

# “GROWING PAINS IN THE NEW CHURCH”

## The First Letter to the Corinthians

**Who wrote The First Letter to the Corinthians?**

The First Letter to the Corinthians was written by the Apostle Paul.

**How did The First Letter to the Corinthians get its name and/or what does that name mean?**

The First Letter to the Corinthians was written to the Church in the ancient Roman city in Corinth.

**When did these events take place?**

The First Letter to the Corinthians was written in 56 A.D. during Paul's 3rd missionary journey.

**For more about The First Letter to the Corinthians:**

See page 1229 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Do you remember the first time your parents decided that they could leave you and your brothers and sisters alone without a baby sitter – especially if it was overnight? Or, how about the first time you were a member of a group that was encouraged to “carry on” without an adult around. How well did it go? If your experience is like most, it probably didn't take long for a disagreement to take place over how a certain situation should be handled. Both sides probably thought that their view was the way Mom and Dad or the adult advisor would see the situation. You might have been able to settle it on your own, but it might have taken a call to the adults to get their interpretation from a distance. Or, maybe someone in the group just decided that no adult supervision meant that they could make their own rules. An adult reminder from a distance would even put a stop to that, too.

Paul found himself in just that kind of situation with the new church in Corinth. Things did not always go smoothly after Paul left the church of Corinth (started in the year 51 A.D.) in the hands of the people. Soon, disagreements were common and temptation and sin had led some of them to begin following lifestyles not consistent with what Christ had taught. Paul had received several letters of concern from different believers informing him of these problems in Corinth and, like a loving father, from Ephesus, he sent a letter back to correct and encourage them.

Paul reminded the faithful in Corinth how important it was to imitate Christ in the experience of their everyday life. He also addressed many practical concerns of living as a member of a community. This included advice on how to gather and how to worship. The Eucharistic celebration was being widely misinterpreted by some of the Corinthians. Paul used part of this first letter to remind the church that the Eucharist is the greatest Sacrament instituted to promote unity among all believers regardless of their standing in society. Paul also used this letter to remind the Corinthians that belief in the Resurrection of Jesus is a cornerstone of our faith. Apparently some discussions and arguments had arisen about how significant the event was.

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians is as applicable to the world today as it was in the first century A.D. Like the earliest church, it encourages us to make sure that the message of Christ survives in a secular society. It also is a good reminder to us that practicing our faith is a daily commitment that can only be fulfilled through the grace of God.

**Interesting Fact:** 1 Corinthians 13:4 begins Paul's famous discourse on the meaning and importance of love.

**Bonus Point:** In what verse does it say that Christ appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once?