



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?
7. What is an application to my life today ?

Survey of the Book of 1st Corinthians

1. The writer : The apostle (missionary) Paul signs his letter in chapter 1v1. He is not alone. Sosthenes is with him. Sosthenes was one of two former leaders in the synagogue of Corinth who believed in Jesus (cf Ac18v8 & 17). Others are mentioned in chapter 16v17-20, but Paul wrote with this his own hand according to chapter 16v21. He had stayed in contact with several people from the assembly of Christians in Corinth (cf 1v11, 5v1, 9, 7v1, 11v2, 17, 30, & 16v17-18).
2. The date : Thanks to all the personal names (cf 1v12, 14, 16v15 & 19) we know that Paul wrote this towards the end of his third missionary trip (cf Ac18v1, 18, 24-26, 19v1 & 8). He had been in Ephesus over two years (cf 16v8 & Ac 19v10) with enough time to write this epistle (letter) to the assembly in Corinth. This means it was probably written around the year 55 after Christ's birth.
3. The readers : The Christians of Corinth met in the home of Justus, right next to the synagogue (cf Ac18v7). Paul had stayed with them for a year and a half the first time (cf Ac18v11) and would have to come back a year later because of problems (cf 2Cor1v15). He would have to return a third time to help end the problems (cf Ac20v104 & 2Cor1v16). This was an assembly full of major problems (cf 1v11, 3v1, 5v1, 6v1, 6v16, 7v10, 10v14, 11v17, 14v23, 15v12 & 16v22).
4. The natural divisions : Five major problems -
 - ch1-4 Divisions
 - ch5-6 Debauchery
 - ch7-10 Debates
 - ch11-14 Disorder
 - ch15-16 Doctrine

5. The most repeated key word : "**brothers**" 36x
6. The message : "Brethren, do not be children in your thinking ; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature." 1 Corinthians 14v20 NASB
7. The application : Beware of false "brothers" who continue in sin despite their profession of faith in Christ. 1 Corinthians 5v11 NASB

Personal Observations :