Christ: the Solution to our Sinfulness

Corinthian Church
Divisive, immature, fleshly, arrogant, disorderly…

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
—1Cor. 2:2 ESV



He is the Power of God, the Wisdom of God, and the Righteousness of God

Problems:	**Solution:** **Christ Working in Us** *(Discipleship)*
1. Division & Factionalism ***(1Corinthians 1:10-17)*** The church was divided into factions, with members aligning themselves with different leaders (e.g., Paul, Apollos, Cephas, or Christ), leading to quarrels and a lack of unity.	1. **Understand the Word**(message) **of the Cross** (Christ) **(*1Corinthians 1:18-25*)** Paul urged them to be united in mind and judgment, emphasizing that Christ is not divided and that human leaders are mere servants of God's message, not the focus of allegiance. He pointed them to '**the word of the cross' of Christ** as the unifying power, wisdom, and righteousness of God.
2. Boasting in Human Wisdom ***(1Corinthians 1:18-31, 3:18-21)*** Some members prided themselves on worldly wisdom and eloquence, undermining the simplicity and power of the gospel.	**2. Understand Christ as God's Wisdom, Power, and Righteousness** ***(1Corinthians 1:31, 2:1-5)*** Paul stressed that God's wisdom—revealed in the "foolishness" of the cross—surpasses human wisdom. He encouraged them to boast only in the Lord, not in human leaders or intellect, and **to rely on Christ as the ultimate example for power, wisdom, and righteousness**.
3. Spiritual Immaturity ***(1Corinthians 3:1-4)*** The Corinthians were behaving like "infants in Christ," marked by jealousy and strife, unable to handle solid spiritual teaching.	**3. Build Upon Your Understanding of Christ (our Foundation)** ***(1Corinthians 3:5-15).*** Paul called them to grow beyond carnal behavior, recognizing that leaders like himself and Apollos were co-workers under God, who alone gives growth. He urged them to **build on the foundation of Christ** with maturity.
4. **Tolerating Sexual Immorality** ***(1Corinthians 5:1-13)*** A man was living in an incestuous relationship with his father's wife, and the church arrogantly tolerated it rather than mourning and addressing the sin.	**4. Remove Ungodly Attitudes and Practices so that You may be Pure** ***(1Corinthians 5:9-13)*** Paul instructed them to remove the man from fellowship ("deliver him to Satan") for the sake of his soul's potential salvation and to protect the church's purity. He emphasized judging those within the church, not outsiders, and avoiding association with unrepentant sinners.
5. Lawsuits Among Believers ***(1Corinthians 6:1-8)*** Church members were taking disputes to secular courts rather than resolving them within the church, bringing shame to the community of faith.	**5. Ungodliness Does Not Represent Christ and His Message of Discipleship** ***(1Corinthians 6:5-8)*** Paul rebuked them for not appointing wise believers to judge disputes, reminding them that saints will one day judge the world. **He encouraged them to be Christlike**: "To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?" And that it is better to be wrong and defrauded rather than dishonor Christ before unbelievers.
6. **Sexual Immorality and Misuse of Freedom** ***(1Corinthians 6:12-20)*** Some justified sexual immorality (e.g., visiting prostitutes) by claiming "all things are lawful," treating their bodies as unimportant.	**6. Freedom is *in* Spiritual Unity with Christ** ***(1Corinthians 6:18-20)*** Paul taught that **the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit**, bought by Christ's sacrifice. He urged them to flee immorality, glorify God with their bodies, and **recognize their union with Christ.**

Problems:	**Solution:** Christ Working in Us *(Discipleship)*
7. Confusion Over Marriage and Singleness *(1Corinthians 7)* Questions arose about whether to marry, divorce, or remain single, especially in light of ascetic tendencies or libertine attitudes.	**7. Keep Christ within as Your Priority** *(1Corinthians 7:7-40)* Paul affirmed both marriage and singleness as gifts from God. He advised staying in one's current state (married or unmarried) unless burning with passion, and emphasized mutual submission in marriage, while noting singleness allows **undivided devotion to God**.
8. Eating Food Offered to Idols *(1Corinthians 8:1-13, 10:14-33)* Stronger believers ate meat sacrificed to idols without concern, but this stumbled weaker believers whose consciences were troubled by past idol worship.	**8. Everything is Subservient to Agape Love** *(1Corinthians 8:9-13, 10:23-24)* Paul taught that '**knowledge' must be understood in the context of love**. While idols are nothing and food doesn't affect one's standing with God, he urged the strong to avoid causing the weak to sin, prioritizing unity and others' consciences over personal freedom.
9. Disorder in Worship *(1Corinthians 11:2-16, 14:26-40)* Worship was chaotic, with issues like women's head coverings (cultural propriety), selfish behavior at the Lord's Supper, and disorderly use of spiritual gifts (e.g., tongues, prophecy).	**9. The Assembly is about Humbly Partaking of Jesus' Spirit.** *(1Corinthians 11:2-34)* Paul called for order and decency: head coverings to honor cultural norms and headship, **sharing and unity at the Lord's Supper**, and regulating gifts so they edify the church, not confuse it (e.g., tongues with interpretation, prophecy in turn).
10. Abuse of the Lord's Supper *(1Corinthians 11:17-34)* Wealthy members ate and drank excessively before others arrived, humiliating the poor and turning a sacred meal into a selfish feast.	**10. The Communion is about Remembering Christ and Our Promise Follow Him** *(1Corinthians 11:27-32)* Paul instructed them to **examine themselves**, eat at home if hungry, and partake of the Supper worthily, **comparing oneself to Christ** to avoid judgment.
11. Misunderstanding Spiritual Gifts *(1Corinthians 12-14)* The church overemphasized certain gifts (like tongues) and competed rather than valuing all gifts for the body's good.	**11. All Gifts are for the Building Up of the Church in Christ and Love** *(1Corinthian 12-14)* Paul explained that gifts are diverse but from one Spirit, meant **to build up the church**. He exalted **love as the greatest virtue** and prioritized gifts like prophecy that edify others over uninterpreted tongues.
12. Denial of the Resurrection *(1Corinthians 15:12-58)* Some denied the bodily resurrection of the dead, undermining the gospel's core.	**12. Over 500 People Saw Jesus Resurrected** *(1Corinthians 15:3-8, 20-58)* Paul defended **Christ's resurrection as historical fact**, witnessed by many, and argued that if there's no resurrection, faith is futile. He explained the future resurrection body and encouraged steadfast hope in this truth.
13. False Apostles and Paul's Authority Questioned *(2Corinthians 11:1-15, 12:11-13)* In 2 Corinthians, "super-apostles" deceived the church with a false gospel, and some questioned Paul's apostolic authority due to his suffering and lack of polish.	**13. Paul's Sufferings is Evidence of his Apostleship** *(1Corinthians 11:13-15; 12:12)* Paul reluctantly boasted of his sufferings and divine revelations to prove his credentials, while exposing false apostles as servants of Satan. **He urged discernment and loyalty to the true gospel.**