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Difficulties in the Church at Corinth
7:1 to 14:40



In **Chapter 6**, **Paul** addressed the dangers of porneia outside of **marriage**. Then **he** turned to the duty of **sexuality** within **marriage**. But **he** does so only after having discussed the problems that **the Corinthians** had *not* asked but which, **Paul**, inspired by **the Ruach**, were nevertheless more important than the difficulties in the **Corinthian** church.[173] **They** had compromised so much, in so many areas, that you could hardly tell the difference between **the believers** and the pagan culture around **them**. So, at this point, you might be thinking that there was little hope for the church at **Corinth**. Granted, the challenges faced by **the members** of that congregation might have seemed insurmountable. But all was not lost. **They** had some good things going for **them**. First, **they** had access to **their** founding **apostle** and all of the apostolic wisdom that **Paul** brought to the table. And second, **they** were teachable. To **their** credit, **they** sought **Paul's** advice about a wide-range of subjects.

So, here, **Paul** begins answering a series of questions put to **him** via a letter **they** had written to **him**, most likely delivered to **him** in **Ephesus** by **Stephanas, Fortunatus,** and **Achaicus (16:17). Their** questions generally dealt with three different topics: **Concerning Marriage – 7:1-40 (Be), Concerning Our Liberty in Messiah – 8:1 to 11:1 (Bi),** and **Concerning Worship – 11:2 to 14:40 (Bu). Paul** did not repeat the questions back in **his** letter; however, we can deduce the nature of each question from the answers that **he** gave. **Their** questions and **Paul's** response, shows us how much confusion existed among **the believers** in **Corinth**, and **their** desire to receive **the apostle's** instructions.[174]