

1 Corinthians 1:1-16

Background

Where is Corinth?

See Map

Why is Paul writing to the Corinthians?

1 Cor 5:9; 7:1; 1:11

What kind of people are the Corinthians?

1 Cor 6:9-11

Introduction

Now we all know that we can learn from our mistakes. But what's even better than learning from our mistakes? Learning from someone else's mistakes. That's our opportunity here. The Corinthians had their problems. We want to learn from them, turning their weaknesses into our strengths. Our job is not to self-righteously point our fingers and say, 'tut, tut, tut.' Each week in our series, with each of the Corinthian problems that we observe, we want to learn how to grow so that we are really strong in that area.

The Letter

Paul's Introduction and Greeting 1:1-3

1. Given what we know about the Corinthians already, is there anything that surprises you about Paul's introduction and greeting?
2. What do the words holy and sanctified mean to you?

Paul's Prayer 1:4-9

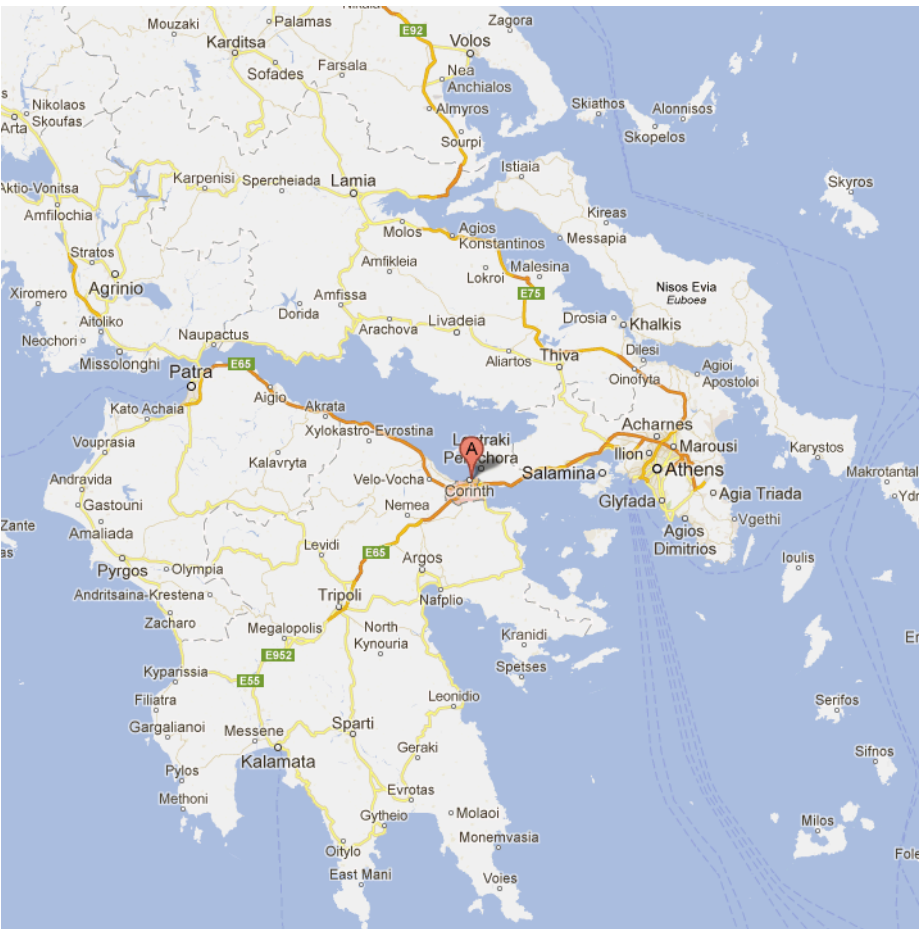
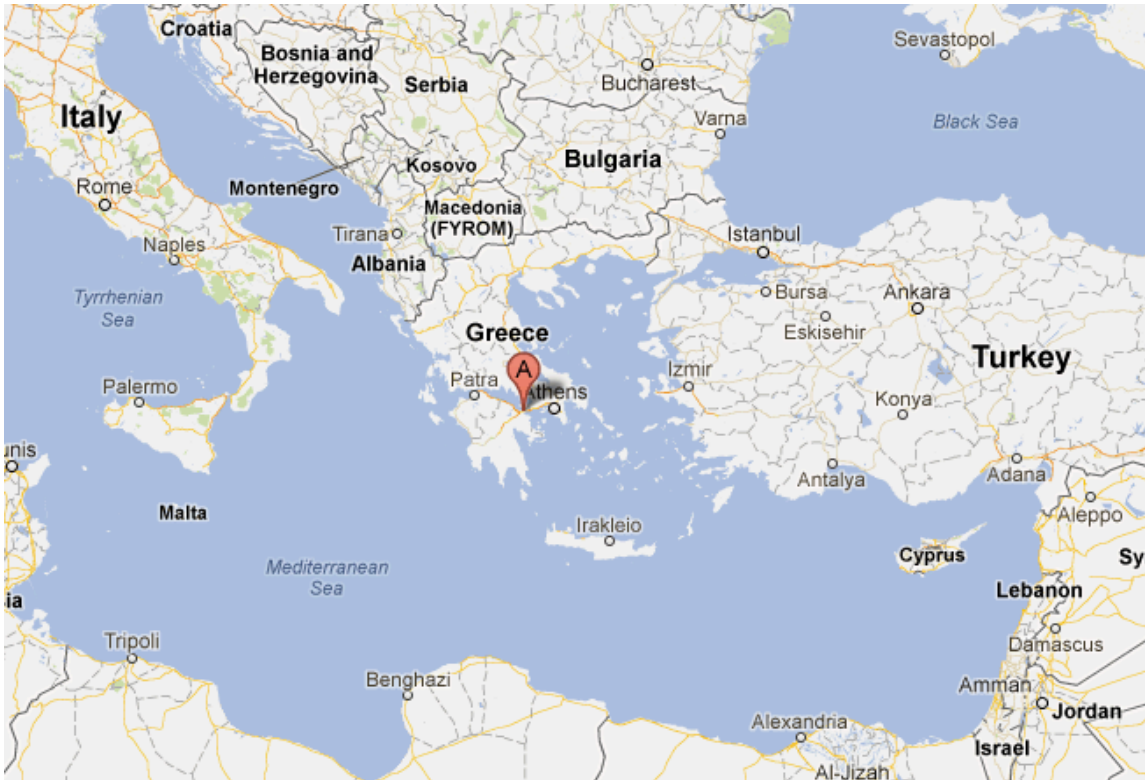
3. What does Paul pray for?
4. Paul has great confidence that the Corinthians will fulfil their calling to be holy. What is the grounds of Paul's confidence?

Problem #1: 1:10-16

5. How would you describe the problem that Paul addresses here?
6. What do Paul's rhetorical questions in v13 reveal about the problem?
7. As a Church, where is our unity founded?
8. As a Church how ought our unity be expressed?
9. What things could we do that would strengthen our experience of unity in Jesus Christ? (try to think of ways to build "unity in Christ" rather than just building friendships among diverse groups of people.)

Conclusion: Pray for our church's growth in unity.

Where is Corinth?



Detail Map