

Class ga

## **REJECTING DESIRE, ERASING DIFFERENCE**

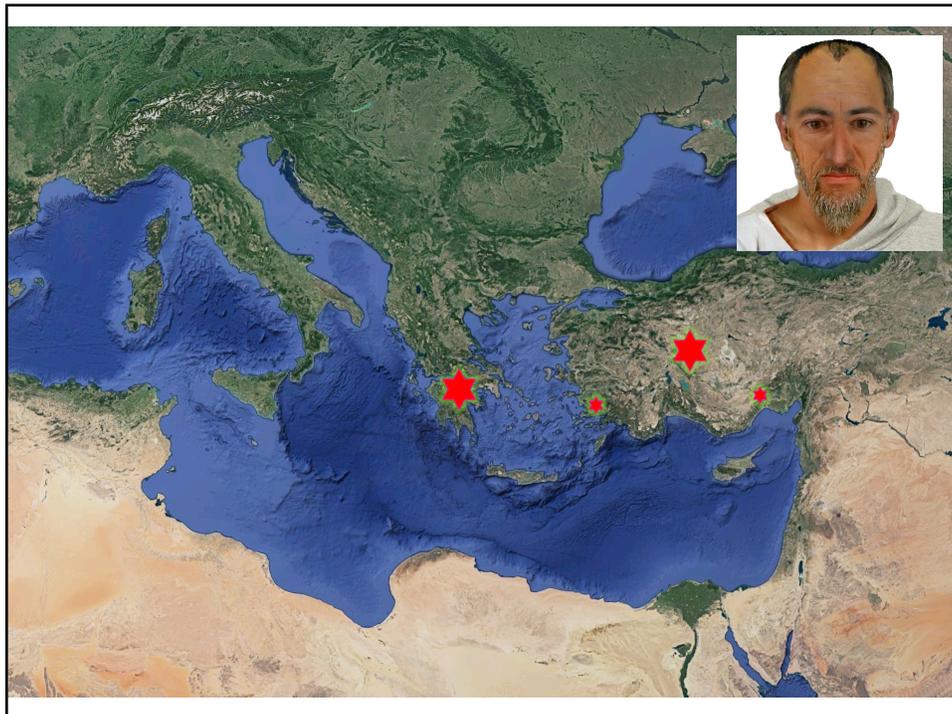
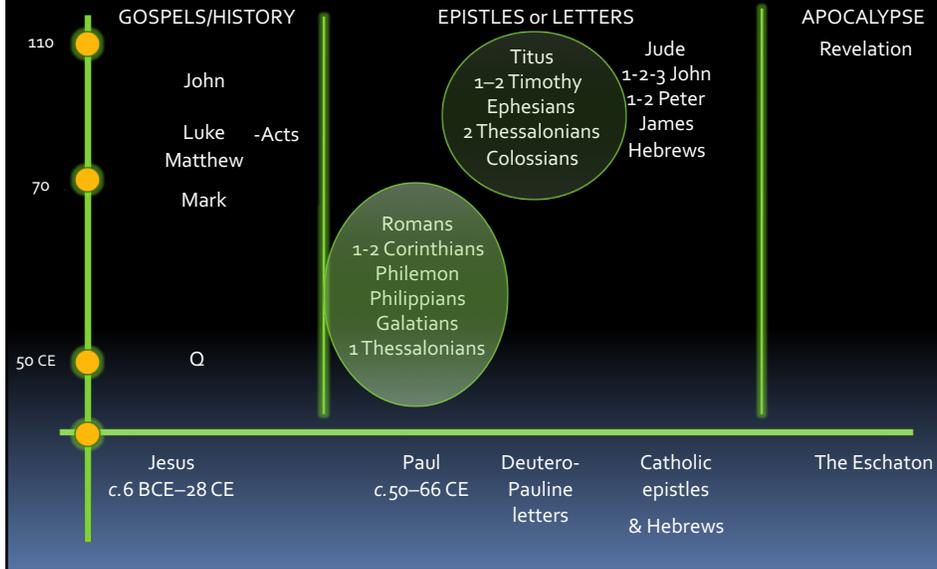
**1 CORINTHIANS & GALATIANS 3:28**

