

URGENT

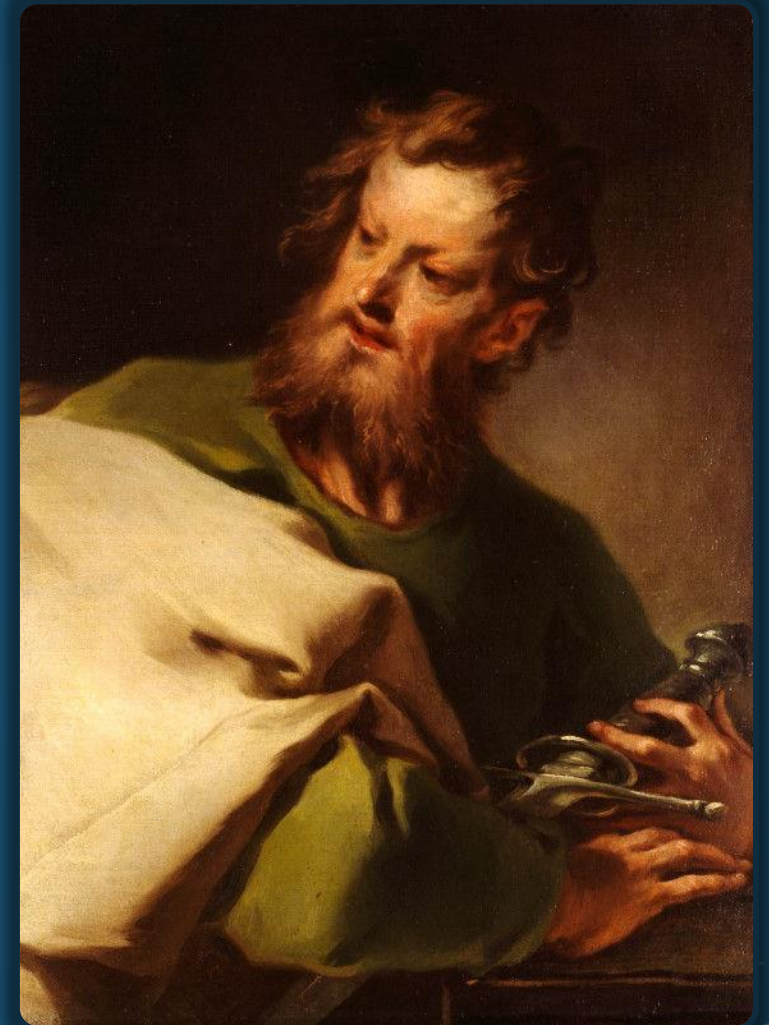
1st
Century
CIRCA 100 AD



1 Corinthians

WHO WROTE 1 CORINTHIANS?

