



TEXT: 1 Corinthians 3:1-17

The CHURCH is God's TEMPLE: 1 Corinthians 3:9bc, 16. See also: 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; Ephesians 2:19-22

- 1) **Church** = God's PEOPLE (the assembly of saints not a place)
- 2) **Temple** = God's alternate COMMUNITY of worship displaying the presence and power of the HOLY Spirit

WE are ALL temple [church] BUILDERS: 1 Corinthians 3:10

Build WISELY and NOT FOOLISHLY:

- 1) **GROW UP SPIRITUALLY:** 1 Corinthians 2:6a, 3:1-2a
 - a) **STOP thinking and behaving like the world!** (Live out the reality of the Gospel as people who have been given the Spirit!)
 - b) **REMEMBER you're supposed to GROW UP to be LIKE JESUS:** Ephesians 4:15b. See also: 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - c) **LONG for God's WORD so you can GROW UP into all that God intended for you:** 1 Peter 2:2
 - d) **PURSUE mature DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING:** Hebrews 5:12-13
 - e) **INSIST on (and appreciate) LEADERS who will HELP you grow up to be like JESUS:** Ephesians 4:11-12a, 13c-14a
 - f) **RECOGNIZE the difference between real SPIRITUAL MATURITY and mere KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE/GIFTING:** 1 Cor. 3:2b-3
- 2) **RECOGNIZE ROLES, GIFTS and SEASONS:** 1 Corinthians 3:6
 - a) **Neither OVER IDENTIFY with or UNDER VALUE particular spiritual LEADERS:** 1 Corinthians 3:4-5
 - b) **God appoints both GIFTINGS and CALLINGS:** 1 Cor. 12:28
 - c) **ALL gifts, roles, and places of ministry are for God's GLORY:** 1 Peter 4:10-11. See also: Romans 12:6-8; John 3:25-30

- 3) **DEPEND completely on GOD:** 1 Corinthians 3:7
 - a) **God's WORK is often MYSTERIOUS (HIDDEN):** Mark 4:26-29
 - b) **God's WORK is ALWAYS DEPENDENT:** John 15:5
- 4) **STAY UNITED to GOD'S GOSPEL PURPOSE and EACH OTHER:** 1 Cor. 3:8a, 9a; Philip. 1:27. See also: 1 Cor. 1:10; Rom. 15:5-6; Philip. 2:2
- 5) **REFUSE to build on any other FOUNDATION:** 1 Corinthians 3:11. See also: Isaiah 28:16; Romans 9:33; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6
 - a) **Not what society DEMANDS OR SEEKS but what they NEED:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-24
 - b) **JESUS is all we NEED or could ever WANT:** 1 Cor. 1:30-31
- 6) **USE only lasting GOSPEL MATERIALS:** 1 Corinthians 3:12-13
 - a) **Gold, Silver, Precious Stones = Gospel TRUTHS / God's WORD / PRAYER / HUMILITY / SERVICE / LOVE**
 - b) **Wood, hay, straw = Human Wisdom, Rhetoric, Methods**
- 7) **ANTICIPATE REWARD (and expect RESPONSIBILITY):** 1 Cor. 3:8
 - a) **DESTROY** [e.g. – through unrepented divisiveness, reliance on human wisdom, fleshly priorities and behaviors] and you will be **DESTROYED:** 1 Corinthians 3:17
 - b) **BUILD POORLY and you will SUFFER LOSS:** 1 Corinthians 3:15
 - c) **BUILD with GOSPEL MATERIALS, by His grace, in the power of the Spirit, and you will be REWARDED:** 1 Corinthians 3:14

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 3:18-23