

The “Modern” Church at Corinth

In many ways, Paul’s first letter to the church at Corinth is one of the most accessible writings of the New Testament. It’s generally not about the more obscure struggles of the first-century church. 1 Corinthians has nothing to say about Gnosticism or the difference between the old and new covenants. Instead, the problems with which the Corinthians wrestle are all too familiar to us today. Quarrelsome Christians, spiritual arrogance, and sexual immorality are part of the church landscape not just in the first century, but also in the twenty-first.

Because of this accessibility, 1 Corinthians is of tremendous use in the here-and-now. As we study the book, we come to recognize that the Holy Spirit’s solutions to those long-ago church problems will work just as well on the same problems today. We too can benefit from lessons about unity, purity, and above all, the heart that every child of God needs to possess. 1 Corinthians is a book not just for that time, but for our time too. Let’s listen to it along with the Corinthians, as the great apostle instructs us in a still more excellent way.

About the Author

M. W. Bassford lives in Joliet, IL, with his wife, Lauren, where he preaches for the Joliet church of Christ.

A Still More Excellent Way

Understanding 1 Corinthians

M.W. Bassford