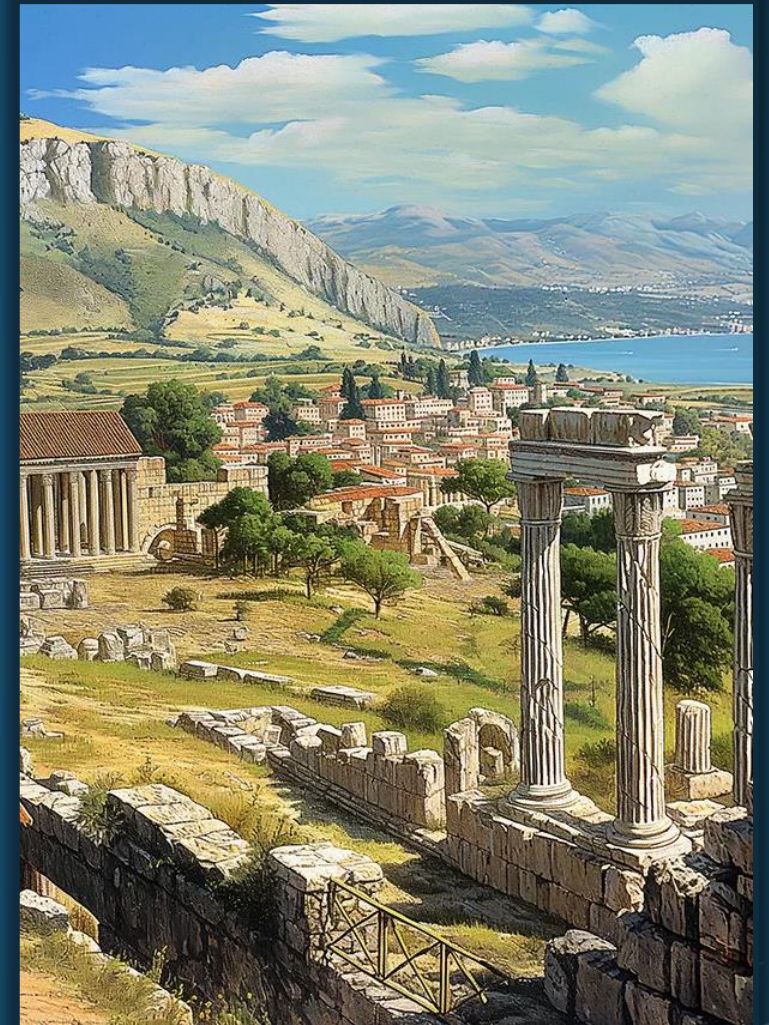
- Paul, the Apostle, and Sosthenes
- The book itself identifies Paul as the author
 - 1:1-2
 - 16:21
- Clement of Rome acknowledged Paul as the author as early as 95 AD
- Written from Ephesus (16:8) in ~55 AD, likely near the end of his 2-3 year stay there in his 3rd missionary journey



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TO WHOM IS 1 CORINTHIANS WRITTEN?

- 1:2--“To the church of God in Corinth...”
- “...together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...”
- Paul spent 18 months in Corinth during his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18:1-18)
 - Made tents with Aquila and Priscilla
 - Paul turned to teaching Gentiles after Jewish opposition
 - Jewish leaders brought a religious case against Paul, but the Roman proconsul, Gallio, dismissed the case



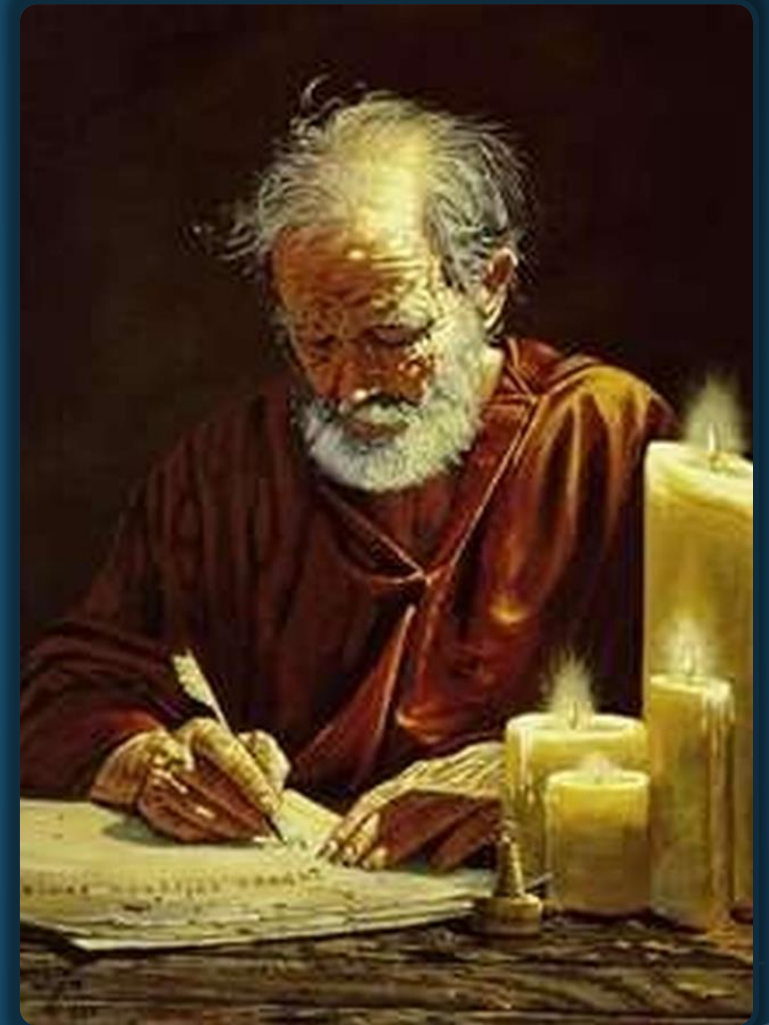
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CORINTH?

