

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Planting, Watering, and Building
1 Cor 3

Last time...Jesus Christ and Him crucified
The Gospel
All we need to know

This time...spiritual growth, both as individuals and the Church
Our co-laboring with God of planting, watering, and building

We will be in 1 Cor 3

v1-3 spiritual...carnal:

Paul is writing a letter of correction to family, a church he planted about 4 years
previously
He has already said Ch 1:10-13

A major issue: a lack of spiritual maturity resulting in envy, strife, and division

They remain “babes in Christ”, spiritual infants
The Corinthians were “acting like children”, immature and self-centered
They are walking in the flesh, not in the Spirit

They should be meat-eaters, but they cannot digest anything stronger than milk
Consider the dietary requirements for infants and toddlers
We are nourished by the milk but we grow strong by the meat...
once our digestive system matures
Eloise vs Olivia
Eloise is shifting to solids as she grows
Olivia needs solids to grow

The church at Corinth is walking in the flesh and not in the Spirit

- envying/jealousy
- strife
- division

James 3:16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and
every evil work

Rom 16:17-18

These conditions of the heart are tell-tale signs of carnality (fruit of the flesh).

They are living more like unregenerate people than like children of God,
unfruitful in their walk

Grieving the Holy Spirit

Eph 4:30-31 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1 Peter 2:1-3 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

This issue...a lack of spiritual maturity resulting in envy, strife, and division...
exists in

- individuals...James 1:8
- families...parents and their children
- families...churches

Spiritual maturity is not a function of time/age, but of sanctification

- submission
- “not my will done, but Your will done, Lord”
- John 3:30
- Matt 16:24-25

Spiritual growth is expected, is to be “natural” for a child of God

Heb 5:11-14

Just as physical growth is natural by a change in diet...Olivia vs Eloise...
so is spiritual growth

Yet, the flesh and the spirit are contrary one to the other so that we cannot do the things that we should

i.e. rather than walking in the Spirit with the Lord, walking in the flesh
and attempting to fulfill the insatiable lusts of the flesh

The flesh runs from the Father, the Spirit runs to the Father

Why does a child run from the Father?

He/She wants what he/she wants, his/her will be done

Not only does that grieve the Father who is loving, kind, gracious, and merciful, but it never ends well for the child i.e. he/she ends up grieved as well

The flesh is foolish, the Spirit is wise

It is in the child's best interest to run to the Father and to stay close

We need to take stock of our spiritual maturity; the pace of sanctification depends on us

How long have I been born-again...

Do I eat meat or do I still require milk?

If we desire to be stronger – who wants to remain an infant? – then we need to:

- eat right (daily bread, study vs only read, Ps 1:1-3)
- exercise (pray, doers not just hearers of the Word, serve the Lord)

v4-7 Paul...Apollos:

Their envying, strife, and divisions are in part over servants of God, each with their individual callings from the Lord.

This work of God...

the salvation of souls, whosoever will believe His testimony...

was started by the Son of God

And this work of God is continued by the Holy Spirit of God using the children of God

John 1:12-13

Acts 1:1-2

Rom 10:9-15

preaching in word and deed...say and do

As wrong as it is to shoot the messenger, it is wrong to glorify the messenger

The Author of the message is to be the focal point of our attention and devotion

Paul the servant of God was called to plant the church

Apollos the servant of God was called to nurture and cultivate what had been planted

In both cases, God was doing the work in individual lives and in the body as a whole

Paul and Apollos were workers in the harvest, working for the Lord of the harvest

The workers, faithful to their calling and working by the power of the Holy Spirit, have nothing to boast about other than the Lord

1 Cor 1:31

God gets ALL the glory
Squabbling over the workers dishonors the Lord
Identifying the church by the workers does also
 “Paul’s church”
 “Apollos’ church”
 “Doug’s church”
 etc
2 Cor 1:24

v8 are one...own reward...own labor:

The callings of God are different but there is no distinction between them –
 all are part of the same work, the work of God to save souls and raise
 children

Every worker...a clay vessel submitting to the will of the Potter...
 has his/her own assignment and will be given his/her own
 “pay for service”

Ruth 2:12 (Ruth gleaning in the field of Boaz, the Lord of the harvest
being blessed by Naomi) The LORD recompense thy work,
and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel,
under whose wings thou art come to trust.

Ps 19:11 (The Word of God) Moreover by them is thy servant
warned: *and* in keeping of them *there is* great reward.

Matt 5:10-12 Blessed *are they which are persecuted for righteousness'*
sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye,
when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say
all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in
heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were
before you.

Matt 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye?
do not even the publicans the same?

Prov 11:18b him that soweth righteousness *shall be* a sure reward.

