

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD
I & 11 CORINTHIANS

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The Corinthian Context

Points to remember when we read the Letters to the Corinth

1. We learn how to walk in the Lord as individuals and as a church
2. We must not underestimate the backgrounds we bring to the faith
3. The issues we bring are impacted by
 - a) Places we are
 - b) Times in which we live
 - c) Teachers under whom we learn
4. Growth means transformation
 - a) What is our change quotient?
 - b) When are we willing to say, "This is not that!"

Issues Facing the Corinthian Church and Us

I CORINTHIANS

Division in the church (1: 10--4: 21)

Loyalty to the messenger rather than the message
Loyalty to the latter does not mean betrayal of the former

Moral Lapses in the Church (5: 1--6: 20)

When is enough, enough?
The sticky matter of church discipline

Marriage and sexuality (7: 1-40)

Complications of faith and marriage
When one is saved or a member of one faith and the other is not
Personal opinion and the law
Other issues surrounding sexuality
Celibacy and abstinence
Focus and perspective shaped by understanding of the Parousia

Meat Sacrificed to Idols (8: 1--11: 1)

How much should a Christian participate in "worldly" behavior (drinking, dancing, gambling, attending shows (what kind of shows), parties, fashionable dress, smoking, etc.?)

How much should a Christian allow another person's foibles (particularly a new or weak believer) determine his or her behavior?

Spiritual Gifts (12--14)

Identity

Greatest gift
Guidance in use
The danger of taking verses out of context
Women and gift of discernment (spiritually and politically)

The Resurrection (15)

Questions that still persist:

Is it real?

What is the resurrected body like?

What does resurrection mean in terms of persons we have known and had relationships with on earth?

Sow-a-Seed Offering and Giving to other ministries (16)

II CORINTHIANS

Paul Under Attack (1: 12--2: 11)

One of the devil's most effective weapons is to aim for integrity of leadership
Attacks from within and without

Let the work we've done speak for us (2: 12--6: 10)

Giving (8: 1—9: 15)

A matter of spirit and attitude not resources
No sacrifice without right spirit and attitude
Sowing and reaping

Apostolic Authority (9:1—13: 10)