

Second Missionary Journey



ACTS 18: Paul in Corinth

- Paul arrives from Athens (18:1).
- **Priscilla & Aquila**, fellow tentmakers, had been expelled from Rome by Claudius (18:2-3).
- Paul is opposed in the synagogue; he turns his attention to the Gentiles. (18:4-6) [Remember his *modus operandi*].
- He stays with **Titus Justus**; Synagogue official **Crispus** becomes a “believer in the Lord,” as do many others who are baptized (18:7-8).
- Vision leads Paul to remain in Corinth **18 months** (18:11).
- **Proconsul Gallio** rules that the controversy surrounding Paul is a sectarian religious matter and not political. In response the Jewish tribunal seizes and beats **Sosthenes**, another official of the synagogue (Acts 18:12-17)

Third Missionary Journey



Reading Paul

“When we read Paul, we are reading somebody else’s mail—and unless we know the situation being addressed, his letters can be quite opaque...It is wise to remember that when we are reading letters never intended for us, any problems of understanding are ours and not theirs.”

– Marcus Borg, *The First Paul*

The Corinthian Correspondence



Occasion: What prompts this Writing?

- **Discord & Divisions** among the Corinthians, including abuse of the Agape meal
- **Behavioral Issues** such as immorality, marriage, food offered to idols, etc.
- **Theological questions**, including **spiritual gifts & resurrection of the Body**
- **His Relationship** to this church

Themes in the Corinthian Letters

- Social **Divisions** among the congregational members (1:10-17)
- “***Jesus Christ and him crucified***” (2:2)
- **Immorality** (5)
- **Lawsuits** among Believers (6)
- **Marriage** (7)
- **Food offered to Idols** (8)
- **Apostleship & Christian Freedom** (9-10)
- **Head Coverings & The Lord’s Supper** (11)
- **Spiritual Gifts** (12-14)
 - Love (***Agape***) (13)
- **Resurrection of the Body** (15)



Opening the Mail

SESSION 2
ADDRESSING
DIVISIONS THEN (AND
NOW)

Form Letter: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

- **Signature (1:1) – Paul**, called as “**Apostle**”
 - Sosthenes (cf. Acts 18:17)
- **Addressee (1:2) – “Church” in Corinth***
- **Salutation (1:3) – “Grace & Peace...”**
- **Thanksgiving (1:4-9) – Thanks for you for the grace given you...lacking nothing as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

“To the Church of God in Corinth...”

- ***Ecclesia*** – “those called-out”
 - Corporate, not individual (Plural Pronouns)
- Q: Called out of what? By whom? To what?
- Located where? **Church *in loci***.
- **Sanctified** in Christ, Called to be **Saints**
- Think of an **Iceberg**:
 - *History-long, world-wide people of God*
- This church/every church is called out *in loci*, time and place, part of the Great Iceberg.

**UNITED (IN CHRIST)
WE STAND,
DIVIDED WE FALL**

Paul's Thematic
Message

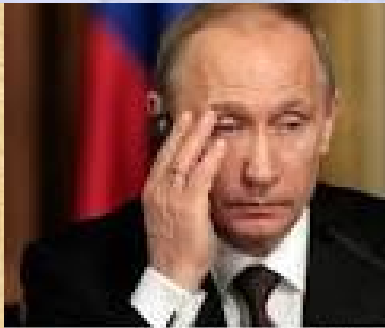
A Question of Relevance

**WHAT ARE
SOME THINGS THAT
DIVIDE US TODAY?**

If ever there were a time to let the message of First Corinthians speak to us, it seems now is such a time.



RUSSIA vs. UKRAINE



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Israel vs. Palestine



The Wall



ABORTION

Pro Life vs. Pro Choice
Bombing Clinics
Supreme Court
Roe v. Wade



"He who is without ovaries shall not make laws for those who do."

Fallopians 5:12



SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIVISIONS



Tax Breaks



Unfair Labor Practices



SBK

HOW "INCENTIVES" WORK:

For the RICH	For the POOR
GIVE THEM TAX BREAKS	TAKE AWAY THEIR FOOD
GIVE THEM BONUSES	
GIVE THEM STOCK OPTIONS	
GIVE THEM PERKS AND PRIVILEGES	

A cartoon illustration comparing the treatment of the rich and the poor. On the left, a wealthy man in a suit holds a briefcase. On the right, a poor woman with a child holds a sign that says "FOOD STAMPS CUTS".

Livable Wage!

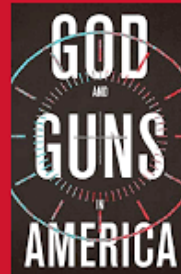


GUN VIOLENCE

VS.

