

## Corinth at the Time of Paul:

A thriving city and at the time of Paul, the chief city of Greece both commercially and politically.

Isthmus of Corinth used as common trade route to bring goods from Italy and Spain to the west and from Asia Minor to Phoenicia and Egypt.

Isthmus of Corinth



## The Ancient Temple of Aphrodite

Goddess of Love

Located on the high Acropolis that loomed over the city of Corinth

Worshippers practiced religious prostitution.

At the time of Paul, 1000 sacred priestess (prostitutes) served in the temple



Corinth at the time of Paul:

When Paul visited the city, it was only 100 years old (rebuilt by the Roman empire in 44 BC due to value of trade route.)

Why Paul's letter to the Corinthians? Paul had received information concerning the state of the Church of Corinth.

Paul' purpose for writing: 1. restore the church in its areas of weakness, 2. correcting erroneous practices and divisions, 3. correct false teaching (particularly with the resurrection and abuse of the Lord's Supper), and 4. Answer questions.

Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians in 55 AD.

1 Corinthians is a letter relating to Church conduct. Many of the problems that confronted the Church of Corinth are still with us (immaturity, instability, jealousy, envy, sexual immorality, and misuse of spiritual gifts)

“Contains some of the most familiar and beloved chapters in the entire Bible.”

## 1 Corinthians 13 - New International Version (NIV)

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 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 do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man (adult), I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Wisdom from Pastor Stanley – habits to form and develop – none of this comes naturally – only chemistry and passion come naturally:

1 Cor 13	Pastor Stanley
Love is Patient	We are not to pressure the other person in to doing something that they do not want to do. Create time and margin needed by the other person.
Love is Kind (considerate)	Take into consideration what the other person feels
Love does not envy	“I don’t feel good about me and I am going to drag you down.” Don’t be angry when the other person enjoys success and happiness.
Love does not dishonor	God: I want you to transform my character so that I continue to honor so that I do not destroy what I will value later in my life.

Pastor Andy Stanley:  
“New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating”



“New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating” by Andy Stanley – notes from KH

Our society cast a very poor vision of sex and love.

God created relationships.

Sport dating/serial dating folks will not like this series. However, this series will be helpful in the next chapter in your life.

Your relational past will be revealed in the future. “The present, becomes the past, and then shows up in the future.”

People with problems get married. This is not a marriage problem. Rather is the process of bringing unresolved problems into a marriage. The big lie: If I just marry this person, all of the problems will go away and everything will be all right.

Chemistry alone does not keep the marriage together. In fact the one thing that holds a relationship together (chemistry) may start to fail.

Become the right person before you attempt to get into the right relationship.

**Are you the person that another person is looking for? Are you going to try to become the right person that someone else is looking for? Or are you merely hunting and seeking as part of competitive game?**

How do I become the right person? See list of daily skills contained in 1 Cor 13. None of this comes naturally. Passion and chemistry does come naturally.

Group exercise: Teams 1, 3, and 5:

\_\_\_\_\_ is a successful business woman in the city of Charlotte. She is a compassionate person, however she is demanding and has high expectations for herself and every one around her - often taking the my-way or the highway approach to situations. She has confided to you that as a 26 years old, she does not think she will ever find the right guy.

Suggested scripture:

1 Cor 13

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 5:33

1 Peter 3

+ any other scripture that you can think of

Things to present to the eGroup:

1. As a close friend, what would you tell her?
2. What does “becoming the right person that the other person is looking for” look like to her?

Group exercise: Teams 2 and 4:

\_\_\_\_\_ is 24 and has a good job + enjoys partying with his buddies on the weekends. He has had a few girl friends but nothing serious. He was dating a woman for about 18 months, but, that relationship recently ended because she felt that she was not a priority in his life. He complains to you that he would like to find a Ms. Right, but does not want to say farewell to his independence and time with buddies.

Suggested scripture:

1 Cor 13

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 5:33

1 Peter 3

+ any other scripture that you can think of

Things to present to the eGroup:

1. As a close friend, what would you tell him?
2. What does “becoming the right person that the other person is looking for” look like to him?

# Part 2

“New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating” by Andy Stanley – Continued:

“Frankin-marriage”: Chemistry was the only thing that held the marriage together.

A man loves a woman because of her radiant youth and hot body. What happens to the relationship when the couple ages?

So you're in love. What do you do? See 1 Cor 13:11.

Put away your childish ways

The secret is not finding the right person. It is about becoming the right person.

Historical view of women in 1<sup>st</sup> century AD:

1. Women = commodity (something to be traded in for something of greater value)
2. Women has no legal status
3. Prostitution was rampant in 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.
4. Roman men fearful of having kids with wife due to property disputes
5. Rome has to pass laws mandating marriage.
6. A diminished value of life

What does Paul say:

**She does not belong to you!. The teachings of Jesus were revolutionary.**

“New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating” by Andy Stanley – Continued:

Peter’s view on women: See 1 Peter 3:7.

**Revolutionary thought for a man in 1<sup>st</sup> Century: Use your position of might and power to honor and respect your wife.**

**“You can not date like a slave owner and then make the transition to marriage by simply putting on a tux.”**

Renew your mind and practice being the person that another person is looking for.

Every culture that has descended into atrocity started by calling names to people that were held as sub-standard. A society that calls women whores and bitches is a lower form of culture.

What erotic imagery really means to those that view it: 1. A real body is not good enough and 2. One body is not good enough and 3. Your wife’s body is not good enough. **This is destroying marriages all over the US.**

How are you to treat someone that you are supposed to honor?