- Large city: 100K-200K people
- Major trading city and wealthy
- Refounded by Julius Caesar in 44 BC
- Capital of Achaia province
- “Sin City” --known for its immorality
 - Religious prostitution in the Temple of Aphrodite
 - “To Corinthianize” came to mean “to practice sexual immorality”



WHY DID PAUL WRITE THE BOOK?

- He had received reports from Chloe's house about problems in the Corinthian church
 - 1:11; 5:1
- He and the church are exchanging letters
 - 5:9—Paul had already written the church a letter
 - 7:1—Paul references a letter from the church to him
- The church's letter to Paul seems to talk about: marriage, singleness, sexuality, food sacrificed to idols, spiritual gifts, resurrection, giving, Apollos' potential visit



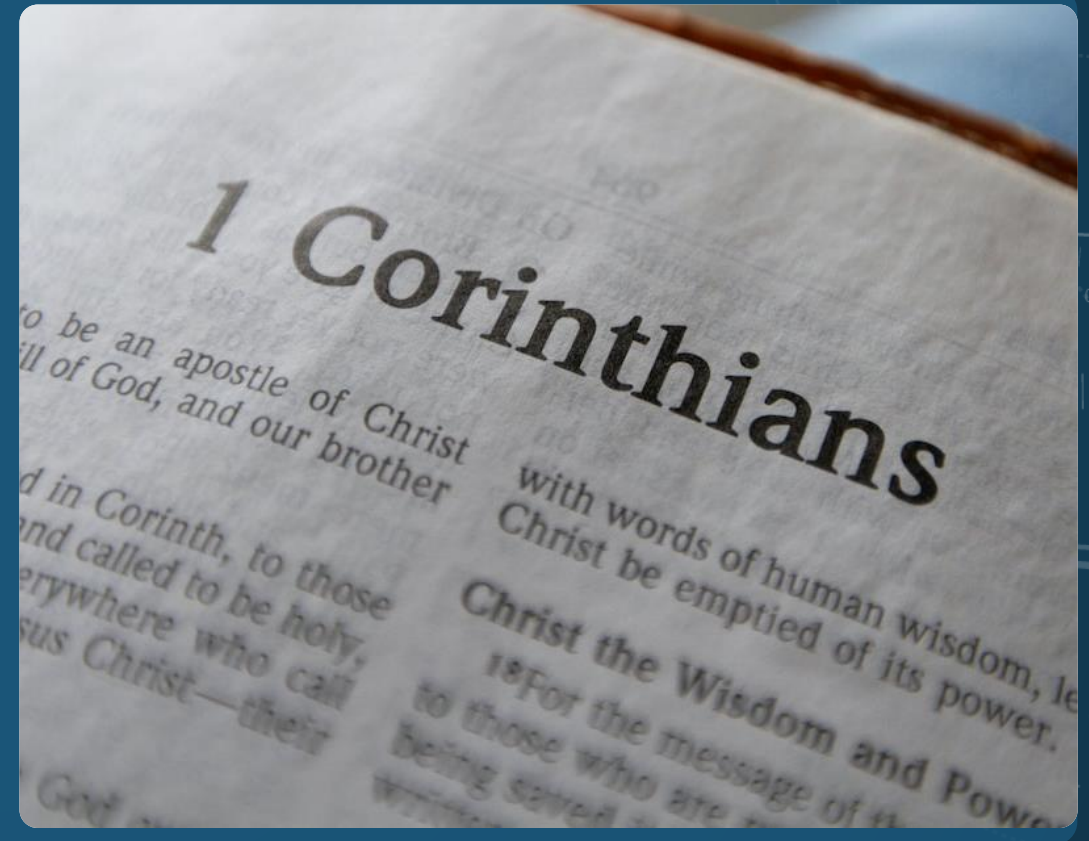
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BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO ON 1 CORINTHIANS