Prov 25:21-22 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he
be thirsty, give him water to drink. For thou shalt heap
coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward
thee

Col 3:23-24 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Psa 103:8-10 The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep *his anger* for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

v9 laborers together:

We...Paul, Apollos, the church...are all workers with God,
one with God as He does His work of grace using His children

Ye...the church...are God's (Acts 20:28)

- husbandry...cultivated plant/farm (John 15:1-8)
- building...Temple on earth (1 Cor 6:19-20)

v10-11 foundation:

By the grace of God...a gift from God and not a wage earned by Paul's merit...
the Apostle was called to lay the foundation upon which the church was to be built – Jesus Christ

Isa 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Matt 16:18

The foundation: the most critical part of a building

When have a solid foundation you have a solid building

- there is only one foundation per building
there is only one Lord, the Rock that cannot be moved,
all other ground is sinking sand
- the foundation is the footings that are sunk into the ground...
not the slab that rests on the footings
the slab is where we walk, it can crack...
but the foundation/bedrock carries the load
- the foundation ensures the integrity and dictates the size of the building that can be built upon it
- the wider and deeper the foundation, the bigger and the taller the building can be built
the more we mature in the Lord, the more He can use us

- the foundation distributes the weight so the slab is not crushed
Matt 11:28
1 Peter 5:7
1 John 1:9 with Heb 12:1
as we walk, we stumble, but the Lord carries us and our burdens
because He cares for us

And as co-laborers with God (v9), we, His children, are building the Father's house/building according to His "building code" (Word)
Just as builders in AZ must build according to certain codes put in place for safety, we must build according God's code for our spiritual safety

v12-15 if any man build...made manifest:

We followers of Jesus Christ build on the foundation of Jesus Christ with
either common, plentiful materials (flesh)
or rare and precious materials (Spirit)

Every "house" (individuals, Church) has both kinds of building materials
All, no doubt, are painted up nice and pretty, given a beautiful facade

Every house must pass inspection by the all-seeing Master Architect to determine
whether or not it meets code

Fire is His means of inspecting the worth of the house

By the fire the nature of the building materials beneath the pretty façade is
going to be made obvious

This "house fire" takes place at the judgment seat of Christ

Rom 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set
at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the
judgment seat of Christ.

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;
that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body,
according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad

That which is of Jesus will remain, purified/refined and strengthened

That which is of Self will burn like the grass in a field and like the early morning
mist/vapor

But...the foundation is unaffected

Heb 13:8

1 John 5:9-12

The judgment of fire on our house's building materials is NOT about salvation,
which has been purchased and secured by Jesus Christ,
but about rewards (v8)

There will be no heavenly reward for that which is of Self but there will be
rewards for that which is Jesus
Salvation is not a reward, it is a gift (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 5:20)
Saved men receive rewards in heaven

v16-17 ye are the temple of God:

Paul asks a pointed question, probably with the sharp edge of rebuke
This was recorded several decades before the destruction of the Temple in
Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Romans, the fulfillment of Jesus'
prophesy in Matt 24:1-2

After the promise of the Father (Luke 24:49, Acts 2:1-4), being built by God
using His children is His Temple on earth – the Church

Acts 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein,
seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth
not in temples made with hands

John 14:17

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual
house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual
sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ

With the rebuke comes a warning: to not defile God's building

To labor so will have its reward...ruin, spoiling, withering, burned at the
judgement seat of Christ

Do we think of the Church as God does – holy?

Separate from the world, separate unto the Lord

Do we living stones live our lives before God and man as God commands –
holy (1 Peter 1:16)?

So let us guard our eye gates and ear gates and mouth gates so His temple is not
defiled by the pollution of the world

Let us guard our hearts and souls and minds against the onslaught of a vicious
enemy, the liar and slanderer and deceiver

v18-20 this world:

The house of God...the Church and the individual believer...is NOT to be
worldly, of this world

Phil 2:12-16

The wisdom of the world has no place in the Church, the temple of God

James 3:13-18

Rom 12:1-2

Let no person think otherwise lest they deceive themselves

James 1:22

Because that which is of this world is wood, hay, and stubble (v12) – worthless

And there is no fooling the all-seeing, all-knowing Almighty God, either now or when we stand before Him personally

v21-23 let no man glory in men:

Therefore, do not boast of Self or any person other than Jesus Christ

1 Cor 1:31

We are as the grass and as the vapor (James 4:14b), Jesus Christ is forever (Heb 13:8)

He has purchased us with His blood (1 Peter 2:9-10), we were created (and then re-created by grace thru faith) for His pleasure (Rev 4:11)

We a joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17, 32)

We are Christ's and Christ is God the Father's

Therefore we are the Father's

We must bear the Family resemblance!

Run to the Father and stay close!

Take-away

It matters how we think, speak, and act before God and man

Let us wake up!

Rom 13:11-14

Let us decrease so Jesus may increase

Let us grow and mature in our walks with the Lord...by greater and greater submission to His will

Let us examine our "building"

Am I fruitful?

Am I salt and light?

Have I blended into the world around me?

Let us build wisely!!!!!!