GUN RIGHTS

END GUN VIOLENCE



GOD AND GUNS

Think Biblically



Police Violence vs. Police Protection

GENDER ISSUES



THE DISASTROUS GLOBAL CRISIS OF
GENDER INEQUALITY

**EQUALITY
FOR WOMEN**

=

**PROSPERITY
FOR ALL**

AUGUSTO LOPEZ-CLAROS
BAHIYYIH KAKHJAVANI



**C-SUITE, IT'S 81% MEN,
19% WOMEN.**



**Standing Up against
Discrimination
and
Sexual Harrasssment**



Alt-Right, K.K.K., Neo-Nazis, etc.

Still a need for "The Talk"

White Guilt
White Fragility

Disproportionate Incarcerations and Sentencing

SYSTEMIC RACISM

ETC.

Social Injustice, including inferior public schools

Black Lives Matter

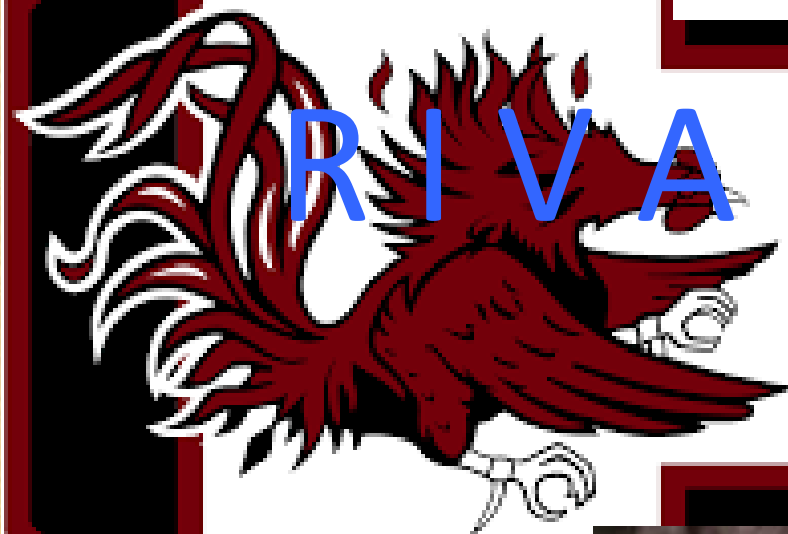
Critical Race Theory

Economic Injustice



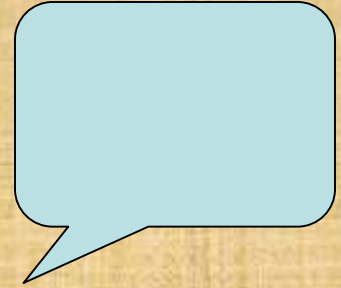
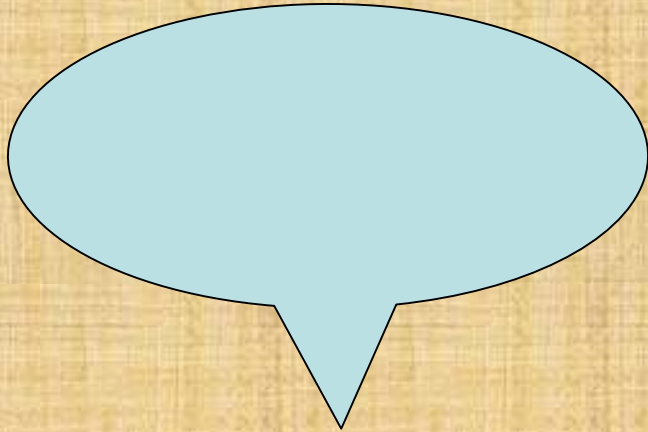
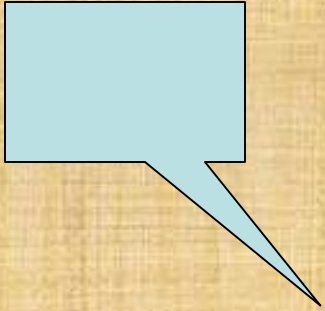
Emmett Till

