

FAULT LINES IN CORINTH 1 COR. 1:1-3; 2 COR. 1:1-2

1 Corinthians addresses many problems but most of them come from 3 fault lines in the church that are always cracking, shifting, moving...

Basic structure of the book:

1. Paul solving / addressing **hidden problems** (1-6)!

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1 Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house of Chloe*, that there are contentions among you.

2. Paul answering **hard questions** (7-16)!

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning (Περὶ δὲ) the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is good for a man not to touch a woman.*

1 Corinthians 7:25 Now concerning (Περὶ δὲ) virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now (Περὶ δὲ) as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now (Ἐπαινώ δὲ) I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered *them* to you.

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning (Περὶ δὲ) spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;]

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning (Περὶ δὲ) the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. **1 Corinthians 16:2** Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

3 Fault lines in Corinth:

I. A deficient &/ defective ecclesiology.

Their understanding of the church was a mess! Paul addresses this discretely yet repeatedly!

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother, **1 Corinthians 1:2** Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, **with all** (σὺν πᾶσιν) that in every place (ἐν παντὶ τόπῳ) call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach **everywhere** (πανταχοῦ) in every church (ἐν πάσῃ ἐκκλησίᾳ).

1 Corinthians 7:17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in **all churches** (ἐν ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις πάσαις).

1 Corinthians 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, **neither the churches of God** (οὐδὲ αἱ ἐκκλησίαι τοῦ θεοῦ).

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, **as in all churches of the saints** (ὡς ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις τῶν ἁγίων). **1 Corinthians 14:34** Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law. **1 Corinthians 14:35** And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. **1 Corinthians 14:36** What? came the word of God out from you? **or came it unto you only?** **1 Corinthians 14:37** If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him

acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 14:38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, **as** I have given order **to the churches of Galatia** (ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις τῆς Γαλατίας), **even so** do ye. 1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

1 Corinthians 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) 1 Corinthians 16:16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, **and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.** 1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia (αἱ ἐκκλησίαι τῆς Ἀσίας) salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. 1 Corinthians 16:20 **All the brethren greet you** (Ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς οἱ ἀδελφοὶ πάντες). Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with **all the saints** (σὺν τοῖς ἁγίοις πᾶσιν) **which are in all Achaia** (τοῖς οὖσιν ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ Ἀχαΐᾳ): 2 Corinthians 1:2 Grace *be* to you and peace from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christianity has struggled forever with the nature of the church:

➤ **Some see only a universal church**

These people tend to be adrift, under no one's authority & involved in no one's ministry
No real connections / no "one another" passages that must be obeyed!

➤ **Some see only the local church or local churches (usually only their own)!**

This seems to be the issue at Corinth. A group / local church becomes isolated, idiosyncratic (odd / weird / peculiar) and becomes cut off. Then that group starts making things up as it goes along!

What is the solution?

LOCAL CHURCH	UNIVERSAL CHURCH
Locates us in time and space / place	Unifies us across / through time and space / place
At Corinthor Waukegan, etc.	In Christ
Forms us locally	Conforms us universally
Identifies us in a community	Identifies us with the entire community of saints
Gives us a local mission	Gives us a universal vision
Act locally	Think globally
Gives us flesh & blood	Gives us wings & flight

First London Baptist Confession 1644 / 1646

A CONFESSION OF FAITH of seven congregations or churches of Christ in London, which are commonly, but unjustly, called Anabaptists; published for the vindication of the truth and information of the ignorant; likewise for the taking off those aspersions which are frequently, both in pulpit and print, unjustly cast upon them. Printed in London, Anno 1646.

Thus being rightly gathered, established, and still proceeding in Christian communion, and obedience of the Gospel of Christ, none ought to separate for faults and corruptions, which may, and as long as the church consists of men subject to failings, will fall out and arise amongst them, even in **true constituted churches**, until they have in due order sought redress thereof.

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And although the particular congregation be distinct and several bodies, every one a compact and knit city in itself; yet are they all to walk by one and the same Rule, and by all means convenient to have the counsel and help one of another in all needful affairs of the church, as members of **one body in the common faith under Christ their only Head**.

II. An over-realized Eschatology

The Greeks in general struggled with the concept of a bodily resurrection

This caused the fault-line in their thinking about the present and the future!

Paul spends the entire chapter 15 attempting to establish a big picture / broad view of eschatology!

Acts 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked**: and **others** said, We will hear thee again of this matter. Acts 17:33 So Paul departed from among them. Acts 17:34 Howbeit **certain men** clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and **others** with them.

1 Corinthians 4:8 **Now** ye are full, **now** ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you. 1 Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. 1 Corinthians 4:10 We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but ye *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong; ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised. 1 Corinthians 4:11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; 1 Corinthians 4:12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: 1 Corinthians 4:13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the **filth** (**περικαθήματα**) of the world, and *are* the **offscouring** (**περίψημα**) of all things unto this day.