



LAUREL CANYON
church of Christ

BIBLE CLASS: NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES

Wednesday nights at 7:00PM | July 7 – September 29, 2021

Lesson 9: The Church in Corinth
September 8, 2021

Excerpt from the workbook, “New Testament Churches: Their Strengths and Weaknesses” by Carl McMurray:

“The city of Athens was dominated by a bronze statue of Athena. The goddess faced west and was known as the goddess of the mind. She watched over a city of poets, philosophers, and orators. Fifty-six miles westward, in front of her, was the citadel of Corinth, the Acrocorinthus, and with it the similar domineering statue of Aphrodite, the goddess of the body among other things. Both cities followed their leading deity. Above the city stood the great temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, and attached to that temple were one thousand priestesses who were sacred prostitutes. At evening time, they descended from their hill and practiced their trade upon the streets of the city. This was not the only vice to be abundantly found in Corinth, however.

“The ideal of the Corinthian was individual development to the max, whether it was the merchant chasing gain in every way, the man of pleasure surrendering himself to every lust of food, drink, or sex, or the athlete disciplining himself for competition and exercise at the Isthmian games, the forerunner to our own Olympics. Whatever your poison, you could find it and pursue it with encouragement in Corinth. You might expect such a self-consumed and material city culture to be overrun with vices like greed, swindling, and extortion as well as every type of sexual immorality. The very word *korinthiazesthai* had been added to the Greek language and meant, “to live like a Corinthian,” i.e., “to live with drunken and immoral debauchery.”

Bible References:

- Acts 18:1-17
- 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians

Questions:

1. What similarities might one see in the culture of Corinth and the sin problems that cropped up in the church here?
2. In your opinion, what might have been some of the problems that Paul ran into in Corinth? (Acts 18:15-17)
3. What kind of things happen when we forget who we are as Christians? (1 Corinthians 1:10-12)
4. What helped balance Paul's negative thoughts about the church in Corinth? (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)
5. How can someone else's bad behavior make us act badly or express a poor attitude? (1 Corinthians 5:1-6)
6. Explain what it means to remain, "teachable." (2 Corinthians 7:8-16)
7. In your opinion, what are some things that can hinder us from being teachable?
8. How does God use the humble things in this life to shame the mighty? (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)