

"Building with God"

1 Corinthians 3

EVERY GROWING CHURCH IS A CHURCH WITH PROBLEMS

CORINTH: GIFTED CHURCH - FILLED w/ PROBLEMS w/ LEADERS

2 Main Problems – POWER Scramble: Fragmented, Leaders, Vision, Purpose

WISDOM – Think like World, Disregard Wisdom/Word of God > APOSTLE

SOLUTION – BOTH Problems – for ALMOST Every Problem in Church: CROSS

We preach Christ crucified...Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1.23-25

Ch 3 – WISDOM of World STRIPS Gospel of Real Power & leads to DIVISIONS

Transition > NATURE of Gospel & MEANING of TRUE WISDOM

THREE PICTURES OF CHURCH - family, field, and a temple

1st Picture of Church – FAMILY vs. 1 - 4

Chapter 2 ENDS with NOBLE PICTURE of MATURE BELIEVERS

But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2.16

Corinthians had NOT YET Risen to this STATURE of Wisdom & MATURITY

“You must be mature before you cackle”

Ghanaian Proverb

CAKLE what MATURE HEN does before it LAYS an EGG!

Problem - IMMATURITY - Not lack of Knowledge / LACK OF OBEDIENCE

NO SHAME in BEING an INFANT > WHEN you ARE an INFANT!

CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO ARGUE AND FIGHT

v. 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

When you GROW UP you are EXPECTED to PUT ON BIG BOY PANTS!

GOAL FOR FAMILY - MATURITY // GROWING UP IN CHRIST

SPIRITUAL MATURITY NOT always CONNECTED to PHYSICAL Maturity

"controlling yourself on the inside so much that your outside is under control"

Paul's....concern is singular: not to suggest classes of Christian or grades of spirituality, but to get them to stop thinking like the people of this present age... Paul, of course, does not mean to say they do not have the Spirit. They do; and that's the problem, because they are thinking and behaving otherwise. The argument has considerable bite, therefore, because his ultimate point is: "Stop it! People of the Spirit simply must stop behaving the way you are." Gordon Fee

SECOND PICTURE - a Field // GOAL - QUANTITY OF GROWTH

vs. 6,7 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

DIFFERENT MINISTERS // DIFFERENT MINISTRIES

CREDIT GOES TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

GOD'S SERVANTS are NOT in COMPETITION > FELLOW HARVESTERS

Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch..." they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. *They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats,* so that they began to sink. Luke 5.4-7

THIRD PICTURE - building a Temple

COMMON INTERPRETATION - PERSONAL APPLICATION

"how can I build on Jesus, make my life what God wants"

PAUL'S MEANING - NOT INDIVIDUAL - THE LOCAL CHURCH

WE will be Built Up as we are PART OF a Growing Christian church

MODERN INDIVIDUALISM - *"I don't need the church"*

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY - The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"  
And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 1 Corinthians 12:21

### 1. We Must Build on the Right Foundation

vs. 10,11 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

BAD HABIT OF SOME CHRISTIANS

*"Pastor So and So's church" or "Pastor That Other Guy's church"*

WHEN ZGC BECOMES "Mark Blair's church" we're ALL in BIG Trouble

JESUS PROMISED

I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it Matthew 16:18

WE ARE PART OF A CHURCH

...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone  
Ephesians 2:20

PAUL WAS THE APOSTLE WHO FOUNDED THE CHURCH IN CORINTH

Neither PAUL nor PETER were FOUNDATION - CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

SHAPE is DETERMINED by HIM > SIZE is DEPENDENT on US

WAY we LIVE > WAY we LOVE

Early 20's wanted to Preach Gospel – BF JOHN, Pastor's Son, Young Preacher

His Grandfather Louis Talbot – TALBOT Seminary, BIOLA U Named for him

80's Feeble, Dementia – Stayed with Family – Lying on Couch

Old preaching Buddy Sam Sutherland came to visit Louie

Sam “Hey Louie! Are we gonna go preach again!? Louie “aaaarrrrgggghhhh”

John & I – “That’s us in 50 years!” --- Getting closer every day

Servants of Church COME & GO > Jesus – Eternal, Immortal, Sovereign GOD

## 2. We Must Build with the Right Materials

vs. 12-17 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

PAUL talking about BEING FAITHFUL to SCRIPTURE- RIGHT DOCTRINE

CHEAP MATERIALS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A TEMPLE

We're TO BE MESSENGERS OF THE WORD - NOT MANIPULATORS OF IT

DWIGHT L. MOODY used to say that converts should be WEIGHED as

well as counted - SEE IF THERE IS ANY SUBSTANCE

WE MUST KNOW THE WORD AND MAKE IT KNOWN  
IT IS NOT EASY - DEMANDING TASK

G. CAMPBELL MORGAN - when asked about the secret of his success as a preacher of the word answered "*work, hard work, and again work*"

WOOD, HAY, & STRAW ARE EASY TO FIND - NOT DIFFICULT TO GET  
GET GOLD, SILVER, AND JEWELS YOU MUST DIG

"As you lay your bed, so you must lie on it." Ghanaian Proverb

TASK OF EVERY MEMBER OF CHURCH - GROW to MATURITY in CHRIST

AMY CARMICHEAL - VETERAN MISSIONARY TO INDIA

"the work will never go deeper, that we have gone ourselves" Amy Carmichael

ETERNALLY SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY

v. 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him.

### 3. We Must build According to the Right Plan

vs. 18-20 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS DIFFERENT THAN THE WORLD

YOU CANNOT RUN IT THE WAY YOU RUN A BUSINESS

BUSINESS depend on Promotion, Prestige, Influence, Money & Important people

CHURCH depend on Prayer, Power of Spirit, Humility, Sacrifice, and Service

THINGS THE WORLD KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT  
 CHURCH that RUNS like BUSINESS MAY HAVE SUCCESS IN THIS WORLD  
 WILL TURN TO ASHES IN ETERNITY

#### 4. We Must Build with the Right Motive

vs. 21-23 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

BOASTING OF MEN, PROGRAMS, SUCCESS, BUILDINGS

CORINTHIANS WERE VERY PROUD CHRISTIANS

FOOLISH to LINE up Behind PROUD Leader > DIVIDE and FIGHT in Family  
 LEADERS belong to THEM – ALL Belongs to THEM – All Belongs to CHRIST

Funeral of Bp Ephriam Adrale, Madi and West Nile Diocese, Church of Uganda

HUMBLE SERVANT – Short TENURE as Bishop – NO HITS on Google!

Neighbor BISHOP preached Funeral Sermon > These Verses were TEXT

FACTIONS Forming > CANDIDATES behind WHO would be NEXT Bishop

ADRALE – DRAMANI – ENYABO – ANGUYO – FACTIONS Forming

Who are THEY? JUST MEN – MERE SERVANTS – Who will ALL PASS

Preacher STOOD in Front of BODY of Dead Bishop Adrale > All are Yours!!

The Corinthians have everything they could legitimately need or want in Jesus. Indeed, Paul turns their slogan upside down. They do not belong to human leaders, those leaders, as servants (v. 5), belong to them, as does everything else in all creation, present and future, inasmuch as they are in Christ who shares in all the Father's sovereignty.

Craig Blomberg

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Psalm 115:1

Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

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1 Corinthians 3.<sup>1</sup>But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? <sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. <sup>11</sup>For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup>each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. <sup>14</sup>If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup>If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. <sup>18</sup>Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. <sup>19</sup>For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” <sup>20</sup>and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” <sup>21</sup>So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, <sup>22</sup>whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, <sup>23</sup>and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.