## **Outline**

- Paul: Background
- 1 Corinthians: Paul without Passion
  - Desire (not just sex) as a problem
  - Greek medical and philosophical notions of self-control
  - Nussbaum's attempt to recover Stoic rationality
- Galatians 3:28: no longer male and female

# Paul

## Impact on the New Testament



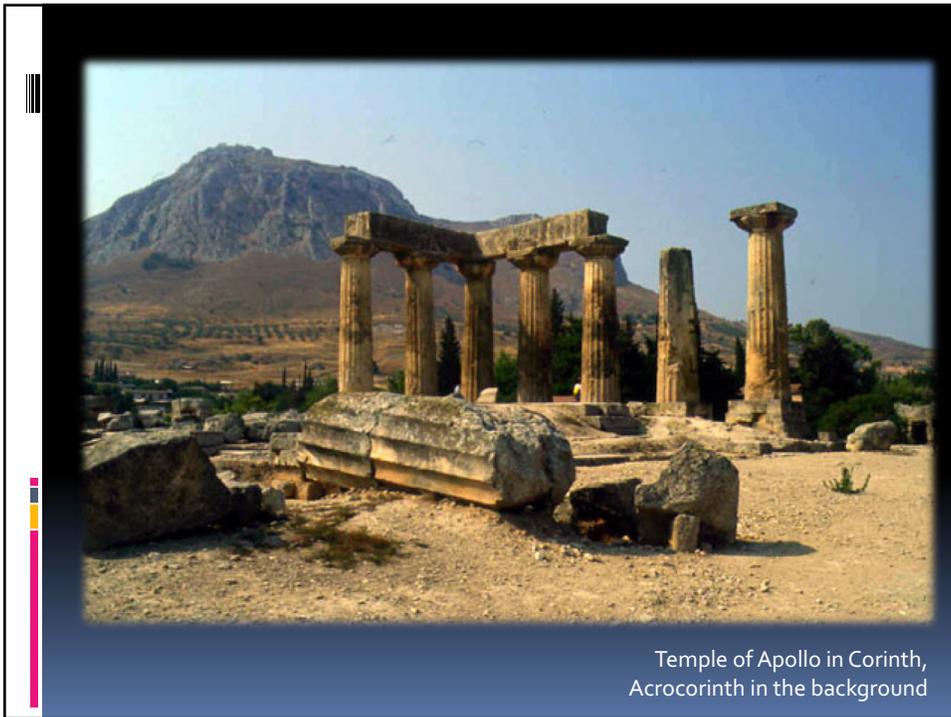
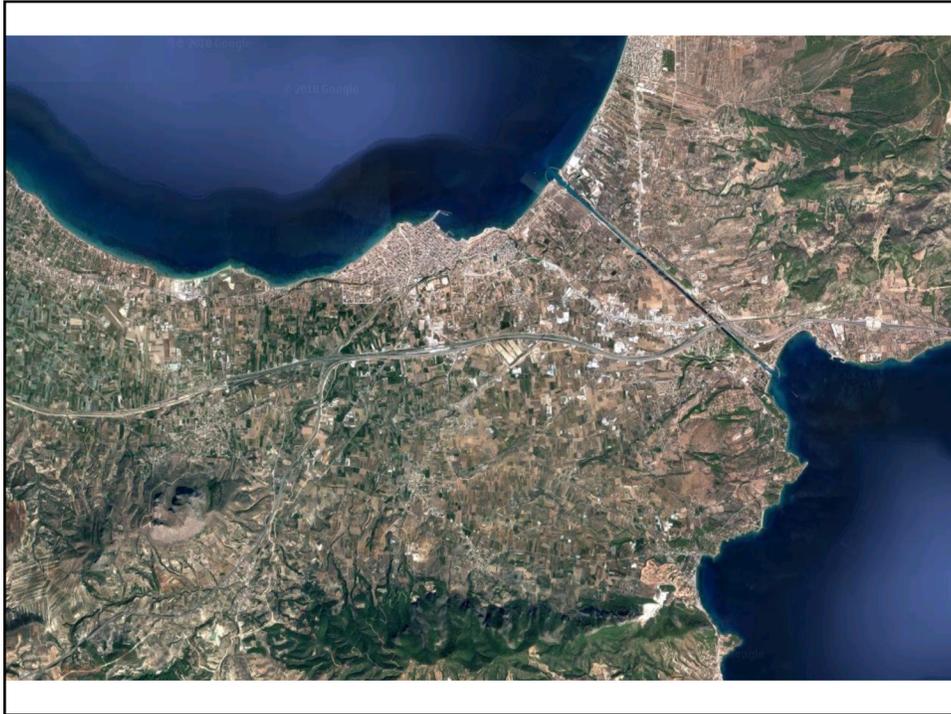
# 1 Corinthians

