

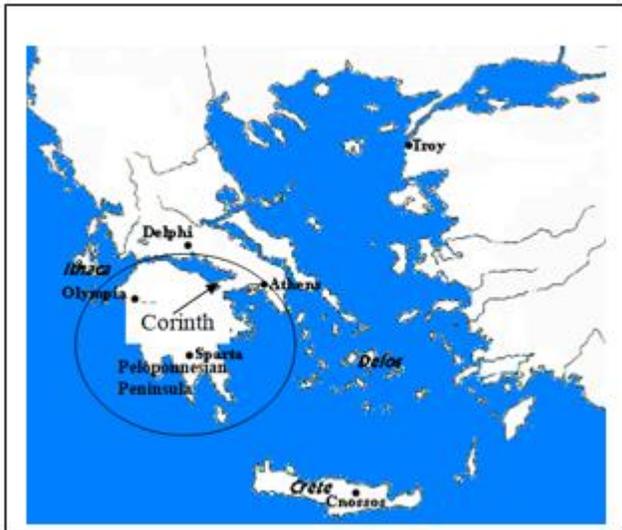
1 Corinthians 1-3: HEALING RUPTURED RELATIONSHIPS

David Renwick – April 21, 2021

SCHEDULE - April 14- June 2, 2021

1. Background
2. Restoring Ruptured Relationships (1 Cor 1-4)
 3. Sex in the City (1 Cor 5-7)
 4. Winning by Losing (1 Cor 8-10)
 5. Did Paul Hate Women? (1 Cor 11)
 6. Spiritually Mature? (1 Cor 11-14)
 7. Life After Death (1 Cor 15)
 8. Generosity (1 Cor 16)

- Jesus' DEATH/RESURRECTION → AD 30-32?
- PAUL IN CORINTH (Acts 18:1-21) → Date AD 50-52
 - LETTER WRITTEN → AD 53-55?



REAL PEOPLE/RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CHURCH

ACTS 18

¹ Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

² There he found a Jew named **Aquila**, a native of Pontus, who had *recently come from Italy* with his wife **Priscilla**, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³and, because he was of the same trade, he *stayed with them, and they worked together*—by trade they were tentmakers.

⁴ Every sabbath he would *argue in the synagogue* and would try to convince **Jews and Greeks**.

⁷ Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named **Titius Justus**, *a worshiper of God*; his house was next door to the synagogue.

⁸ **Crispus**, *the official of the synagogue*, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household; and **many of the Corinthians** who heard Paul became believers and were baptized.

1 Corinthians 1

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus

by the will of God, and our brother **Sosthenes**,

¹¹ For it has been reported to me by **Chloe's people** that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.

¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to **Apollos**," or "I belong to **Cephas (Simon Peter)**" or "I belong to Christ."

¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except **Crispus and Gaius**,

¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

¹⁶ (I did baptize also **the household of Stephanos**)

[Economic/social standing]

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters:

- **not many of you were wise by human standards,**

- not many were powerful,
- not many were of noble birth.

1 Corinthians 11

²⁰When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper.
²¹For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and *one goes hungry and another becomes drunk*.
²²What! *Do you not have homes* to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and **humiliate those who have nothing?**

1 Corinthians 12

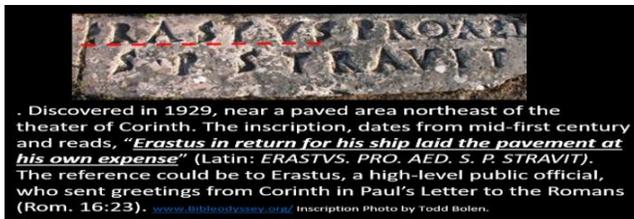
²You know that **when you were pagans**, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.

1 Corinthians 16

¹⁵Now, brothers and sisters, you know that members of **the household of Stephanas** were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints;
¹⁷I rejoice at the coming of **Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus**

Romans 16

- ¹I commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, a deacon of the church at **Cenchreae**. ² . . . for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.
- ³Greet **Prisca and Aquila**, who work with me in Christ Jesus,
- ²¹**Timothy**, my co-worker, greets you;
- so do **Lucius and Jason and Sosipater**, my relatives.
- ²²I **Tertius**, the writer of this letter, greet you in the Lord.
- ²³**Gaius**, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you.
- **Erastus, the city treasurer**,
- and our brother **Quartus**, greet you.



