanctification is the visible result of justification in the behavior of the individual.

IV. Paul stresses the Lordship of every believer.

A. Some within the church were turning away from the Lord and following man.

B. There were divisions in the church.

V. The good news for the Corinthians.

A. Their entrance into the Christian faith was orthodox.

B. There was no wrestling with legalism—the problem at Corinth was license.

C. They are well equipped with the spiritual gifts.

D. They understood the truth of the Bible, and they were students of the Word.

E. Their expectation for the revealing of Christ was right.

VI. God had called them to fellowship with His Son.

A. By implication, we learn that this is the reason for all the problems of the church.

B. The Corinthians failed to understand the importance of the relationship they had with Christ.

C. Despite the fullness of their provision, they were experiencing a great failure in the church.

D. They lacked understanding of what it was like to have Jesus living among them.

E. Christ provides the power it takes to meet the demands of both love and the law.

1. Christ gives direction on how to work.

2. Christ also gives resource to perform the work.

F. Christ must be Lord of our lives all day long.

VII. The Table of the Lord.

A. The wine is designed to remind us of Christ's death.

B. The bread recalls the momentary experience of the presence of the Lord that we make a part of us.

Application questions:

1. What strengths of the church at Corinth do your church share? How could your church grow?

2. What does it mean to have "fellowship with His Son?" Why was this a significant problem for the church?

3. How can you experience the fellowship of Christ today in your daily routine?