## Background



- **Date** 54 CE **WHEN**
- **Place** Written from Ephesus (Turkish coast) to the city of Corinth in Greece, a recently established Roman colony **WHERE**
- **Author** Paul, "apostle to the Gentiles" **WHO**
- **Audience** Corinthian Christians, former Jews and Gentiles, most of whom Paul had met **FOR WHOM**





Temple of Apollo in Corinth,  
Acrocorinth in the background

1 Corinthians 1:4-7

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ... <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

Galatians 3:28

**THERE IS NO LONGER MALE & FEMALE**

## Galatians Background



- Date 54/55 CE WHEN
- Place Written from Ephesus in Asia Minor WHERE
- Author Paul, "apostle to the Gentiles" WHO
- Audience Christians in central Turkey (Galatia), Jewish and Gentile FOR WHOM

## Restoration to the Androgyne

### Jesus as the Perfect Man-Woman

Galatians 3:27-28

<sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

- Christ "is" the original creation:

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

- Baptism in Christ means you are restored to that androgynous state

## The Roman Masculine Ideal



1. **Confident public speaker.** A mature Roman man was expected to be able to address and hold the attention of crowds of people. He was expected to speak boldly and frankly about his ideas and positions, and to some extent, to be able to persuade others of his ideas.
2. ***Pietas*.** This is a Latin term that we translate "piety," but it meant more than devotion to gods. In the Roman world, *pietas* refers to the duty and obedience that men were expected to show to the gods, their family and their country.
3. **Self-control (*enkrateia*).** This refers to the ability to control the passions (lust, anger) as well as to regulate one's behavior and moderate things like eating, drinking alcohol, sleeping, working, etc.
4. **Control of others.** The Roman Republic and later Empire were built on military victory. Rome prized the courage, skill, power, and sacrifice that brought success in battle, and a man extended this control in his family and in public service.