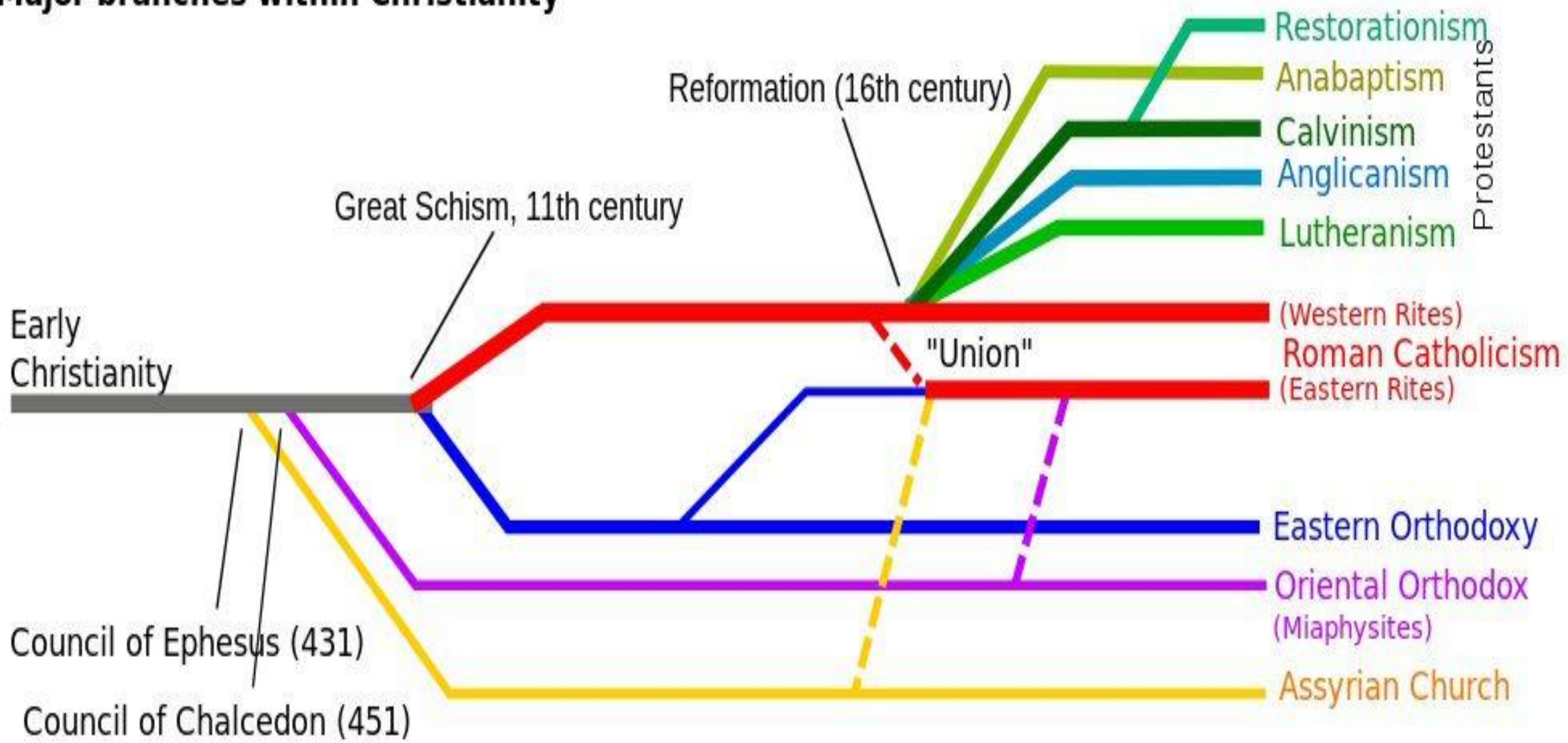
<https://bibleproject.com/videos/1-corinthians/>