THE REASON FOR THE LETTER??

. . . . Chloe's People (1:11) and a 'letter' (7:1)

Problem: → what we do not know for sure is when Paul is quoting the letter, and when are we hearing Paul's voice)

1. CHLOE'S REPORT

¹¹For **it has been reported to me** by Chloe's people that

1. ¹¹ **DIVISIONS OVER PASTORS!!** *there are quarrels among you*, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."
2. ⁵**SEXUAL IMMORALITY. It is actually reported** that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not found even among pagans; *for a man is living with his father's wife*.
3. ⁶ **A LEGAL CASE**. When any of you has a **grievance against another, do you dare to take it to court before the unrighteous**, instead of taking it before the saints? . . . ⁶but *a believer goes to court against a believer*—and before unbelievers at that?
4. ¹¹**LORD'S SUPPER**. ¹⁸When you come together as a church, **I hear that** there are divisions among you; . . . ²¹For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and *one goes hungry and another becomes drunk*.
5. ¹⁵**RESURRECTION**. If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say *there is no resurrection of the dead?*

2. ANOTHER LETTER

⁷Now concerning the matters about which **you** wrote:

1. ⁷ **MARRIAGE** "It is well for a man not to touch a woman." ²But "because of cases of sexual immorality" each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body,

but the husband does; likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

2. 8¹ **EATING IDOL MEAT.** Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “*all of us possess knowledge.*” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 4Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” 10But . . . if anyone sees you, a person of knowledge, at table in an idol’s temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols?
3. 12¹ **SIGNS OF GOD’S SPIRIT (GIFTS)** Now concerning spiritual gifts/matters, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 3No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. 13¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
4. 16¹ Now concerning **THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS (Jewish Christians):** 3When I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. 4If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

1 CORINTHIANS 1-3

THE PROBLEM

10Now I appeal to you all, brothers and sisters, by the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, that all of you all **be in agreement** and that there be **no divisions** among you all, but that you all be united **in the same mind** and the same purpose.

WHAT IS THIS SAME MIND?

See **Philippians 2:1-11**

2If then there is

- any *encouragement in Christ,*
- any consolation from love,
- *any sharing in the Spirit,*
- any compassion and sympathy,

2make my joy complete: **be of the same mind,** having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

4Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

5***Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus . . .***

6**who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,**

7**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

And being found in human form, 8he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

9Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THIS “MIND” IS LOST?

→ **Seeking identity and worth elsewhere**

And this is what happens in Corinth . .

“Tribalism”/Racism/Class/ Party Spirit

1¹¹For it has been reported to me by ***Chloe’s people*** that there are quarrels among you all, my brothers and sisters.

1²What I mean is that each of you all says,

- “I belong to Paul,”
- or “I belong to Apollos,”
- or “I belong to Cephas,” (*S. Peter*)
- or “I belong to CHRIST.”

This is an indication to Paul

. . . of their misunderstanding of

- *who Christ is*
- *and what Christ has done for them;*

1¹³Has CHRIST been divided? Was Paul crucified for you all?

Or were you all baptized in the name of Paul?

... and of their lack of understanding of

- the work of the Holy Spirit

3:¹And so, brothers and sisters,
I could not speak to you all as **spiritual** people,
but rather as people of the **flesh**, as infants in CHRIST.

²I fed you all with milk, not solid food, for you all were not ready for solid food. Even now you all are still not ready,
³for you all are still of the flesh.

