



ANSWER GUIDE

Ancient: Episode 6

The Spread of Christianity

Discussion Questions and Answers

1. Why did the city of ancient Corinth face extreme moral corruption?

Ancient Corinth was a port city located on the Isthmus of Corinth, a strip of land connecting two larger landmasses in Greece. It stood as a high-traffic trade route and commanded two major seaports. Therefore, Corinth was one of the largest and richest port cities of the ancient world. However, the constant influx of goods, money, and people directly deprived the morality of Corinth. Sailors who stopped in Corinth largely contributed to its sexual corruption, and a “Corinthian girl” became a euphemism for a prostitute. This, coupled with Corinthian beliefs about the liberal conduct of their gods and goddesses, produced the decadence that Paul spoke out against.

2. Why were canals crucial in ancient times? What impact did the Corinth Canal have on the economic clout of the city?

Canals allowed cities strategic access for trade, which was otherwise impossible. With the construction of the Corinth Canal, Corinth became a crossroads for the exchange of goods, cultures, and peoples, which boosted its position as an economic powerhouse of the ancient world.

3. How did Corinthian beliefs regarding their gods and goddesses intensify their own moral corruption?

Corinthians were mimicking the behavior they believed their gods and goddesses exhibited, for their gods and goddesses were lustful and morally debased by nature. For example, the Greeks built a temple at the top of the Acrocorinth and dedicated it to Aphrodite, the goddess of sensuality. Historians believe there may have been as many as a thousand women who served inappropriately in the Temple of Aphrodite.

4. After numerous failed attempts to dig the Corinth Canal, why do you believe Corinthians struggled to continue its construction?

Before the construction of the canal, sailors had to remove their boats from the water and drag them across dry land using the ancient Diolkos Road. This was such a hassle that the need for a canal simply dominated the investment and labor it took to successfully construct it.

5. What were some of the challenges Paul faced as he worked to establish a church base in ancient Corinth?

Early Christians in Corinth wrestled with their old habits and wandered into spiritual misunderstandings. The Apostle Paul had to deal with the church getting drunk in communion and moral perversions that permeated the church community. However, despite the corruption that leaked into the early Corinthian church, Paul held a deep affection and love for the new believers there. They were real people genuinely interested in standing firm in their faith, but struggling to escape the corruption of their past and culture.