

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 30TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

### **GROW UP (1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-4)**

#### **SOMETIMES FAMILY MUST TALK HONESTLY**

Paul addresses the church as "brothers and sisters." He loves this church so much that he wants them to grow up and out of their childish ways. He wants to speak to them as adults but has to keep things on the bottom shelf because of their immaturity.

- Some churches stay perpetually immature which doesn't honor the Lord or His Word.

#### **A CHILD IS KNOWN BY HIS BEHAVIOR**

The church couldn't handle the more important matters that Paul wanted to address because of their envy and arguing over who they followed. Instead of glorifying Jesus, they lifted up their favorite teacher which is what the world does.

- **A worldly church fights each other over preferences, not spreading the gospel.**

#### **WHAT KIND OF HUMANS ARE WE?**

There are multiple kinds of humans walking the earth. One type is the worldly non-believer. Another type is the worldly Christian who lives according to the flesh. There's also the Christian who lives obediently according to the Spirit and the Word.

- We have to fight the **world**, our **flesh**, and the **devil** to remain Spirit-empowered.

### **GROWTH (1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9)**

#### **GOD CHOOSES TO USE US FOR HIS GLORY**

While God could simply touch each heart without the use of people, He loves to use us in His plan of changing the world. Instead of people making much of the messengers, Paul wants people to make much of God.

- **We should be grateful for God's plan of using us as His instruments to see sinners become Christ-followers.**

#### **THERE'S NO ROOM FOR PRIDE**

God is decisive in our salvation. While He ordains the means to salvation, God alone gets the credit. No one gets greater glory as the one who plants the seed of the gospel or waters that seed. All God expects from us is faithfulness. We leave the results to Him.

- **The gospel is God's; the workers are God's; and the church is God's.**

### **FOUNDATIONS (1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-17)**

#### **BUILDING A CHURCH IS HARD WORK**

While God gets the glory for the church, He uses people to lead the church. Paul founded the Corinthian church by the grace of God alone. He didn't deserve to be the founder, but God graciously used Paul.

- **Church leaders humbly know that without God's grace, their work will fail, no matter their "success."**

#### **BY GOD'S GRACE OTHERS WILL FOLLOW US**

The church is dependent upon no one but Jesus. We work hard while we have breath in our lungs, but we realize that we are temporary stewards over God's church. Paul may have been the church's earthly founder, but Paul recognized that others would continue to build the church after him.

- **Jesus is necessary, not Paul...or you.**

#### **THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH**

Paul laid the foundation but he's not **the** foundation. Neither Paul, Apollos, or Peter were the foundations of the church: Jesus alone is the foundation. The gospel that proclaims the life, death, burial, resurrection, and return of Jesus is the foundation for the church.

- **Jesus is the church's only foundation.**

#### **OUR BUILDING WILL BE INSPECTED**

The seriousness of what we do in the church is shown by the account we will give on that day. While those who trust in Jesus will not be judged according to salvation, we will be held accountable for the work we did for the Lord.

- **Accountability shouldn't lead to fear but to a work ethic that magnifies the eternal over the temporal.**

#### **GOD SEES IT ALL**

Not only will the quality of our work be revealed, so will the motives behind the work we've done. This isn't a salvation judgment because even if we didn't do anything well to advance the Kingdom, if we're trusting in Jesus for our salvation, we will be saved.

- **Living just to "squeak" into heaven is a dangerous gamble.**
- **Matthew 7:21-23**

### **GOD LIVES IN US; WE SHOULD LIVE LIKE IT**

We don't have to go to a temple to experience the presence of God. God lives in us through the Holy Spirit. The church is a gathering of "little temples" filled with God's presence.

- **What we do to our bodies, to others, and to the church is of great, even deadly importance to God.**

### **WISDOM? (1 CORINTHIANS 3:18-23)**

#### **DON'T BE FOOLISH IN YOUR THINKING**

Paul reminds the Corinthians what true wisdom is and what it's not. True wisdom doesn't elevate people over Jesus and doesn't create personality factions within the church. Since OT times, people have been caught up in their wisdom only for it to be revealed as foolishness by God.

- **Will we choose God or the world?**

#### **TRUE WISDOM BOASTS IN GOD AND HIS GIFTS**

God has given us everything. We have Jesus. We have breath in our lungs. We have hope when we die. We have a resurrection body and new heavens and earth coming. We have the good things of this world to enjoy, including our church family and leaders: all from God.

- **Does your boasting show wisdom?**

#### **HOW IS YOUR GROWTH IN JESUS?**

- **Are you spending daily time in God's Word and obeying it, praying, attending church, submitting to accountability through small groups or a discipleship relationship, and serving?**
- Are you filled with the Spirit so that you exhibit His fruit, or do you give in to the desires of your flesh?

#### **WHAT GIVES YOU JOY?**

- **Do you rejoice over the salvation of others and weep over the lostness of our city?**
- Do you seek to take the gospel to others both by words and by actions, spreading seeds and watering seeds?
- What is your response when you think of all God has done for you in Jesus: **boredom** or **amazement**?

#### **WHERE'S YOUR TREASURE?**

- **How much do you love this world and the things of it?**
- Do you love and respect your leaders as gifts from God?
- Do you humbly expect to see much treasure in heaven?
- **Do God's good gifts on earth create an expectation to see Him soon?**