



THE CHURCH THE WORLD NEEDS | TO CORINTH, WITH LOVE (1)

September 12, 2021

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

PURPOSE

To discover and experience Jesus Christ in our midst
To cultivate mutually encouraging-relationships
To participate in God's mission to the world

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

10 MIN

What was the best meal you had this summer and why?

WORSHIP

10 MIN

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, make each of us an instrument of your grace. Weave us into a community showing forth your power and tenderness. Bless us and our differences and under gird our courage to stand together. We call on you today to gather us in your love. Lead us to better know you and glorify you on each step of the journey of our lives. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER—Psalm 96

¹Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

²**Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶**Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

⁹Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

¹⁰**Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²**let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

¹³before the Lord, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness

BIBLE STUDY
40 MIN

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Summary and Connection

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church in Corinth that at the time was growing and wrestling with what it meant to be faithful followers of Jesus in a metropolitan city. Corinth, a port city located along a major trade route, was a financial, cultural, and political hub of its time. Because of this, people with different political, ethnic and religious backgrounds converged to this city and the church reflected this diversity. It was this dynamic that provided unique challenges and opportunities for the church to proclaim the good news of Jesus. Paul's letter addressed many of the specific issues Corinth faced, and his letter has been deeply relevant for the church through the centuries and remains vitally important for the church in our time as well.



1. Looking at the Bible

What does the text say?



2. Looking at Jesus

What is Paul asking us to **believe** about God, Jesus, humanity and the world around us?

Application Question: What would it look like this week to put your faith in the God Paul describes here, active, faithful, and generous? How might you see and experience God's generosity this week?



3. Looking at our Hearts

How does Paul want us to *live* given what we are to believe?

Application question: How does the reality that we are not lacking any gift and that our God is generous shape our life together?



4. Looking at our World

What does Paul want us to *hope* for?

Application question: Reflect on some of the things or events you are most hoping for in your immediate future. How might v.7-8 shape or refine or redirect your immediate hopes?

SHARING 15 MIN

Share your prayer requests, thoughts, hopes and fears for the coming week, and as you do consider how this passage might give light to what you are sharing.

KINGDOM PRAYER 15 MIN

Pray that we would see ourselves called by God.
Include other prayer requests.

SENDING 5 MIN

May the God who hears our needs
and answers the cries of our hearts
be with you today and always,
a sure and certain strength,
throughout all the ages. Amen.