



TEXT: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

A stern REMINDER – WE, the church, are God’s TEMPLE and therefore, PRECIOUS: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

- 1) **It IS POSSIBLE to DESTROY a local church through spiritual apathy, laziness, ungodliness, conflict, etc.** (See Revelation 2-3)
- 2) **It is NOT POSSIBLE to DESTROY THE CHURCH:** Matthew 16:18

A severe WARNING of DANGERS that may destroy the local Church:

- 1) **SELF-DECEPTION:** 1 Corinthians 3:18a
 - a) **DON’T trust your NATURAL HEART/INCLINATIONS:** Jer. 17:9
 - b) **DON’T listen when your FLESH tells you that there is no God (or that you can act like He isn’t there.):** Psalm 14:1
 - c) **DON’T DENY your own SINFULNESS:** 1 John 1:8
 - d) **DON’T LIVE in HYPOCRISY:** James 1:26
 - e) **DON’T VIEW earthly worldviews / arguments as MORALLY NEUTRAL:** 2 Timothy 3:13
- 2) **PRIDE:** 1 Corinthians 3:18b. See also: Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 5:21; Jeremiah 8:8-9; Romans 12:17
 - a) **You DON’T have it ALL FIGURED OUT:** Proverbs 3:7
 - b) **You DON’T KNOW EVERYTHING you think you know:** 1 Cor 8:2
 - c) **You AREN’T the SOLUTION:** Galatians 6:3
 - d) **You AREN’T as STRONG as you think you are:** 1 Cor. 10:12
 - e) **You NEED JESUS (now):** Matthew 11:25–26. See: James 1:5-8
- 3) **HUMAN WISDOM (personalities, practices, priorities, systems, etc.):** 1 Corinthians 3:19 Quoted from Job 5:13
 - a) **God KNOWS our own wisdom is FUTILE (EMPTY):** 1 Cor. 3:20. See also: Psalm 94:11
 - b) **God is ACTIVELY OPPOSED to US living out of OUR OWN wisdom:** 1 Corinthians 1:19. See also: Isaiah 29:14

- c) **God has PROVIDED a BETTER WISDOM for US to live BY and FOR:** 1 Corinthians 1:21–24
 - i) **We don’t need the Gospel + human wisdom**
 - ii) **We don’t build our lives on human wisdom + the Gospel**
 - iii) **We don’t remove truth from the Gospel when it contradicts human wisdom (Gospel – human wisdom)**
- 4) **TRIBALISM (US vs THEM):** 1 Corinthians 3:21a
 - a) **DON’T find your IDENTITY, SELF-JUSTIFICATION, SATISFACTION in FACTIONS built around men:** 1 Cor. 3:3–4 See also: 1:11-13
 - b) **God MAY use SERVANTS but HE ALONE can give us NEW identities, absolution, and satisfaction (LIFE):** 1 Cor. 3:5–6

A strong ENCOURAGEMENT to build the CHURCH WELL, FAITHFULLY and ZEALOUSLY:

- 1) **PLACE your FAITH in God’s good, sufficient, generous, timely and gracious PROVISION:** 1 Corinthians 3:21b
 - a) **He has ALREADY GIVEN you ALL you NEED to live a GODLY LIFE:** 2 Peter 1:3 See also: Romans 8:32
 - b) **God will ALWAYS provide for ALL our NEEDS:** Psalm 23:1. See also: Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19
 - c) **He is NOT HOLDING OUT on giving you the BEST:** Psalm 84:11b See also: Psalm 34:9-10; Matthew 7:11
 - d) **God wants you to EXPERIENCE the ABUNDANCE of His PROVISION:** 1 Corinthians 1:4-5, 7. See also: John 10:10
- 2) **STEWARDSHIP ALL of God’s good GIFTS:** 1 Cor. 3:21–22. See also: 4:1-2
 - a) **Spiritual LEADERS and DISCIPLERS:** Ephesians 4:11–12
 - b) **The CREATED WORLD (Relationships, Sex, Food, Wine, material Goods, Art, Music, Nature, etc):** 1 Tim 4:4-5; 6:17. See also: Acts 14:17; 1 Tim 4:3
 - c) **CIRCUMSTANCES (Places, People, Situations, Employment, Illness, etc.):** Romans 8:28 See also: Gen. 50:20
 - d) **TIMING, LIVING and DYING:** Romans 14:7–9 See: Acts 20:24
- 3) **REMEMBER who you BELONG TO:** 1 Cor. 3:23 See also: John 17:10
 - a) **The CHURCH belongs to JESUS (and therefore NOT to you or a group):** Titus 2:13b–14. See: Eph. 5:23; Col 1:18; 1 Ptr 2:9-10
 - b) **YOUR LIFE belongs to JESUS:** 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:15. See: vs. 7:23; Philippians 3:12; John 10:14-16
 - c) **Therefore your life, like Christ’s, is GIVEN OVER for the SAKE OF OTHERS and GOD’S GLORY:** 1 Cor. 10:33 See: 1 Cor. 9:19-23

Use these “Gospel In Life” questions this week
to help you and your friends REFLECT on and APPLY this message!

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
 - 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
 - 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
 - 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
 - 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?
 - 6) **PREPARE for NEXT WEEK:** Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-7
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