CAROLINA VS. CLEMSON

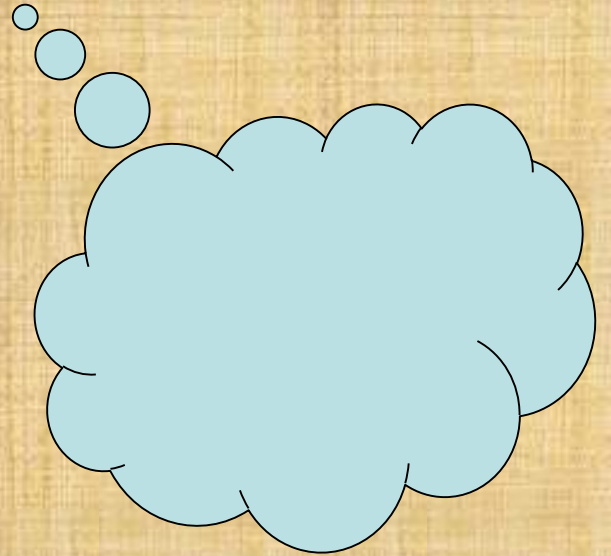
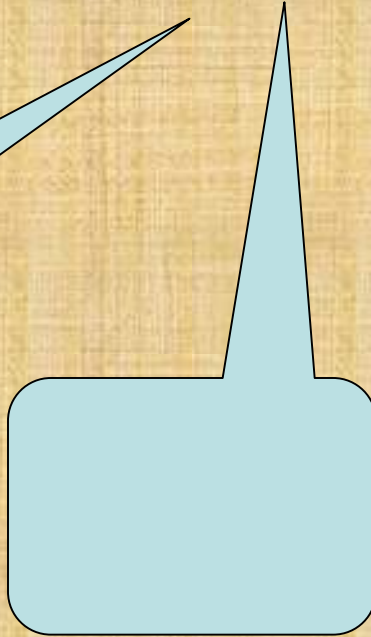
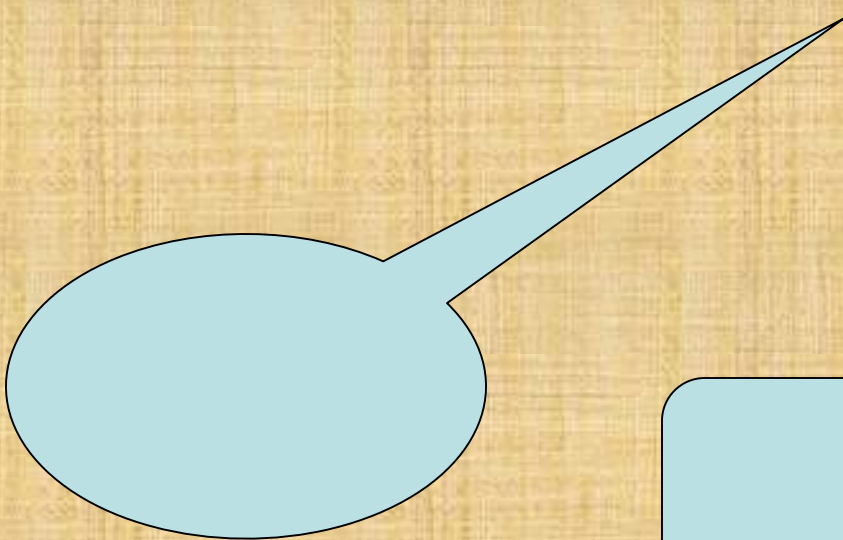


RIVALRY





ETC., ETC., ETC.



Paul's opening Gambit: Read 1 Corinthians 1:10

Now I appeal to you , brothers (and sisters),
by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you be in agreement
and that there be no divisions among you,
but that you be united
in the same mind
and the same purpose.

Appeal for Consensus (1:10)

Παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες καὶ μὴ ᾗ ἐν ὑμῖν σχίσματα, ἥτε δὲ **κατηρτισμένοι** ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ **νοῖ** καὶ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ **γνώμῃ**.

I appeal to you, “brothers” (and sisters), by/through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in order that you might agree (lit., *say all things the same, i.e., reach consensus on things difficult to express*) and not (lest there) be among you schisms (*tears, divisions*), but that you be **(re)united*** (*mended, sewn back together, darned, perfected**) in the same **mind** (*capacity to comprehend or discern, understanding, medium for processing information*) and in the same **purpose** (*judgment, viewpoint, opinion, decision about a matter*).

* Paul was a tentmaker. Note the Sewing language.

QUESTION

What might that look like
today?

How do we sew or be sewn
back together?

Be (Re)United, not Divided (1:10-17)

- **Have no divisions** among yourselves...
- **(Re)Unite** in the same mind & purpose
 - i.e., **Sewn together in Mission** (e.g., **Sail** or **Quilt**)
- **Chloe's people** tell me.... [Report]
- **Quarrels/Factions/Schisms** among you...
 - “I belong to...” [cf. **Caitlyn's sermon** from two weeks ago]
 - Paul would have them/**us** redefine their/our relationship to the church. All belong to Christ!
 - **Worship + 2** (as I have heard & read about it) is about being “united/sewn together in mission.”

PASTORS X & Y



Contrasting Power & Wisdom (1:18-2:16)

- Foolishness vs. Wisdom (Greeks)
- Stumbling Block vs. Signs (Jews)
- Proclaiming “*Christ Crucified*” vs. Arguing with Rhetorical Eloquence or Evidence
- Human Comprehension vs. Spiritual Understanding (2:9-13)
- Human Mind vs. the Mind of Christ (2:14-16)
- **Punch Line:** *Christ turns everything upside down* (cf. Beatitudes, “Thy will be done,” “Not as the World gives do I give...”)

Paul's Response to Divisions (3:1-23)

- **Analogy to Parenting**
 - Brother becomes Parent (cf. Philemon)
 - Infants or Mature? Factions prove immaturity.
- **Analogy to Cultivation**
 - We are just field hands; God is the grower.
- **Analogy to Construction**
 - Strong Foundation
 - Trial by Fire
 - You (plural) are God's Temple (Indwelling Spirit)

