

Introduction to *First Corinthians*
Acts 18:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

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I. The Church's beginning. *Acts 18:1-8*

Some of the issues Paul heard about in Corinth: divisions, divorce, sexual sins, food offered to idols, the exercise of spiritual _____ in the church, and the collection for the poor.

- *"In 1 Corinthians he (Paul) resembles the pastor-teacher, faced with the care of the church on the _____ of Christian warfare."* (S. Lewis Johnson Jr.)

II. The writer of the letter. *1 Corinthians 1:1*

"By the will of God"; Jesus equips and enable us to do _____

He calls us to.

- It is very comforting and _____ to say, *"I am doing what I am doing and I am where I am, because of the will of God."*

III. The Church of God. *1 Corinthians 1:2*

1. The "**Church of God**"; Paul wrote this letter to the local _____ of believers at Corinth.

Every person who has received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior since Pentecost in **Acts 2**, when the Holy Spirit came upon believers, becomes a _____ of the Universal Church.

2. ...which is at Corinth

"The city was going in the opposite direction from the direction that God had _____ the church to go." (Thomas Constable)

3. ...to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus.

In Christ, we are sanctified and have a perfect standing with God; confirmed by the Holy Spirit and the _____ of God.

4. ...called to be saints.

Biblically, every person who places their trust and hope in Jesus' free gift of salvation, _____ by His death and resurrection, is a **saint**.

IV. Paul's typical greeting. *1 Corinthians 1:3*

It is God's **grace** that gives the spiritual position to the believer, so once they are identified with Christ, they are able to draw on the _____ of Christ for power with their own daily living.

- Imagine, once **in Christ**, God calls us His children and promises us that as His children, we are _____ with Christ.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Rich said, *"Some of the issues Paul heard about in Corinth: divisions, divorce, sexual sins, food offered to idols, the exercise of spiritual gifts in the church, and the collection for the poor."* How are these issues similar to the American Church today? What is the remedy to resolve these issues?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 1:2**. Discuss the difference between the Local Church and the Universal Church.
John 1:12, Ephesians 1:22-23
3. *Have you ever experienced conflict in a church you've belonged to? If so, how did it affect you? How should this work against divisions in the church? Why do you suppose divisions have always been a problem among God's people?* (Wiersbe)
4. *What do you think it means to be "called to be holy" or sanctified?*
2 Chronicles 7:16, 1 Corinthians 6:11, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Ephesians 2:3, Colossians 2:13-14, 2 Peter 1:4, Romans 12:1-2
5. *What kind of people did the church at Corinth consist of? Why did God choose such an unlikely bunch?* (Warren Wiersbe)
6. Discuss the Practical Application of the sermon.
Matthew 23:37, Romans 7:22-25, 1 John 1:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:16, Hebrews 12:5-11