

UNTO THE CHURCH OF GOD
I COR. 1:1-3

Introduction:

- A. The writer.
 - 1. Paul = formerly, Saul of Tarsus.
 - 2. "an apostle of Jesus Christ" = a messenger of Jesus Christ.
 - 3. "through the will of God."
 - 4. "and Sosthenes, our brother."

- B. The recipients of the letter.
 - 1. v2, [not a name, shows possession]
 - 2. These were, "real people."

I. WHAT IS A CHURCH?

- A. The classic description or definition.
 - 1. "a called out body, called out for a specific purpose."
 - 2. It could be lawful or unlawful assembly.

- B. The theological definition.
 - 1. "A visible body of called out persons who have been saved and who have scriptural baptism and are covenanted together to carry out the great commission."

- C. It is a body created to do something.
 - 1. It is visible.
 - 2. It is created by God.
 - 3. It is to carry out the will of God.

- D. "unto the church of God which is at Corinth."
 - 1. It was written as corrective.

- a. Schisms. v11
- b. Lack of discipline
- c. Going to law before heathen magistrates.
- d. Marriage.
- e. idoltary
- f. abuse of Lord's Supper
- g. Spiritual gifts.
- h. denial of resurrection.

[This church depended on spiritual gifts more than any other church, yet were worse!]

- 2. These were not lost people.
 - a. "to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus."
 - b. sanctified = set apart.
 - c. "called to be saints." holy ones.
- 3. It was not exclusive.
 - a. "with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours."
 - b. Some say this means "other denominations."
 - c. There were no "other" denominations.
- 4. The invocation.
 - a. "Grace be unto you."
 - b. "and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

II. OUR LESSON.

- A. We are a church, we are a body to do something.
 - 1. The body does not exist for our good, the members serve the body.
- B. We have orders and authority to carry out our orders.
 - 1. Emphasize authority.
 - 2. Emphasize work.