

Series Title: 'Conflicted (Chaotic) Corinth'

Subtitle: 'Conformed or transformed?'

1. United: The Power of the Gospel

Passage: 1 Cor 1:18-2:16

Blurb: Welcome to Corinth. The 1st letter of Paul to the Corinthian Church primarily focuses on divisions within the Church, so in this introductory session we aim to cover how Paul encourages them on what does unite them, i.e. their acceptance of the Gospel and proclamation of Jesus as LORD. As such we will look at understanding the idea of Wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit, instead of by human interaction.

2. Divided: Celebrity Politics

Passages: 1 Cor 1:1-17 & 3:1-4:21

Blurb: 52.48. Yes we are all still reeling from that referendum from three years ago, and the country seems as divided as ever. The Corinthian Church has some interesting similarities to our modern day situation. Factions supporting Apollos, Paul and other Christian leaders had sprung up in the city, and just like the whole Remain/Leave scenario, people were falling out with each other, and refusing to build bridges. Paul exposes the foolishness of their divisions, and actually says that because of this they have stunted their Spiritual maturity.

3. Indulged: Sexualised Culture

Passage: 1 Cor 5:1-7:40

Blurb: Sex is all around in the city of Corinth. And this is true in the Church as well. Because of the divisions that existed in the Church, no-one seems capable to stamp out the sexual immorality that is running rampant. So Paul has to step in, and just say NO. In this session we look at how the Corinthians were just getting it wrong, and how Paul has to remind them of the Biblical picture of marriage and thus the appropriate conditions for sexual intimacy.

4. Justified: Human Rights

Passage: 1 Cor 8:1-10:20

Blurb: Freedom is what we all desire, and so the idea that we have certain rights that must be maintained at all costs is attractive to us. The same can be said of the Corinthians. There was a tension between some Christians who believed that they were fine to eat food sacrificed to idols, and others who believed that this was a sin. But, instead of trying to reconcile these two positions, Paul offers them the choice to lay down their "rights" just as Jesus did on their behalf.

5. Adored: False Idols

Passage: 1 Cor 11:1-14:40

Blurb: We all worship something. Whatever we give our time/energy/money/attention to has the potential to be our object of worship (idol). Paul challenged this in the Corinthian church as well as some other aspects of their worship, in particular the divisions over the gifts of the Spirit, such as Prophecy and tongues, which were meant to be used to edify the whole church, but were instead being used to inflate their egos. Paul rightly brings them back to the Love that they should have for one another in the practicing of these giftings.

6. Reunited: The Resurrected Christ

Passage: 1 Cor 15

Blurb: In this final session we shall see that the Corinthians were not convinced that Jesus actually was resurrected. Paul goes to great pains to explain to them that if Jesus wasn't raised, then their faith is useless, but also goes to great lengths to justify the evidence for Jesus' bodily resurrection, and thus explain that there will be a physical resurrection for those who had died as well when Jesus returns at the end of the world, because His death and resurrection became the new template.