

On Divisions in the Church - 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

Topics: Church, Divisions, Foundation, Growth, Holy Spirit, Quarrels, Testing, Wisdom, World

Open It

1. How have you changed since you were a child?
2. Why is laying a strong foundation important in building a house?
- * 3. What foundational truths did you learn in school?

Explore It

4. Why did Paul call the Corinthians “mere infants”? (3:1-3)
5. What were the Corinthians like? (3:3-5)
6. What traits did the Corinthians have that made them worldly? (3:3-5)
7. How did Paul want his readers to view both Apollos and himself? Why? (3:5-7)
8. What is each Christian worker’s purpose in ministering to others? (3:8)
9. How is the person who plants like the person who waters? (3:8-9)
10. Who were the “fellow workers” who worked together on the Corinthian “field” or “building”? (3:9)
- * 11. What made Paul and Apollos equals under God? (3:9)
12. What is the foundation of the church? (3:11)
- * 13. What is like either gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw? How? (3:12-14)
- * 14. What happens to the person who builds in others’ lives? (3:13-15)
15. What important fact had the Corinthians failed to appreciate? (3:16)
16. Why should we abandon the world’s idea of wisdom? (3:19)
17. Why were the Corinthians to stop boasting about the individual leaders they followed? (3:21-23)

Get It

18. What is our role in God’s work?
19. What does it mean to plant and water God’s Word in others?
20. How do we plant and water God’s Word in others?
21. What is your particular role in God’s work?
22. In what ways are you able to plant and water God’s Word in others?
23. What opportunities do you have to plant and water God’s Word in others?
24. How is Christian teaching and discipleship like building a building?
- * 25. How can a person’s efforts in teaching or discipleship be like gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw?
26. In what ways can Christians be influenced by the wisdom of the world?
27. What does it mean that a Christian is God’s temple?
28. How should our attitudes and actions be influenced by the fact that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit?
29. What are some implications of the fact that God’s Spirit lives in every Christian?
30. How could a person destroy God’s temple?
31. How are Christians who are involved in discipleship similar to builders?
- * 32. In what ways should all Christians point others to Christ alone?
33. What responsibility do Christians not involved in formal leadership have for building up God’s church?
34. What can you do to help build up the church in some way?

Apply It

- * 35. What is one way you can point another person to Christ this week?

36. In whose life do you want to build God's Word? How can you start?

37. What need could you meet in your church over the next month to build up other Christians?