

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 (January 16, 2022)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

1. Read Acts 18:1-18 and discuss your observations regarding Paul's time in Corinth and the beginnings of the Corinthians church.

2. To what was Paul "called" and what was his calling (1 Corinthians 1:1; Acts 26:12-18; Romans 1:1-6; Galatians 1:15)?

3. **NOTE:** Paul wrote a letter (1 Corinthians) to the church in Corinth about 3 years after he left the city. This was not the first letter he had written to them. 1 Corinthians 5:9 refers to a previous letter he had written which had been misunderstood by the church. Paul wrote this follow-up letter to not only address the misunderstanding but to also to speak to concerns he had over distressing reports that the church had been experiencing problems of division within the congregation, sexual immorality, and litigation among members.

Why do you think it was important for Paul to emphasize his authority in this letter to the Corinthian church?

4. "Apostleship does not promote an obtrusive self-importance. It provides an uninterrupted view of Christ." (1 Corinthians-A Shorter Exegetical & Pastoral Commentary p. 29-30 by Anthony C. Thiselton) Although it was important for Paul to emphasize his authority, discuss how Paul's greeting reflects this quote.

5. The words sanctify, and saint are closely related in Greek. "One is a verb (hagiazō) meaning "make holy" and the other is an adjective (hagios) used as a noun and means "holy people." (ESV Study Bible p. 2391). What is Paul reminding the Corinthian church concerning their calling and purpose in life. Who else does Paul include in this message?

6. Grace and peace reflect the conventional Greco-Roman form of greeting. What theological implication does each of these words suggest?