For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you all, are you all not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

⁴For when one says, “I belong to Paul,”
and another, “I belong to Apollos,”
are you all not merely human? (*i.e., not spiritual!!*)

Paul begins his letter focusing on -- OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

CHAPTER 1

PAUL'S IDENTITY IN CHRIST

1 Paul, **called** to be an apostle of CHRIST JESUS
by the **will of God**,
and our brother Sosthenes,

THEIR/OUR IDENTITY 'IN CHRIST'

1. ²To **the church of God** that is in Corinth,
2. to those who are **sanctified**
3. **in (by) CHRIST JESUS**,
4. **called to be saints**,
5. **together with all those** who in every place
call on the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST,
6. both **their LORD and ours**:

7. ³**Grace to you all and peace**
8. from God our Father
and the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you all

9. because of **the grace of God that has been given you all in CHRIST JESUS**,

10. ⁵for in every way you all have been **enriched** in him,
in **speech**
and knowledge of every kind.

⁶Just as the witness of/to CHRIST has been strengthened among you all—

11. ⁷so (for example) you all are **not lacking in any spiritual gift**
12. as you all **wait** for the revealing of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

⁸He will also strengthen you all to the end,

13. so that you all may be blameless on **the day of our LORD JESUS CHRIST**. ⁹God is faithful;

14. by him **you all were called** into the fellowship of his Son,
JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- **No over-riding gratitude**
- **No sense of “y’all” (despite Baptism)**
- **No change in internal confidence/identity**
- **Rather → “winners and losers” mentality**

¹⁰Now I appeal to you all, brothers and sisters,
by the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, that all of you all

- **be in agreement** and that there be
- **no divisions** among you all,
- but that you all be united in the same **mind** and the same purpose. (*see Philippians 2:1-11*)

¹¹For it has been reported to me by **Chloe's people**
that there are quarrels among you all, my brothers and sisters.

¹²What I mean is that each of you all says,

- “I belong to Paul,” ()
- or “I belong to Apollos,” ()
- or “I belong to Cephas,” (*S. Peter*) ()
- or “I belong to CHRIST.” ()

YOU DON'T GET IT!

¹³Has CHRIST been divided? Was Paul crucified for you all?

Or were you all baptized in the name of Paul?

¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you all except *Crispus* and *Gaius*, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you all were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

THE THESIS STATEMENT

¹⁷**For CHRIST did not send me to baptize
but to proclaim the gospel,
and not with eloquent wisdom,
so that the cross of CHRIST
might not be emptied of its power.**

THE CROSS AS ATONEMENT

1 Corinthians 15

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that *Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures*, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures

THE CROSS AS REVELATION

- “WHO GOD IS”
- and “WHO GOD WANTS US TO BE”
- and “HOW GOD WANTS US TO LIVE”

NOT AN EASY MESSAGE TO GRASP

Who would have guessed . . . “downward mobility” is the central act of Almighty God?

(No concern to preserve “identity”)

¹⁸For the **message about the cross**

(*DR: an instrument of death, torture, failure, punishment*)

is foolishness to those who are perishing,

but to **us who are being saved** it is the power of God.

¹⁹For it is written, “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.*” (Is.29:14)

²⁰Where is the one who is wise?

Where is the scribe?

Where is the debater of this age?

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God,

the world did not know God through wisdom,

God decided,

through the foolishness of our proclamation,

to save those who believe.

(“Faith” not being “smart” is God’s way)

²²For Jews demand signs (think of Jesus’ Temptations) and Greeks desire wisdom, (sophisticated philosophy)

²³**but we proclaim CHRIST crucified,**

a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

²⁴but to those who are the **called,**

both Jews and Greeks, (ALL people)

CHRIST (crucified) the power of God

and the wisdom of God.

²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

THE EXAMPLE OF THE CORINTHIANS THEMSELVES

²⁶Consider your own call, **brothers and sisters**:

- not many of you all were wise by human standards,
- not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world

- **to shame the wise;**

God chose what is weak in the world

- **to shame the strong;**

²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not,

- **to reduce to nothing things that are,**

GOD'S GOAL: OUR SENSE OF IDENTITY TO BE SHAPED BY WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US –ELIMINATING ALL HUMAN PRIDE – *not what we do for God*

²⁹so that **no one might boast in the presence of God.**

³⁰He is the source of your life in CHRIST JESUS,

who became for us

- wisdom from God,
- and righteousness
- and sanctification
- and redemption,

³¹in order that, as it is written,

“Let the one who boasts, boast in the LORD.” (Jer.9:23-24)

CHAPTER 2

THE CROSS AS THE METHOD PAUL USED IN PREACHING: NOT OUT TO IMPRESS . . . Our expectations for Sermons?!!