IS 1 CORINTHIANS APPLICABLE TO A 21ST CENTURY CHURCH?

- 1:2--It was written to all who call on the name of Jesus
- It is a massively influential book for evangelical Christians and the Restoration Movement
 - Al quote
- Written to a fractured, cosmopolitan church in a pagan city rife with immorality and idolatry
- It provides practical, gospel-centered guidance for navigating similar pressures in today's secular, pluralistic societies
- It equips the church to embody countercultural faithfulness



Major branches within Christianity



WHY WAS PAUL CONCERNED ABOUT DIVISIONS?

- 1:10—"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there be no divisions among you, and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."
- (**Read**) 1:21-25—"The foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength."
- 2:2—"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."
- 3:3—"You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?"



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WHY DOES PAUL WRITE ABOUT MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY?

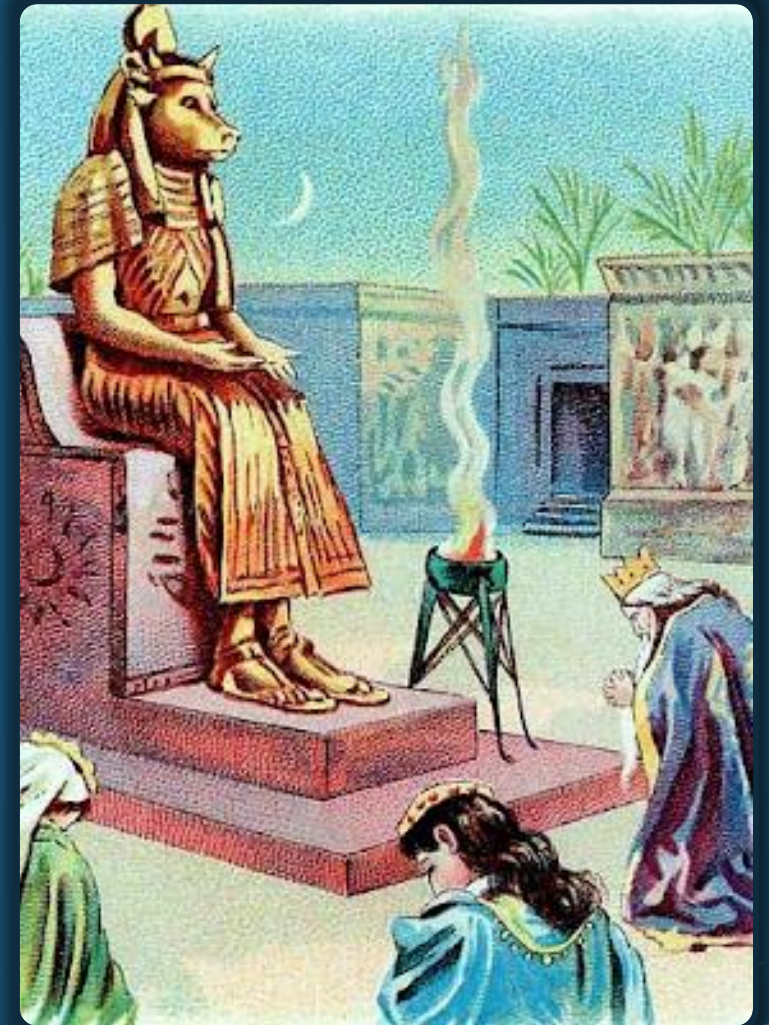
- 5:9-11—"You must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. With such a man do not even eat."
- (Read) 6:15-20—"Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two will become one flesh.' But he who unifies himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.... Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."
- 7:1-5—"Now for the matters you wrote about: 'It is good for a man not to marry.' But since there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband."



