**1 Corinthians Outline**

1. Introduction **(1:1-9)**
   1. Greeting **(1:1-3)**
   2. Thanksgiving from Paul to God for the spiritual blessings in the church at Corinth **(1:4-9)**.
2. Reported Problems **(1:10-6:20)** *– “For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren…”* **(1:11)**.
   1. Division **(1:10-4:21)**.
   2. Putting up with sin in the congregation – specifically, sexual immorality **(5:1-13)**.
   3. Legal problems among brethren – proper way to deal with them **(6:1-11)**.
   4. Sexual Immorality – fornication **(6:9-20)**.
3. Inquiry from Corinthians **(7:1-16:4)** – *“Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:”* **(7:1)**.
   1. Concerning marriage **(7:1-24)**.
   2. Concerning virgins **(7:25-40)**.
   3. Liberties, but should not jeopardize another’s, or own, relationship to God **(8:1-11:1)**.
      1. *“concerning things offered to idols”* **(8:1-13)**.
      2. Paul’s Example – Forgoing Liberties **(9:1-23).**
      3. *“take heed lest [you] fall”* **(9:24-10:33)**.
   4. Conduct in worship assembly **(11:2-14:40)**
      1. Order of authority – head coverings **(11:2-16)**.
      2. Lord’s Supper **(11:17-34)**.
      3. Spiritual Gifts **(12:1-14:40)**.
   5. Concerning the Resurrection **(15:1-58)**.
      1. Resurrection witnessed, preached, and believed **(15:1-11)**.
      2. Logical Consequences if Resurrection is erroneous **(15:12-19)**.
      3. Importance of Resurrection 1: Last Enemy Destroyed **(15:20-28)**.
      4. Logical Way of living if Resurrection is erroneous **(15:29-34)**.
      5. Nature of Resurrection **(15:35-49)**.
      6. Importance of Resurrection 2: Incorruptible inheriting kingdom; Victory over death **(15:50-58)**.
   6. Concerning Collection for saints **(16:1-4)**.
4. Final statements/exhortations **(16:5-24)**.
   1. Paul’s plans **(16:5-12)**.
   2. Final Exhortations **(16:13-18)**.
   3. Concluding greeting and farewell **(16:19-24)**.

**Chapter Synopses**

*Synopses written by Stan Cox.*

1. After his gracious greeting to the Corinthians, Paul immediately deals with the division existing among them. He proclaims the power of the message of the cross, and calls for them to rest their hope in it alone.
2. Paul continues to express the importance of the gospel, stating his determination to rely upon it alone, and so influence them to do the same. He contrasts the mind of Christ with the *“natural man”* who cannot know or discern God’s will.
3. Returning to the main admonition regarding factionalism, Paul calls the Corinthians *“carnal”* because of their striving. He emphasizes that men are only workers, and that Christ is the *“foundation.”* He warns them against worldly wisdom and boasting in men.
4. Paul emphasizes the concept of proper place. Christians are to be faithful stewards, and he gives himself as an example. He urges them to imitate him, and like a parent, warns them of the consequences of continuing in their sins.
5. Paul deals with a specific instance of sexual immorality in Corinth, which was being tolerated by the church. He calls for them to discipline the offender, and explains the reasons for it.
6. As a part of his admonition against divisiveness, he deals with the fact that some were suing their brethren in a secular court. He warns that their unrighteousness is characteristic of the ungodly lost, and reminds them of their sanctification. He warns against fornication.
7. In answer to their questions, Paul teaches on the subject of marriage. He discusses the relationship, the Lord’s teaching, and proper responses to the *“present distress.”*
8. Paul discusses the conscience, and calls the Corinthians to respect the weaker Christians among them. The specific context is that of eating meat offered up to idols.
9. Paul defends his right to receive support as an apostle and preacher. He does not exercise that right, avoiding the charge that he was abusing his *“authority in the gospel.”*
10. He calls upon the Corinthians to learn from the sins of Israel, and avoid temptation. He tells them to flee idolatry, and avoid offending men.
11. Paul deals with the head covering, and the subjection of women. He admonishes them for their behavior in the serving of the Lord’s Supper, and calls for them to examine them-selves before partaking in this act of worship.
12. He discusses spiritual gifts, and indicates that every person has a purpose and equal value to the body of Christ. Though the gifts are diverse, there is only *“one body.”*
13. In the midst of a discussion of spiritual gifts, he directs the Corinthians attention *to “a more excellent way.”* The chapter is a discussion of **agape** love, showing the greater importance of love as contrasted with the lesser gifts about which they were contending.
14. Paul specifically discusses the gift of tongues – the purpose, relative importance, and proper use of tongues in the assembly. He again deals with the role of women, and their subjection in the assembly.
15. Paul deals with the false view some had regarding the resurrection, by noting Christ’s resurrection, and the hope it affords us. He discusses the nature of the resurrected body, and emphasizes the hope that the resurrection gives to all Christians.
16. Paul finally gives instructions for a weekly contribution, to be used for benevolence to needy Christians elsewhere. He ends his letter with information regarding his personal plans, and some final brief admonitions.