

## Purpose

To affirm Paul's ministry, defend his authority as an apostle, and refute false teachers in Corinth

## Author

Paul

## To Whom Written

The church in Corinth

## Date Written

From Macedonia, 55-57 AD

## Setting

Paul had already written three letters (two are now lost). In *1 Corinthians* (the second of these letters), he used strong words to correct and teach. Most of the church had responded in the right spirit; there were, however, those who were denying Paul's authority and questioning his motives.

## Key Verse

"We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you..."

*2 Corinthians 5:20*

## Special Features

This is an intensely personal and autobiographical letter.

Used Tyndale's "Life Application Bible" (NLT)

## An Overview (13 Chapters)

- Paul Explains His Actions (*1:1-2:11*)
- Paul Defends His Ministry (*2:12-7:16*)
- Paul Defends the Collection (*8:1-9:15*)
- Paul Defends His Authority (*10:1-13:14*)

## Major Themes

- *Trials*: Paul experienced great suffering, persecution, and opposition. He even struggled with a personal weakness — a thorn in the flesh. Through it all, Paul affirmed God's faithfulness. His strength is sufficient for any trial. When trials come, they keep us from pride and teach us dependence on God.
- *Church Discipline*: Neither immorality nor false teaching can be ignored. The church was to be neither too lax, nor too severe in administering discipline. The church was to restore the corrected person when he or she repented. The goal of all church discipline should be correction, not vengeance. To be effective, they must confront and solve problems, not ignore them. We must act in love.
- *Giving*: Paul organized a collection of funds for the poor in the Jerusalem church. Many of the Asian churches gave money. Paul defends his beliefs about giving, and he urges the Corinthians to follow through on their commitment.
- *Sound Doctrine*: False teachers were challenging Paul's ministry and authority as an apostle. Paul asserts his authority in order to preserve correct Christian doctrine. His sincerity, his love for Christ, and his concern for the people were his defense. We too should share Paul's concern for correct teaching in our churches.