

**“The Church of God”**  
**τῆ ἐκκλησίᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ**  
 ἡ ἐκκλησία τοῦ θεοῦ

**The Need to Know**

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**The big problem for Corinth was that they were man-centered rather than God-centered:**

**Introduction:**

- This is one of three major epistles (1Cor, 2Cor, Rom) that the apostle Paul has written:
  - The apostle Paul addresses such a wide range of issues – lawsuits, marriage, meats offered to idols, ministers’ remuneration, propriety in worship, the Lord’s Supper, speaking in tongues, belief in the resurrection of the body, and the exercise of Christian benevolence or generosity:
- In chapter 1 verse 11 of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians we see that there were **divisions** in God’s church in Corinth.
- In chapters 5 and 6 we see that there were **disorders**, moral and ethical, in the church.
- Then in chapters 7 through 16 we see that there were **difficulties** that needed to be addressed by Paul.

**I. Introduction-Confirmation (1:1-9)**

- A. Greeting-God’s Church (1:1-3)
- B. Thanksgiving-Confirming its God’s Church (1:4-9)
- II. Divisions in God’s Church-Concern (1:10-4:21)
  - Answer to report from Chloe’s people:
- III. Disorders in God’s Church-Condensation (chaps 5-6)
  - Answer to report of fornication:
    - A. Failure to discipline immorality (5:1-13)
    - B. Failure to resolve disputes (6:1-11)
    - C. Failure to practice purity (6:12-20)
- IV. Difficulties in God’s Church-Counsel (7:1-16:24)
  - Answer to letter of questions:

**IV. Difficulties in God’s Church-Counsel (7:1-16:24)**

- A. Counsel Concerning (Περὶ δὲ) Marriage (7:1-40)
- B. Counsel Concerning (Περὶ δὲ) Christian Liberty (8:1-11:34)
- C. Counsel Concerning (Περὶ δὲ) Spiritual Gifts (12:1-14:40)
- D. Counsel Concerning (Γνωρίζω δὲ) the Resurrection (15:1-58)
- E. Counsel Concerning (Περὶ δὲ) the Collection or Contribution for the Saints (16:1-24)

- The first four chapters of this epistle are tied together and there are some important issues that Paul deals with here in regards to “the church of God.”
- There are three issues that are not clear in the minds of the Corinthians and Paul clears them up in these first four chapters.
  - There was misunderstanding on the part of the Corinthian believers:
    - (1) a misunderstanding of the Church 1:1-9,
    - (2) a misunderstanding of the message [i.e. the gospel] 1:18-3:4, and
    - (3) a misunderstanding of the ministry [i.e. the gospel ministry] 3:5-4:5.
  - Paul responds to these misunderstandings by stating:
    - (1) it’s God’s Church 1:2, cf. 3:9 [it’s God’s tillage field, God’s building], 3:16 [it’s God’s temple],
    - (2) it’s God’s message 1:17-18, 1:21, 2:3-24, and
    - (3) it’s God’s ministry 3:7, cf. 1:17-18, 2:1-5, 3:6, 10, 4:1-5.

- The first 9 verses of chapter 1 are crucial because Paul alludes to issues that he will address in the rest of the letter.
  - He begins the letter by directing their attention back to where it ought to be, on God!
  - The big problem for them was that they were man-centered rather than God-centered (cf. 1:11-12, 3:11, 4:6, 5:2, 6, etc.), and pride we see is a major issue.
  - When man focuses upon himself sin will abound. So Paul counteracts this in establishing the important fact of the Corinthian’s relationship with God by using personal pronouns extensively in this first section: “our Lord” [1:2], “theirs and ours” [1:2], “our Father” [1:3], “our Lord” [1:7], “our Lord” [1:9], “my God” [1:4]. Paul also focuses attention where it ought to be by using “Christ” 10 x in the first 10 verses of this chapter.

**I. Greetings to God’s Church (1:1-3)**

- A. From God’s apostle: (v.1)
  - 1. “A called apostle” (κλητὸς ἀπόστολος)
    - “A called apostle” as they are “called saints”
    - He summoned to be the herald and dispenser (1:17, 23), they the receivers of God’s gospel (1:26-31):
  - 2. “Apostle of Christ Jesus” (ἀπόστολος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ)
    - Paul was:
      - a) *Sent by Christ 1:1, 1:17*
        - Sent not to baptize (βαπτίζειν) but to gospelize (εὐαγγελίζεσθαι):
      - b) *To preach Christ 1:23, 2:2, 3:10, 11*
      - c) *To live Christ 4:16, 17, 11:1*
    - 3. “Apostle through the will of God” (διὰ θελήματος θεοῦ)

