

1st Corinthians

- **Author and Date**
 - Paul identifies himself twice in the letter (1:1; 16:21)
 - Undisputed Pauline authorship by both ancients and contemporaries.
 - According to Paul himself in 16:8 he wrote this in Ephesus, with whom he stayed for two years during his third missionary journey (cf. Acts 19:1-10). Probably composed around AD 56-57.
- **Destination**
 - Capital of Achaia (southern Greece).
 - Natural trade link between Italy and Asia.
 - Prosperous and thriving metropolis founded by Julius Caesar in 44 BC. There was originally a Greek city on this site that dates to the 8th century BC, but was conquered by the Romans a century before Caesar re-founded it.
 - Paul himself planted the church around AD 51 (cf. Acts 18:1-18).
 - Consisted of both wealthy and poor, Gentile and Jew, slave and free.
- **Purpose**
 - In his absence of 5-6 years the church was rife with problems:
 - Internal division
 - Incest and immorality
 - Lawsuits
 - Denial of the resurrection
 - Liturgical abuse
 - Abuse of charismatic gifts
 - Paul wrote to prepare the way for his own personal journey there.
- **Themes and Characteristics**
 - At times bold and confrontational, and at others charitable and paternal.
 - The vices that Paul targets ultimately are pride and selfishness.
 - Wisdom VS Eloquence
 - Love, order and submission
 - The church as the mystical Body of Christ
 - Baptism, Eucharist, celibacy, and fidelity to Tradition.
- **Structure:**
 - Introduction 1:1-9
 - Corrections to Corinthian Problems 1:10 - 6
 - Answers to Corinthian questions 7 - 14
 - Resurrection of the Dead 15
 - Epilogue 16