**OVERVIEW OF 1 CORINTHIANS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. **Author:**
   * The book of 1 Corinthians is authored by the Apostle Paul. He wrote this letter to the Corinthian church during his third missionary journey, around AD 54-55.
2. **Audience:**
   * The letter is addressed to the church in Corinth, a bustling and cosmopolitan city in ancient Greece. The Corinthian church was founded by Paul during his second missionary journey.
3. **Aim:**
   * Paul's primary purpose in writing 1 Corinthians is to address and correct various issues and divisions within the Corinthian church. He seeks to provide guidance on matters of theology, morality, and Christian living, emphasizing the importance of unity, love, and the proper use of spiritual gifts.

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**KEY VERSES:**

1. **Unity in Christ:**
   * 1 Corinthians 1:10 - "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."
2. **The Cross as Central Theme:**
   * 1 Corinthians 1:18 - "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God."
3. **Resurrection Hope:**
   * 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep... For as in Adam, all die, so in Christ, all will be made alive."

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**PROBLEMS ADDRESSED:**

1. **Divisions and Cliques:**
   * The Corinthian church struggled with divisions and factions, aligning themselves with different leaders (1 Corinthians 1:11-12).
2. **Immorality and Sin:**
   * Paul addresses cases of immorality within the church, including a specific incident of sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 5).
3. **Misuse of Spiritual Gifts:**
   * There were issues related to the improper use of spiritual gifts, leading to disorder and confusion in their gatherings (1 Corinthians 12-14).
4. **Misunderstanding of the Resurrection:**
   * Some in Corinth doubted or misunderstood the concept of resurrection, leading Paul to provide a thorough defense of this foundational Christian doctrine (1 Corinthians 15).

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**PRACTICAL LESSONS:**

1. **Unity and Love:**
   * Emphasizes the importance of unity among believers and the centrality of love in Christian relationships (1 Corinthians 13).
2. **Holiness and Purity:**
   * Encourages believers to pursue holiness and purity, addressing specific instances of immorality and urging a commitment to righteous living (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).
3. **Proper Use of Spiritual Gifts:**
   * Teaches about the proper use and purpose of spiritual gifts within the body of Christ, emphasizing the need for order and edification (1 Corinthians 12-14).
4. **Resurrection Hope:**
   * Offers a profound theological reflection on the resurrection, highlighting its significance in the Christian faith and its impact on believers’ lives and conduct (1 Corinthians 15).

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