

Review

- First, *Geography*, the strategic location Corinth enjoyed
- Second, *History*, especially the post-Julian period
- Third, *Circumstances* of authorship
- Message:
 - The source of the gospel
 - The nature of the Christian community (*last week*)
 - The relationship of Christians to the world

The relationship of Christians to the world the message of Corinthians

I. Sanctified Saints (starting point)

1 Cor 1.2 ¶ To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

Sanctified: 4x in 1 Cor – 2 Cor: “made holy, separated”

- Here, in the opening address

^{1Cor 6.11} Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

set apart from what you were

^{1Cor 7.14} For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

set apart from husbands/wives with unbelieving spouses

Saints: 10x in 1 Cor – 2 Cor: “the set apart ones”

^{1Co 6:1} ¶ Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

^{1Co 16:1} ¶ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

2Co 8:4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

2Co 9:1 ¶ For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;

The “saints” are Christians in a local church as distinct from the local population:

1. Saints could settle disputes among themselves, no need to go “outside”
2. Saints in Jerus. in need, saints in Corinth pledged to aid them, not everyone else in Jerus.

II. Christians vs. World

1 Cor 1.18-29

	World's view:	Saints view:
18 Word of Cross	Foolishness	Power of God
20-21 Wisdom	Of world, ignorance	Of God, salvation
23-24 Christ	To Jews: stumbling block To Greeks: foolishness	The power and wisdom of God
26-29 the elect	Foolish, weak	Chosen and confounding

1 Cor 2.6-16

- Verses 6-7: God's wisdom, eternal vs. worldly wisdom, temporary
- Verse 8: God's wisdom, obscure to the elite of this world
- Verses 10-13: God's wisdom, revealed by the Spirit to the saints

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God (12)

- Verses 14-16: God's wisdom, obscured vs. revealed

1Cor 3.18-23:

- Abandon the wisdom of the world; accept the wisdom of God

1Cor 5.6-7

- Clean out the old leaven from the church; live as a “new lump” — unleavened

1Cor 10.14-22

- Flee from idolatry of the world (including the meat offerings of idolatry)

1Cor 11.32

- Judgement of saints for sanctifying growth; judgement of the world for condemnation

2Cor 4.3-4

- The god of this world blinded the minds; our God gives light to see Christ

2Cor 5.17

- In Christ, a new creation (in contrast to our old state)

III. Christians in the World

1Cor 5.9-13

- We do not withdraw from the world (though we purge the world out of the church)

1Cor 7.29-36

- We may use the world (31) [with limitations]
- We must devote ourselves to the Lord in the world (whatever our status)

1Cor 9.7-11

- We use the world system [money] to accomplish spiritual ends

1Cor 10.26

- We may use any good gift from this world (even possibly idol-tainted meat) but with limitations (v. 28, 8.10-13)

2Cor 1.12

- In holiness and sincerity, in the grace of God, we conduct ourselves in the world

2Cor 5.18-21

- God reconciled us, uses us to reconcile the world