

August 9th, 2026

Believers In A Broken City
1Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: ³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—⁶God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord
1Corinthians 1:1-9 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

- The Church belongs to Jesus. (1:1-3)

Apostle — “One who is sent.” A person personally chosen and commissioned by Jesus to represent Him and help establish the early church.

Sosthenes — A Christian leader connected to Corinth who likely helped Paul write or deliver the letter. Possibly the same synagogue ruler mentioned in Acts 18 who later became a follower of Jesus.

- God’s grace is at work even in imperfect people. (1:4-7)
- Assurance of God’s faithfulness. (1:8-9)

*God works through broken people
by _____ them around Jesus.*

1. We cannot allow _____ to disciple us more than Jesus. Pro 4:23; Matt 6:21

2. Your deepest identity is not your success, failure, or struggle—it is _____. John 8:11

3. God is _____ finished with us. 1Thess 5:24; 1Tim 1:15

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What’s something you picked up from your family growing up — a phrase, habit, reaction, or trait — that you still catch yourself doing today?

Paul was concerned that the Corinthians were becoming shaped more by their culture than by Jesus. What do you think most strongly shapes people today — and how do you personally feel that influence in your own life?

The message talked about “permeation” — how slow exposure eventually changes us. What are some influences (media, habits, relationships, fears, political voices, social media, etc.) that can slowly shape our hearts without us realizing it?

Paul reminded the Corinthians that their deepest identity was not their failures or struggles, but that they belonged to Jesus. Why do you think it’s so easy for people to define themselves by labels, successes, failures, or fears instead of by Christ?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 again. What stands out to you about God’s faithfulness? How does knowing that “God is faithful” encourage you in areas where you still feel unfinished, inconsistent, or spiritually immature?



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*God works through broken people
by reshaping them around Jesus.*

1. We cannot allow culture to disciple us more than Jesus. Pro 4:23; Matt 6:21

2. Your deepest identity is not your success, failure, or struggle—it is who you are in Christ. John 8:11

3. God is never finished with us. 1Thess 5:24; 1Tim 1:15

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