



MAY 1

CHRIST, CULTURE, AND THE CROSS

THE LETTER OF 1ST CORINTHIANS



GETTING STARTED

This week we started our new series, *Christ, Culture and the Cross*. We began this series by looking at the backstory of the city, culture and church of Corinth.



STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1) What are you most looking forward to in this new series, and why?
- 2) This weekend we read Luke's account of the founding of the church in Corinth in Acts 18. Reread Acts 18:1-18.
 - a. Where is the first place that Paul started to spread the good news of Jesus in Corinth?
 - b. What caused Paul to change his tactic in verse 6?
 - c. How did God encourage Paul to stay in Corinth in spite of the dangers?
 - d. How long did Paul end up staying in Corinth on this first visit?
 - e. What was the attitude of the Jewish religious establishment towards Paul and his fellow Christ-followers?
 - f. What was the response of the government officials when things turned violent?
- 3) In Corinth, Paul and his fellow believers faced a lot of opposition to their message. But despite this persecution, they started a thriving church. What opposition do you think the message of Jesus faces today? What do you believe are some of the greatest sources of this opposition? Why is the gospel sometimes offensive in our culture today?
- 4) This weekend we learned that the culture in Corinth was one of entrepreneurship, successful business, sexual immorality, pagan worship, pride and boasting, the pursuit of wealth and status, and the love of philosophy, gifted public speaking, and sports. We will see these cultural values reflected in the church at Corinth. Read the following verses to see how the culture of Corinth was impacting the church. **For each passage, jot a quick note in your journal to summarize the issue that is being addressed.**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:11-12
 - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
 - 1 Corinthians 5:1
 - 1 Corinthians 5:6
 - 1 Corinthians 6:7-8
 - 1 Corinthians 6:15-17

- 1 Corinthians 10:6-7
- 1 Corinthians 11:17-18
- 1 Corinthians 14:23
- 1 Corinthians 15:12

a. Now that you've read these verses, what are some specific ways the culture of Corinth is impacting the church at Corinth? Give several examples.

5) Often, the culture we live in impacts how we think and live—in ways we are not even aware of. Take some time and reflect on our culture today by answering the following questions.

- a. What would you say are several of the top values in our culture today?
- b. How do you think our culture defines what “success” looks like? What does the good life” look like?
- c. Whose opinions carry the most weight in our culture?
- d. What are the most important “virtues” in our culture—the character qualities that are seen as most important and positive? What are the most negative?
- e. What is one area where our culture agrees with God’s Word?
- f. What is one area where our culture disagrees with God’s Word?

6) How do you think our culture today has impacted our churches?

In 1 Corinthians 3:1, Paul writes: *Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.*

Spend some time reflecting on the final question in this weekend’s message:

- *Are you following the way of the culture . . . or the way of Christ?*

How would you answer that question, and why?