



Corinthians Preaching Outline

Scope

This epistle address issues specific to what was going on in the church of Corinth, yet applicable to the general church. The introductions to Paul's letters are frequently seedbeds for issues expanded on later; his prefatory words in 1 Corinthians are no exception. He touched on his calling to be an apostle, the Corinthians' calling to be saints, and the unity which is theirs in Christ.¹ What better way to affirms those who are called to serve in a specific role or office in your church while at the same time foster unity among the members of the local church.

In Paul's day Corinth had become a pluralistic melting pot of cultures, philosophies, life-styles and religions, and had the feel of an economic "boom-town."² Gordon Fee likens Corinth to the New York, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas of the ancient world all wrapped up into one.³ Walking through the entire book of Corinthians will bring about a great foundation for guarding the church against secular influences. It will furthermore provide a frame of reference for addressing many of the vices that plague our culture

Strategy

Preaching through a sermon series can be a daunting task. With a clear strategy it could be an exciting, innovative, and enjoyable experience that everyone on your leadership team can feel apart of. One strategic option could be to preach on the major themes:

- Preaching Corinthians 1-4: Creating Unity in a Divisive Church

¹ David K. Lowery, "1 Corinthians" In , in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1 Co 1:1–9.

² Hawthorne, Martin, Reid, *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (InterVarsity Press: England, 1933),

³ Gordon D. Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987), 3.

- · Preaching Corinthians 5-7: Sex & The Church
- · Preaching Corinthians 8-10: The Duality of Freedom & Responsibility
- · Preaching Corinthians 11-14: Maximizing Spiritual Gifts in your Church
- · Preaching Corinthians 15,16: Resurrection Revisited

another strategy can be to preach on dominant doctrines in each section:

- Preaching Corinthians 1-4: Ecclesiology in Todays Culture
- Preaching Corinthians 5-7: Church Discipline in Todays Culture
- Preaching Corinthians 8-10: Liberty and Freedom in Todays Culture
- Preaching Corinthians 11-14: Pneumatology in Todays Culture
- Preaching Corinthians 15,16: Eschatology in Todays Culture

This can be preached straight through, or weaved through specific stand alone sermons.

Passage	Theological/Biblical Idea	Homiletical Idea	Section Notes
Corinthians 1-4	Unity in Christ	Breaking through the subtlety of divisions in the church with the intentional cultivation of unity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul states the problem of divisions in the church 1:10-17. • Reasons for the problem is communicated in 1:18-2:16. - The Corinthians were placing their faith in the wisdom of men. • Results of the problem 3:1 – 4:3

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solution to the problem 4:1-21
Corinthians 5-7	Accountable among Believers	The essential need for discipline and accountability in the local church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of discipline in the church 5:1-13 • Litigation in the body 6:1-8 • Lack of purity 6:9-20 • Concerning celibacy and marriage 7:1-40
Corinthians 8-10	Freedom to make a Responsible choice.	Making responsible choices amidst the freedom to make many.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat sacrificed to idols 8:1 – 11:1.
Corinthians 11-14	A Biblical perspective of Worship	How we execute corporate public worship matters to God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul addresses public worship and combats the issues that were arising as it relates how they worshipped in the church.
Corinthians 15,16	Eternal hope of the Believer	Humanity's hope is found in the resurrection of Christ and thus a believer's ultimate journey toward eternal life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul clarifies and corrects a misunderstanding about the resurrection of the dead. 15:1-58 • Paul concludes by dealing with the matter of giving, his return, the treatment of Timothy and Apollos, as well as the benediction. 16:1-24

Exegetical Commentaries

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