

READING 1 CORINTHIANS TOGETHER

OCTOBER 2025

- Who?** This is a letter written by the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth, which was established through his ministry (Acts 18). He spent over 18 months there and knew the church well.
- What?** This is more than just a personal letter to a specific church. It is the timeless word of God, through which He still speaks today.
- Where?** Corinth was an important city commercially and politically. It was the provincial capital of Achaea (Greece). It had a diverse population, with temples to various gods and goddesses. It also had a reputation for immorality.
- When?** The letter was written somewhere around 53–55 AD, from Ephesus.
- Why?** Paul had received reports of trouble in the church and wanted to address these (1:11). He also wanted to respond to questions the Corinthians had asked him (7:1). In the letter, the Lord gives instructions through Paul about more than 10 different issues.

FIVE KEY THEMES

- 1. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again.** This is the good news of the gospel, which brings salvation (15:1–5). From beginning to end, the letter reminds us of the significance of Christ's death and resurrection.
- 2. God is gracious.** Despite all the church's problems, the letter begins by calling them "saints" (1:2). They are saved by God's grace, and this divine grace doesn't give up on them. The same is true of us.
- 3. The gospel changes everything.** Paul applies gospel truths to each of the issues he addresses. In God's plans for us, no area of life is left unchanged. We learn to "do all to the glory of God" (10:31).
- 4. We are God's holy people.** Many of the issues in the Corinthian church involved a wrong relationship with the outside world. The letter reminds us of our identity as saints, who were "bought with a price" (6:20).
- 5. Our lives should demonstrate Christ-like love.** This love is "patient and kind" and seeks the good of others (13:4–7). With this kind of love, the church is built up and people are won for Christ.

FIVE KEY QUESTIONS

Some of the topics addressed in the letter are timeless, others are related to aspects of Corinthian culture that are now unfamiliar to us. Yet in each case, the Lord is speaking to us today, reminding us of important truths.

As you reach each new section, you could ask some or all of these five questions:

- 1. What wrong ideas, attitudes or actions are being addressed here?** Think about how we see the same wrong ideas today, in society and in our lives.
- 2. Which aspects of God's character and saving work are highlighted here?** Think about the work of each person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Spirit.
- 3. What do we need to remember about our own identity?** Think about the different descriptions of who we are, what we were, and what we will be.
- 4. What will it look like for me to live to the glory of God?** Think about how God is already at work in your life and where you need his help to grow.
- 5. How can I pray for Litchard Mission?** Think about specific prayers of thanks and intercession that you can pray for our church as we grow together.

ADVICE FOR READING 1 CORINTHIANS

There are some extra resources you might find helpful on our website: litchardmission.co.uk/rbt

If you're struggling with a passage, remember:

- **The best thing you can do is pray!**
- We're reading the book together. Is there someone in the church you could ask about it?
- There are lots of resources available. Look at the website page above or books that you have at home.
- You don't need to understand everything! What do you think the main point of the passage is?

A possible 30-day reading plan

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1–9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10:23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14:26–40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:10–17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6:12–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> –11:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15:1–11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:18–31 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7:1–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:2–16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15:12–34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1–16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7:25–40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:17–34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15:35–49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1–9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8:1–13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15:50–58 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:10–23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:1–18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12:12–31 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16:1–11 |
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