

**DIMENSIONS OF NEXT LEVEL UPWARD LIVING:**  
**INTRODUCTION TO CORINTHIAN CORRESPONDENCE**

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Upward Living From Where? The Importance of the Starting Point

Corinth: Its Challenges and Opportunities

Strategic trade route location

Reputation for prosperity and debauchery

Temple to Aphrodite, goddess of love

Challenge of Place: Some ground is harder than others to farm

Challenge of People

People bring greater challenges because of place and background

Everyone and everywhere brings some kind of challenge

We need to remember this truth when we encounter others with different challenges

Paul's time in Corinth: Acts 18: 1-18

With exception of Ephesus, Paul stayed longer in Corinth than anywhere else

Paul didn't come to Corinth from ministry high (Experience in Athens--Acts. 17)

God provided Paul with powerful ministry team (Priscilla and Aquila)

God will provide whoever and whatever we need to complete our assignment, whenever and wherever we are assigned to a particular place

Reading the Letters to the Church of God in Corinth

Challenges in the assembling of Corinthian Letters

Letters were not divided into chapters until 13<sup>th</sup> century; verses not added until the sixteenth

Letters written in Ephesus around 55 AD, not assembled until 90 AD

Letter before I Corinthians (I Corinthians 5: 9); possibly 2 Cor. 6: 14-7: 1, or letter may have been lost

News came to Paul about problems in the church at Corinth (I Cor. 1: 11)

Paul felt he needed to make a second visit to Corinth even though there is no biblical record of such a visit, but it is referenced in Paul's writings (II Cor. 12: 14; 13: 1-2)

Paul writes a harsh letter (2 Cor. 2: 4; 7:8), possibly 2 Cor. 10-13, which he sent by Titus (2 Cor. 2: 13: 7: 13-15)

Paul was worried about this letter; however upon his meeting up with Titus his mind was set at ease and wrote 2 Cor. 1-9, the letter of Reconciliation

An Alternate Reading of the Corinthian Correspondence (according to some Scholars, notably William Barclay)

Previous letter, which may be contained in 2 Cor. 6: 14-17: 1

I Corinthians

Severe Letter, 2 Cor. 10-13

Letter of Reconciliation, 2 Cor. 1-9

### Lessons From the Corinthian Correspondence

1. If the problems we see in the church at Corinth sound similar to the problems present day churches encounter, evidently many of the problems in churches are people problems.
2. Human nature does not change with time, which makes the Bible eternally relevant
3. The Bible is as much a study of human nature as it is a study of God
4. In the absence of leadership, sheep stray and become divided.
5. If the Gospel can take root in Corinth, then it can take root anywhere.