

## 1 Corinthians 3—Be Careful How You Build

- **Intro:**

- Conversation about wisdom and folly.
- Conversation about natural v. spiritual people
- v.18-23—Paul goes back to this concept of wisdom and folly to bookend his thought. Today's text has everything to do with wisdom v. folly and what the ultimate consequence of each is.

The Problem—IMMATURE CHRISTIANS WERE BUILDING THEIR LIVES AND THEIR CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE FLESH RATHER THAN THE SPIRIT.

Main Idea—The day of ultimate Judgement is coming so walk in wisdom and be careful to build your life and church on Christ alone.

- **Build Your Life in a Way that Counts for Eternity (v.1-4)**
- **Spiritual Maturity has a Spectrum—Don't Stay in Infancy (v.1-3)**
  - v.1-3—there are "spiritual infants" in this place. Ever been around an infant? It's not clean.
    - The church is ALWAYS filled with a spectrum of maturity. That is a GREAT sign. New Christians. Exploring the Faith. Seasoned believers.
    - It's ok to not be ok, it's just not ok to stay there!
    - The danger we run in realizing the church has a diversity of maturity is we begin to domesticate and tolerate immaturity! We NEVER do this in other areas of life.
      - We are glad that humans don't maintain the same food source for all of life, right!?
- **Progress into Maturity by Walking in the Spirit (v.3-4)**
  - v. 3-4—"behaving only in a human way....are you not being merely human?"
    - What Paul is driving toward is that we people are MORE than flesh and blood—we are soul...we are spirit!
      - We aren't New Agers who are trying to escape this reality, enter into the complete spiritual realm and reach Nirvana.
      - We aren't just living like what we can see and touch and feel right now is all that matters.
        - v3—that is what walking in the flesh looks like. Just living in sin, walking in the flesh, indulging all the senses. That's called the flesh and that is spiritual IMMATURITY.
        - Colossians 2:6—AS you received the Lord Jesus...so WALK in him.

- This is the picture of Christian maturity and this is exactly NOT what these believers are doing!
- These Corinthian believers are in the SPIRITUAL, not NATURAL category, yet that are acting like they are in the NATURAL category.
  - Problem: CARNALITY STUNTS GROWTH!
    - Ephesians 5:9-12—Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.
    - PATHWAY TO MATURITY—We aren't indulging sin. We aren't living like our sinful desires are the only thing that matters. We aren't bragging about our sin. We are asking, "what will please Jesus?" We are walking in LIGHT!
  - SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY = FAITH WITH AN EMERGENCY BREAK
    - E-BREAK—partying, getting drunk every now and then, sleeping with that girlfriend, skimping on taxes, getting baptized, joining a church.
    - You don't need to get SAVED again, you just need to get SERIOUS again. We need to be growing up around here—growing up into godliness by the power of the Spirit.
    - Galatians 4:19—my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!"
- Build the Church in a Way that Counts for Eternity (v.5-23)
  - We put the Lord in the limelight (v.5-9)
    - Brings it back up because they are distracted and divided over these leaders!
      - People = laborers in the church
      - God = Lord in the church
  - We lay Jesus at the foundation (v.10-15)
    - Jesus is the only building material able to withstand the flame of judgment.
    - Matthew 21:42—the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- We build with care because we are the temple (v.16-17)
  - All of the "you's" here are PLURAL—he is talking to the church
    - Later in Ch. 6 he will talk about individuals as the temple.
  - These couple verses are the intersection of why it matters FOR THE WORLD that we build our lives and our churches CAREFULLY!
    - Why talk about temple here?
      - Jews—they hear the talk in v.12 about precious metals and stones and they're thinking OT temple (COME AND SEE....COME IN AND WORSHIP)

- Gentiles—they hear talk of temple and they look outside to temples of cult prostitution and other false-worship.
- Gospel Temple—the people of God pursuing purity and Christ-Centeredness EMBODY the presence of God as they move OUTWARD in life.
  - God demonstrates his presence and calls others into it as his people live among the world as CARRIERS of his presence.
- The local church is God's ONLY PLAN for moving his presence and the good news of his Son into the darkness and lostness of the world.
  - God is SERIOUS about his church! The church is not a game.
    - v.17—If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him.
- Building with gospel-centered, Christ-focused care is ULTIMATE wisdom and building with man-centered, self-focus is ULTIMATE foolishness.
  - Mark 8:36—For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?
  - Read v.14-15
  - What is more foolish than to spend your life building your life on foundations and with materials that WILL NOT LAST FOR ETERNITY?
    - Time, Spouses, Kids, Hobbies, Jobs, Vacations, Hobbies, Interests...minus Jesus = ULTIMATELY WORTHLESS.
  - What is more foolish than to spend our lives and time and energy around here building this church on foundations and with material that WILL NOT LAST FOR ETERNITY?
    - Community Groups, programs, mission trips, outreach projects, sermon series, counseling sessions, worship sets...minus Jesus = ULTIMATELY WORTHLESS!