

1 Corinthians 1:1-17 (NLT)

1. This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes.
2. I am writing to God's church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.
3. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

4. I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus.

5. Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge.

6. This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true.

7. Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

8. He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns.

9. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

10. I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

11. For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters.

12. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ."

13. Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!

14. I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15. for now no one can say they were baptized in my name.

16. (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don't remember baptizing anyone else.)

17. For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NLT)

30. God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

31. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, “If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord.”

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NLT)

11. Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.
12. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.
13. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

14. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

15. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

16. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NLT)

1. Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.
2. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.
3. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

4. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

5. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6. and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all.