



## BACKGROUND

- Corinth was at a major East-West crossroads and on an isthmus between two major gulfs. East-West travelers in ancient Greece went through Corinth.
- The marketplace of Corinth was larger than any in Rome. Corinth had around 200-300K citizens and around 450K in slavery.
- Paul had spent \_\_\_\_\_ months at Corinth establishing the church during his second missionary journey.

### 1. Corinth, a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_.

A. The church is perfect in its position - "sanctified in Christ Jesus."

B. The Church is NOT Perfect.

- For the sake of clarity, theologians speak of *Justification* as the past, one time \_\_\_\_\_ of our salvation;
- *Sanctification* as the \_\_\_\_\_ transformation that continues throughout a believer's life;
- *Glorification* as the future consummation of our salvation then we are resurrected in glorified, imperishable bodies.

C. The Church WILL Be Perfect.

### 2. Corinth was blessed by God, but divided by \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Stupid Things to Fight & Divide Over.

**1 Corinthians 1:11-13 & 3:1-9; 1 Corinthians 8:1-9 & Romans 14:1-15:7**

B. What Makes \_\_\_\_\_ So Important?

**John 17:20-23; John 13:34 & Ephesians 4:3; John 13:35**

C. So What Does \_\_\_\_\_ Unity Look Like?

**1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 12:18-27; Philippians 1:15-18;  
1 Corinthians 5:9-13**

- It's not uniformity.
- It's not avoiding issues.
- It's not overlooking \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Unity is centered around the Gospel.

- In **1 Corinthians 1:17**, Paul makes a distinction between Baptism and the Gospel.

# Connection Group Questions

## Further Study on the Sermon from March 20, 2022

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1. This week we saw the importance of maintaining unity with other believers. In **Ephesians 4:1-5**, Paul addresses the issue of Christian unity. What kind of attitudes and actions does Paul write about that are needed to maintain unity?
  - As you look at your list, are there any of these attitudes or actions that you need to work on or are lacking in your life?
  - How does **Ephesians 4:7-13** express the idea that unity can and does include a whole lot of diversity?
2. In **Romans 14:1-23**, Paul gives some suggestions for ways to work through the kinds of issues that often divide Christians. As you read through this passage, respond to the statements below.
  - Identify each of the controversial issues that the Roman church was dealing with and their impact on the church.
  - Identify the remedies Paul gives to work through the issues so unity can be restored.
  - If you have ever seen or found yourself in a similar situation, what did you find helpful in the way it was handled? What did you wish would have happened differently based on this passage?
3. When it comes to the stupid things Christians fight over, people are tempted to set themselves up as “spiritual watch dogs” (checking up on other people’s behavior) or “pit bulls” (not letting go of a pet belief). If you’ve ever experienced someone playing one of these roles in your life, what happened in that situation and how did you respond/feel?
  - As you look at your own life, can you think of times when you’ve made the mistake of playing either of these roles in other people’s lives?
  - What insights do you find in **Matthew 7:1-5** on this subject?