

EIGHT ISSUES IN THE FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 1:2

1. Paul's authority as an apostle had been challenged, so Paul defended his authority against the false teachers (chapters 2–4).
2. Paul rebuked the church for not disciplining the blatant sin of one of its members. Their laxness in dealing with sin could become a severe problem (chapter 5).
3. Paul explained that the believers should not take one another to the civil courts but should handle their disputes among themselves (6:1-8).
4. Paul's teaching about freedom in Christ had been changed to the point that some thought that even fornication was allowable among believers. Paul corrected that error by explaining that freedom in Christ did not mean freedom to sin (6:9-20).
5. Paul answered the questions about marriage that the Corinthians had sent to him. Many new Christians were already married to unbelievers and did not know what to do. Other new Christians did not know whether or not they should marry. Paul gave forthright advice on the matter (chapter 7).
6. Paul answered questions about dealing with a world filled with idolatry. Surrounded by the pagan religious cults and immorality of Corinth, the new believers wondered about how to deal with the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols. Paul explained freedom in Christ yet also held them responsible to deal carefully with those among them with weak consciences in these matters (chapters 8–10).
7. Paul delineated matters of respect and order in worship services. Male and female roles needed to be understood in the context of this time period and culture (chapters 11–14).
8. Paul reminded the Corinthian believers of their wonderful faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ because false teachers had come along denying it as truth. Paul defended the resurrection and explained that without it, their faith was worthless (chapter 15).