**I. Greetings to God’s Church (1:1-3)**

- A. From God’s apostle: (v.1)
- B. To God’s church: (v.2)
  - 1. **God’s church (τῆ ἐκκλησίᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ):**
    - This gives dignity to the assembly, they are the assembled citizens of God’s:
  - 2. **God’s church - (a “called out” community) (ἐκκλησία):**
    - It is made up of the preposition ἐκ “out from” and κἀλω “to call or summon”:
    - The thought of being called or summoned is very prominent in this epistle (cf. 1:9, 24, 26; 7:17-24):
  - 3. **God’s church - (a “called out” community “in Corinth”) (ἐν Κορίνθῳ):**

I. Greetings to God's Church (1:1-3)A. From God's apostle: (v.1)B. To God's church: (v.2)

1. God's church (τῆ ἐκκλησίᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ):
2. God's church - (a "called out" community) (ἐκκλησία):
3. God's church - (a "called out" community "in Corinth") (ἐν Κορίνθῳ):
4. God's church - (a community "consecrated in Christ") (ἡγιασμένοις ἐν Χριστῷ):

This participial phrase further describing the church:  
The church of God consisting of those sanctified in Christ Jesus:

Church status is grounded on personal relationship to God in Christ:

God is the one who initiated this relationship, it was His 'call' which summoned each of us to a holy life within this Christ ordered fellowship:

I. Greetings to God's Church (1:1-3)A. From God's apostle: (v.1)B. To God's church: (v.2)

1. God's church (τῆ ἐκκλησίᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ):
2. God's church - (a "called out" community) (ἐκκλησία):
3. God's church - (a "called out" community "in Corinth") (ἐν Κορίνθῳ):
4. God's church - (a community "consecrated in Christ") (ἡγιασμένοις ἐν Χριστῷ):
5. God's church - (as a community "called [to be] saints") (κλητῶς ἁγίοις):
6. God's church: (a community in common under one Lord) (cf. 4:17, 11:16, 14:33, 14:36):  
οὐκ ἔστιν πᾶσαν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν ὀνομαζομένην τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ κυρίου... ἐν παντὶ τόπῳ, αὐτῶν καὶ ἡμῶν

I. Greetings to God's Church (1:1-3)A. From God's apostle: (v.1)B. To God's church: (v.2)C. "Grace and peace from God": (v.3)I. Greetings to God's Church (1:1-3)II. Gratitude for God's Grace Given [His Church] (1:4-9)A. Gratitude given - (the character) (Εὐχαριστῶ) (1:4a)1. Gratitude given to God - (centered on God) (τῷ θεῷ) (1:4a)2. Gratitude given to God frequently - (consistent) (εὐχαριστῶ) (1:4a)3. Gratitude given frequently for God's people - (ceaseless concern) (πάντοτε περὶ ὑμῶν) (1:4a)B. Gratitude grounded on God's grace - (the basis) (1:4b-9)1. He has given (δοθεῖσα) (1:4b):2. He has enriched (ἐπλουτίσθητε) (1:5):3. He has confirmed (ἐβεβαίωθη) (1:6-7):

## 1Cor 12-14

➤ The Gifts are God given (12:4-6, 11, 18):

➤ The Gifts are Varied (12:4-10, 28-30):

➤ The Gifts are for the Edification of the Body (12:7, 14:26):

➤ The Gifts are Equally Necessary (12:12-31):

➤ The Gifts are to be Exercised in Love (13:1ff.)

➤ The Gifts are to be Rightfully used to Edify (14:5, 12, 26):

I. Greetings to God's Church (1:1-3)II. Gratitude for God's Grace Given [His Church] (1:4-9)A. Gratitude given - (the character) (Εὐχαριστῶ) (1:4a)1. Gratitude given to God - (centered on God) (τῷ θεῷ) (1:4a)2. Gratitude given to God frequently - (consistent) (εὐχαριστῶ) (1:4a)3. Gratitude given frequently for God's people - (ceaseless concern) (πάντοτε περὶ ὑμῶν) (1:4a)B. Gratitude grounded on God's grace - (the basis) (1:4b-9)1. He has given (δοθεῖσα) (1:4b):2. He has enriched (ἐπλουτίσθητε) (1:5):3. He has confirmed (ἐβεβαίωθη) (1:6-7):4. He will confirm (βεβαιώσει) (1:8):5. He has called (ἐκλήθητε) (1:9):

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