¹When I came to you all, **brothers and sisters**,

- I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you all in lofty words or wisdom.
 - ²For I decided to know nothing among you all except JESUS CHRIST, **and him crucified.**

- ³And I came to you all in ***weakness and in fear and in much trembling.***
- ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,
 - **but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,**
- ⁵so that you all's faith might rest not on human wisdom
 - but on the power of God.

A POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING OF PAUL'S REJECTION OF 'WISDOM'

⁶Yet among the mature **we do** speak wisdom,

- though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish.

⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

GOD'S WISDOM IS NOT SEEN BY THE POWERS THAT BE

- ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this;
- for if they had, they would not have crucified the LORD of glory.

⁹**But this is just as it is written,** *“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”* (Is. 64:4)

THE ROLE OF GOD'S SPIRIT: HOW CAN WE SEE WHAT THEY CAN'T SEE? → *The Indwelling Holy Spirit.*

¹⁰These things God has **revealed to us through the Spirit;** for the Spirit searches everything, even the deep things of God.

¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.

¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God,

so that we may understand what has been given to us the gifts
~~bestowed on us~~ by God.

[It is Christ who is God's "Gift"
– his life and death, his mercy and model is THE "spiritual Gift"]

¹³And we speak of these things in words
not taught by human wisdom
but taught by the Spirit,
interpreting spiritual things
to those who are spiritual.

A NEGATIVE ASSESMENT OF THE CORINTHIANS

¹⁴Those who are merely human ~~unspiritual~~ (psuchikos) do not
receive the things/gifts of God's Spirit,
for they are foolishness to them,
and they are unable to understand them
because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are
themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the LORD so as to instruct
him?" (Is. 40:13)

But we have **the mind of CHRIST.**

[*Philippians 2 = the mind of Christ, seen in the cross*]

THE NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT CONTINUES INTO CHAPTER 3,4

CHAPTER 3

¹And so, brothers and sisters,
I could not speak to you all as spiritual people,
but rather as people of the flesh,
as infants in CHRIST.

²I fed you all with milk, not solid food, for you all were not ready for
solid food.

Even now you all are still not ready,

³for you all are still of the flesh.

For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you all, are you all
not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul,"
and another, "I belong to Apollos,"

are you all not merely human? (i.e., defining people by human labels
is Not spiritual! Not influenced by Christ)

YES THERE ARE DIFFERENCES – BUT PEOPLE GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT SEE THESE DIFFERENCES AS "DIFFERENT CALLINGS" FROM GOD

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul?

Servants through whom you all came to believe,
as the LORD assigned to each.

- ⁶I planted, Apollos watered,
 - but **God gave the growth.**

- ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is
anything,

- but only **God who gives the growth.**

⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common
purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each.

⁹For we are God's servants, working together;
you all are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me,
like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation,

and someone else is building on it.
Each builder must choose with care
how to build on it.

**¹¹For no one can lay any foundation
other than the one that has been laid;
that foundation is JESUS CHRIST.**

¹²Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—¹³the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. ¹⁴If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward.

¹⁵If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

¹⁶Do you all not know that
you all are God's temple
and that **God's Spirit dwells in you all**?

¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple,
God will destroy that person.

For God's temple is holy, and you all are that temple.

CONCLUSION

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves.

If you all think that you all are wise in this age,
you all should become fools so that you all may become wise.

¹⁹For the wisdom of this world
is foolishness with God.

For it is written, “*He catches the wise in their craftiness,*” ²⁰*and again,*
“*The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.*” (Job
5:13, Ps.94:11)

²¹So let no one boast
about human leaders.

For **all things are you all's,**

- ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas
- or the world or life or death
- or the present or the future—all belong to you all,
- ²³and you all belong to CHRIST, (‘are OF Christ’)

and CHRIST belongs to God. (‘is OF God’)