

1. The Church of God at Corinth (explain the context and purpose of book—Chloe writing to Paul—immaturity; division; immorality; chaos; doctrinal misunderstandings, etc. They were a church full of trouble—from which we can learn a great deal.)
2. Our Corinthian Connection (five points)
 - a. Christ based unity is essential—1 Corinthians 1:10 (divisions marked this church—instead of Christ reigning chaos did. Paul asked, “Is Christ divided?” No way they could witness to their city in this shape. It was imperative for them to follow Christ and no other agenda. It remains so for us to make every effort to do so—Ephesians 4:3-6)
 - b. The church is bigger than one person or issue—1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (Anger, jealousy, envy and bitterness ran rampant in this church. Immaturity led to stubborn self-centeredness, which led to disagreements on certain issues, which then led to bitter strife and more divisions. Instead of attempting to understand each other, yield to one another and thus build up the church—they doubled down on pettiness—arguing over food, spiritual gifts, preachers, the resurrection, etc. It spilled over into their worship—14—creating havoc. Paul wanted them to know that the church—while made up of them—was also bigger than just them and their personal agendas. No way the church could operate unless this is understood)
 - c. The Spirit can dwell in an imperfect church—1 Corinthians 6:19 (Paul did warn them of the damage of immorality to their bodies and relationship with God’s Spirit, but overall this entire letter is a testimony to God’s grace—that Paul addressed them as God’s church—called to be holy—is a huge statement. Teaches us not to give up on one another!)
 - d. Every member is important—1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (this is the body analogy section of the letter—perfectly placed to illustrate to Corinth that every single person in their church was vital to the kingdom work there—no one overlooked or left out by God in the giftedness department and everyone needed to use those gifts for the church to function properly—still a hallmark truth for us today)
 - e. Love is the solution—1 Corinthians 13 (without love—nothing mattered—not giftedness; not sacrifice—nothing. It would solve their division; their jealousies; their stubborn selfishness; their issues. It was and remains the greatest gift of all. To be God’s church today—love above ALL ELSE must define us—that was the strongest message in a letter full of strong messages to the Corinthian church. Without love—we are nothing. Do we act like we believe that?)
3. (Here is Paul’s purpose statement to Corinth and one that we all need to make our own—very short and simple, yet extremely powerful) “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”—1 Corinthians 2:2 (Need I say that should be our resolve as well?)