

What kinds of divisions happen in churches today?

How can we avoid or break down these divisions?

- in our churches?
- in FOCUS?

## Pray

- List all the privileges that we have in Christ (v2-9), and thank God for them!
- Pray for Christians to be united in Christ.

## Memory verse

“He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **(1 Corinthians 1:8)**

## Talk notes



# A letter to Corinth

1 Corinthians 1:1-17

## Introduction to 1 Corinthians

Welcome to FOCUS! This semester we will be studying the book of **1 Corinthians**. This is a letter, written by the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth, in around AD55.



Corinth was a prosperous, multicultural city with lots of religions and lots of immorality! The church in Corinth was established as a result of Paul's ministry. He spent 18 months there (*see Acts 18*), and later wrote this letter to them from Ephesus. As we read this ancient letter from another time and place, we will find many issues that are similar to what Christians experience today. This is a chance to read "over the shoulder" of the Corinthian Christians, and learn many things about what it means to belong to God's church in the world today.

### Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Are there any difficult words here?

What do we know about the author of this letter (**v1**)?

(See also 1 Corinthians **9:1**; **15:9**)

What do we know about the recipients of this letter (**v2**)?

If you are a Christian, is this how you think of yourself?

**apostle:** *eyewitness of Jesus, sent by him with his authority*

**sanctified / holy:** *Set apart for a special purpose.*

**testimony:** *witness, message.*

**gospel:** *the message of good news about Jesus Christ*

Underline all the times Paul mentions Jesus Christ in **v1-9**.

What is Paul's "testimony about Christ" (**v6**) or "gospel" (**v17**)?  
(See 1 Corinthians **15:1-4**)

Why does Paul thank God for the Corinthians? (**v4-9**)

What are Christians waiting for? (**v7-8**)

Why can Christians look forward to Judgment Day with confidence? (**v8-9**)

## Trouble in the church

### Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Are there any difficult words here?

What was the big problem in the Corinthian church when Paul wrote this letter?

Why is this kind of division in the church wrong?

What is the answer to the questions in **v13**?