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FOOD AND IDOLS

- 8:9—"Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak."
- 8:13—"Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall."
- (Read) 10:14-22—"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?... I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons."



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CORPORATE WORSHIP & GIFTS

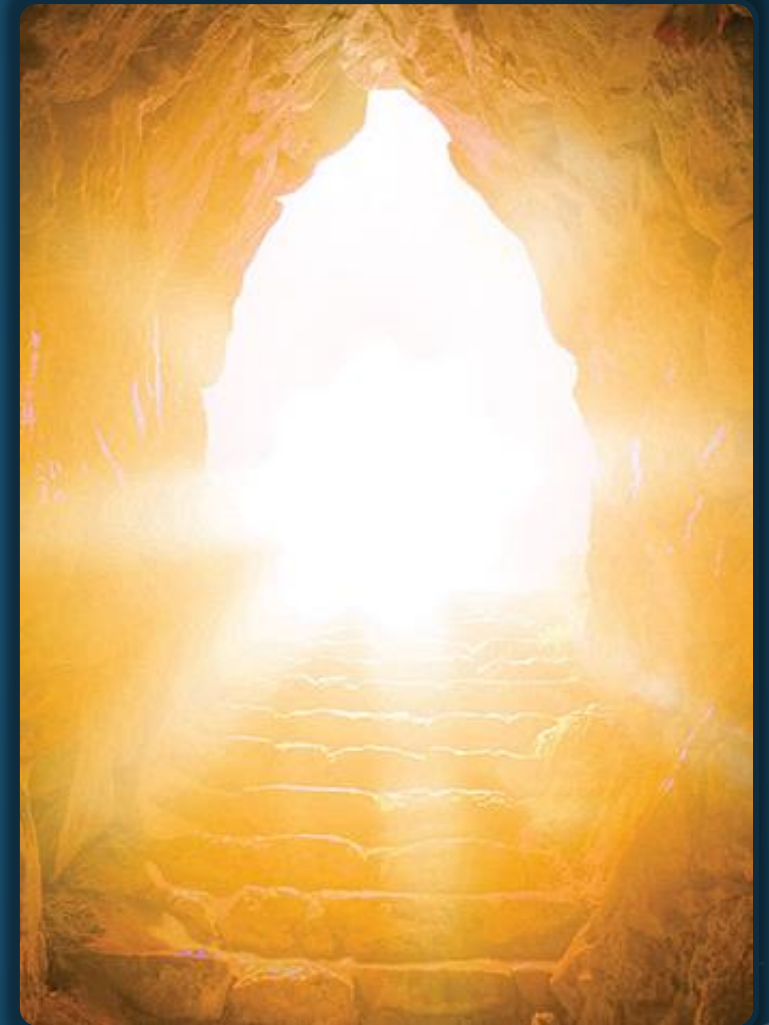
- 12:7-11—"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."
- (Read) 12:27-31—"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it...But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way."
- (Read) 13:1-3—"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."
- 14:33 & 40—"For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."



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THE RESURRECTION

- (Read) 15:1-8—"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain."
- (Read) 15:13-19—"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men."
- 15:54-57—"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



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PAUL'S FINAL ADMONITION TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

- 16:13—"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."



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