

- I. Paul and Sosthenes.**
 - A. Paul identifies himself as the writer of 1 Corinthians and states that he was called by God to be an apostle of Christ.**
 - 1. The word “apostle” is used in a general sense to refer to anyone who is sent to proclaim a message.**
 - 2. The word “apostle” is also used to refer to the group of men who were chosen by Jesus to proclaim his teachings and direct the work of the Early Church.**
 - 3. Jesus chose twelve of his first disciples to be apostles (see Luke 6:12-16).**
 - 4. Paul was also chosen to be an apostle (Acts 9:15).**
 - B. It’s possible that Sosthenes was Paul’s amanuensis – a person who writes down what someone else says.**
 - C. It’s also possible that Sosthenes was the synagogue ruler mentioned in Acts 18:17.**
 - D. Sosthenes was with Paul when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians.**
- II. The Church.**
 - A. When 1 Corinthians was written there was only one church in a town or city; denominations did not exist; the church was simply known as God’s church.**
 - B. Unfortunately, divisions within the church have caused spats and splits and now, 2,000 years later, we have all kinds of different churches.**
 - C. To tell if a church is good or bad you need to compare what the church teaches with the Bible.**
 - D. If what a church teaches is in harmony with the clear and undeniable truths of the Bible, then that church is a good church and followers of Jesus need to get involved in and support that church.**
 - E. The church is made up of people – people who have accepted Christ as Savior and Lord.**
- III. Set Apart to Be Holy.**
 - A. When you accept Christ as Savior and Lord you are set apart (sanctified) and given special treatment by God.**
 - B. With every privilege comes responsibility; those who are set apart by God are called to be holy – to live life God’s way (see 1 Pet. 2:9 and Heb. 12:14).**
 - C. God gives grace and peace to those who trust and obey him.**