

1/15/23

Sermon: Introduction 1 Corinthians

Pastor David Uth

Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 “Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Background: Today Pastor David kicks off a brand-new series based on 1 Corinthians. Over the next year we will be studying the entire book together. 1 Corinthians was a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth around 53-55AD. Paul had lived and taught in Corinth for 1 ½ years previously. He was deeply committed to this church and understood the strategic position it held as a Greek city that was also the capital of the Roman province of Achaia.

Paul was writing to them to respond to reports he had heard about the church, correct their sinful behavior, and answer their questions. It is a deeply personal, practical, and pastoral letter that explains how the Gospel should impact every area of our lives.

Instructions:

This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Belong** section as well as give you a recap from the week before. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Believe** section where you will read the key passage and answer suggested questions based on the sermon. Feel free to use some or all of these questions or add your own. Finally, in the **Become** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together.

Belong: What is your favorite way to communicate and why? Phone call? Text message? Letter?

Believe:

Read Acts 18:1-17: This passage is a narrative of Paul's time in Corinth. What did you learn? Did something stand out to you? What did you learn about God? Did you find anything interesting about the people mentioned in the passage? What questions do you have?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3: How does the writer of the letter identify himself? Who does he include in his introduction? Why is this person important? What does this bring to mind in your own life about your own story of conversion or how you have seen the Gospel change lives?

Who is the letter written to? How does Paul describe them? Do you find this surprising in light of the people and problems Paul knew about and was about to address in this letter? How could this influence how you view challenging people in your own life?

Paul uses the greeting of "grace and peace." Why do you think he chose this greeting? What do you think of when you hear the word "grace"? Do you think the Corinthian church had "peace" in their lives? What would that look like for you to carry grace and peace with you wherever you went?

Become:

Everyone of us has a story of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ has changed our lives. Think about who you were before you met Jesus, and who you are now. How could you communicate this life change with someone in your life?

Prayer: Thank God for the Gospel message. Ask God to bring you in contact with someone who would be encouraged by your story. Pray for God to help you be a person who carries grace and peace with you at work, in your family, and in your everyday life.

