

I. Church Fight!!! (1 Cor 1:10-11)

II. Purpose of the Letter: Keep Christ Unified (1 Cor 1:12-13)

A. The major thrust of the letter is that Christ has not been divided (1:13). Throughout the letter, Paul attempts to address concerns that have led to splits that have come over issues in the church. Paul urges them to keep Christ unified. They are all members of Christ, so, as a result, they must keep their fellowship strong. To do so, they must love one another, and more, maintain their fidelity to the gospel message that Paul had preached to them. The letter itself can be generally outlined following the issues of division that Paul wanted to address.

B. 1 Corinthians Outline

1. Chapters 1-4 Unity over Leadership
2. Chapters 5-7 Unity over Ethical Issues
3. Chapters 8-11 Unity over Worship Practices
4. Chapters 12-14 Unity over the Gifts of the Spirit
5. Chapter 15 Unity over Fidelity to Resurrection Faith
6. Chapter 16 Unity over the Collection

III. Historical Situation in Corinth

A. Corinth was a sentry on an Isthmus in the province of Achaia. It had golden its years before and after the prominent fame of Athens in the fifth century BCE. Corinth was the leader of the Achaian league, one of many leagues that formed in Greece's prime, when it was a military power. Corinth was destroyed in 146 BCE by the Romans. The city lay dormant for 100 years until Julius Caesar re-founded it in 44 BCE. It was founded as a Roman colony. In 27 BCE, it became the capital of the province of Achaia. It became a economic, cultural, and religious centre for many people in Greece.

IV. How Paul Addressed the issues in Corinth

*Unity over Leadership (1 Cor 1-4)*

**Key Texts 1:12; 3:4-17.**

*Unity over Ethical Issues (1 Cor 5-7)*

**Key Texts: 5:1-3; 6:1-8; 6:15-16; 7:1-3.**

*Unity over Worship (1 Cor 8-11)*

**Key Texts: 8:1-7; 10:27-29; 11:20-28.**

*Unity over the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12-14)*

**Key Texts: 12:4-11; 12:12-27.**

*Unity over Fidelity to Resurrection Faith (1 Cor 15)*

**Key Texts: 15:1-11, 51-58.**

*Unity over the Collection*

**Key Text: 16:1-4.**