

## Questions:

1. What are the qualifications of Epistles?
2. How to read the New Testament letters?
3. What's the basic fact about these New Testament documents?
4. What is the most significant issue that divided the Corinthian Christians?
5. What is one of the most useful hermeneutical guidelines we can use consists in asking of each writing?

## Answers:

1. They are not simply personal letters; personal comments play a minor role, and the overall tone is solemn; some of them contain involved argumentation and even display the use of rhetorical techniques; they are written with a note of apostolic authority.
2. Reading the New Testament letters as wholes, historically, as literary documents, theologically, as authoritative documents.
3. They were not originally like modern books published for fairly general audiences. Rather they were genuine letters in which the authors, under divine inspiration, gave direct instruction to a specific church or group of churches. In God's wisdom and providence, Christians everywhere and at all times may profit from these letters as God's word to them as we
4. It has to do with differing ideas about sex and marriage.
5. We should ask: why did God include this book in the canon? What is its distinctive contribution to the whole teaching of Scripture? What is its place in the history of revelation?

## Terms:

1. Epistles: relatively long and formal documents.
2. Chiasm: an ordering of clauses in an A-B-B-A pattern.
3. Narratio: statement of the facts.

## Summary:

When we read the Epistles, we should read them in their historical and cultural context, and we have to be aware of their literary styles, plus we should read them in one sitting, meanwhile, we should think of their theological meanings. It's very important for us to figure out, which arguments are for their time, and which are good for all time, so we could apply those principles wisely to our today's life.