

Life today

Do you have a favourite advert? Advertisements on TV try to persuade us. They talk about the thing that they are selling until it seems beautiful, clever, or delicious. They don't tell lies, but they do try to make their product sound wonderful, when often it is quite ordinary.



Did you know?

At the time of the church in Corinth, people used to go to special shrines to hear from the god Apollo. Sometimes a woman who worked there spoke a message in a heavenly language and the priests would translate it. So the idea of speaking both human languages and the heavenly languages of the angels would not have seemed strange to the people living in Corinth.

Imagine

You are a member of the Christian community in Corinth. The church here is a small group that meets in someone's house. Today a stranger has travelled from another city to come and teach you more about the Christian faith. He is very impressive. He knows lots about the books of the Old Testament and can quote different verses off by heart. He knows both Greek and Hebrew and can explain what the different words mean.



When he prays, his words sound very powerful and holy. You are very impressed. But then it is time to share a meal together. You realise that this man expects to sit in the best place and be served first. When a small girl comes up to him, he sends her away. He is also impatient with an old lady who cannot hear very well. This man seemed very impressive when he was talking, but he is not so impressive in everyday life.



Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

A nugget to explore
Chapter 13, verse 1

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.