

URBAN

ONE CORINTHIANS

JESUS

→ Small Group Study, Lesson 2 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Apostle Paul comes to Corinth after a wave of tough situations. He had been beaten, falsely imprisoned, stoned, left for dead, pursued from city to city, and finally dismissed by the intellectuals of Athens. Yet, Paul pushed ahead. He was driven by the deep desire for others to know the redeeming and life-changing power of the Gospel of Jesus. Paul was captured by the love of Christ and it is with this new understanding of God he moves into uncharted spiritual territories to establish churches among those who have not heard of Jesus.

Paul begins his letter to the Church in the city of Corinth by proclaiming the name of Jesus over and over again. The Corinthians have forgotten who they worship. He is setting the stage for a number of things he is going to correct, confront, remind and teach them about in this letter. This is a tough letter. As one pastor has put it this is “Christians gone wild.” Paul is calling them back to a right view of Jesus and a right view of themselves.

Have you ever . . .

Have you ever written a tough letter/email or received a tough letter/email? (Dear John or Joann letter, letter to a roommate, a parent) Why was it hard to write or receive? Looking back are you glad you wrote it or received it? Did it make a difference in the relationship?

Do You Agree or Disagree?

Voltaire, the French philosopher and writer from the 1700's once said “If God created us in His image we have certainly returned the compliment.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why? How can followers of Jesus do this very same thing

→ Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

If you attended services this past Sunday, what one thing made the most sense to you from the message?

Identify the number of times Jesus Christ or some combination is used.

Why does Paul use the name of Jesus over 9 times? (One of the principles of hermeneutics, which is the study of the interpreting of the Bible, is to notice repeated words. Repeated words tell us what the issues are that Paul is addressing.) Based on what Paul emphasizes, what is it about Jesus that the Corinthians have forgotten or misunderstood?

Paul uses the first 9 verses to lay out the issues that he will address throughout the book. What do you think based on these verses are some of these issues? (HINT – chapter 3, chapter 4, chapters 12-14, chapter 15)

The Corinthians are dealing with spiritual pride. How do these 9 verses reveal this issue?

What are some characteristics of a prideful person? How can spiritual pride of a few affect the church, a small group, a ministry? (not in this passage)

If you were lovingly confronting a prideful person (only using these 9 verses) what Biblical truths would you remind them of from this passage? (HINT - Paul speaks of our past, our present and our future in this passage. How might this apply?)

What do you need to remind yourself of as you seek to love on a prideful person? Again, only use this passage.

→ **Close in prayer**

Close your group confessing before you heavenly Father in prayer the areas of pride you see bubble up in your own life. Pray for grace in dealing with others who are proud. Pray our Church would be humbled by a growing picture of the greatness and graciousness of Jesus.



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