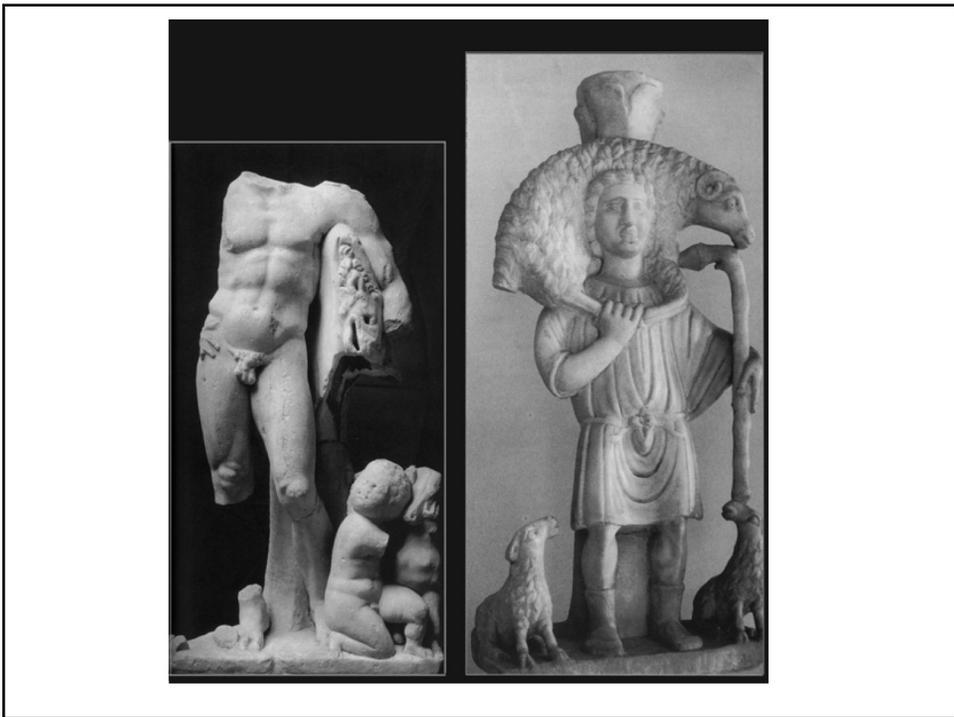
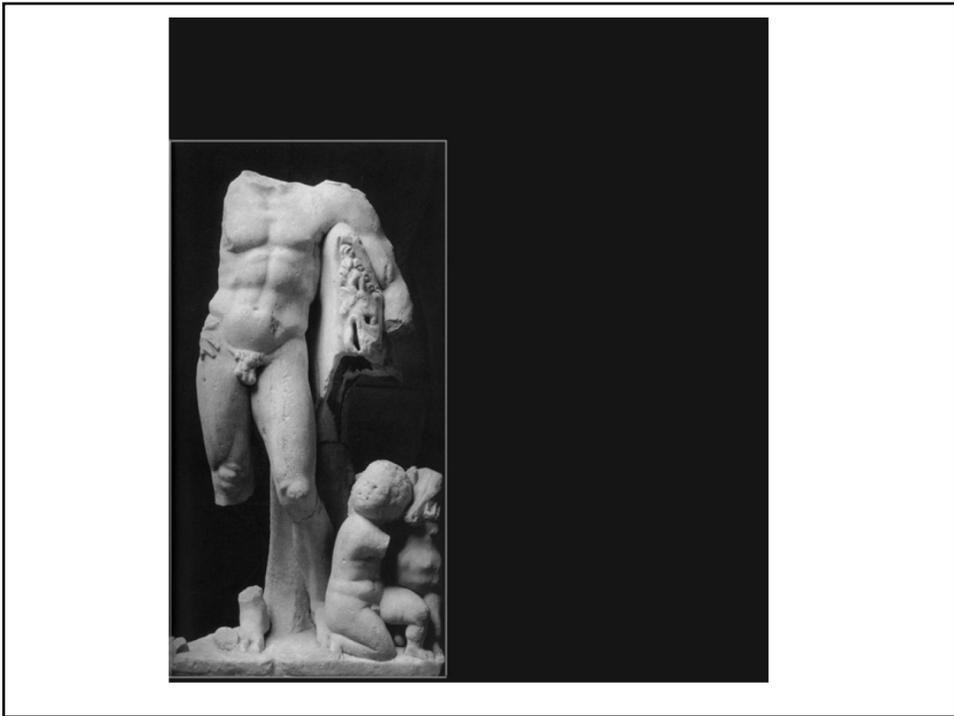
## Is Jesus Masculine, or Androgynous



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## A Lord in Slave's Form

### Jesus as the Master Slave

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Though humiliated and powerless, he is now exalted

