

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024  
We are the Church: We Work Together  
1 Corinthians 3: 1-23 (1: 10-17)

## Welcome

What is the most impressive or beautiful building you have ever seen and why was it impressive/ beautiful?

## Word

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1. How does the writer (Paul) describe the people? (verse 1)
2. What do you think being 'worldly' means?
3. Paul mentions two behaviours in verse 3 that shows they are worldly, what are these behaviours?
4. What do you think being 'spiritually mature' means?
5. What can someone do to become more 'spiritually mature'?
6. Paul started the church in Corinth, but they had other leaders – 2 of them are mentioned in chapter 1 verse 12 – who are they?

Read 1 Corinthians 3: 5 – 9

7. Which leaders are mentioned in verse 5?
8. How does Paul describe himself and the other leader (verse 5)?
9. Do these verses (5-9) help us to understand the role of leaders and God in the church? How?
10. "But God makes it grow" – how does this make you feel about your role? Does it challenge you? Does it encourage you? How?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

11. What is the right foundation according to verse 11? What do you think this means in reality?
12. How can we build on this foundation?

Read 1 Corinthians 3: 12-15

These verses are talking about what we live for during our earthly lives and whether this has eternal value. We can live for material things like success and money – which has no lasting value. Or we can put our energy into improving our relationship with God whilst we're alive which will have value for eternity.

13. What are you building your life on?
14. How easy do you find it to focus on things of eternal value rather than material things?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

15. According to verses 16-17, what is the temple?
16. How do you feel about this? What does it mean to you?
17. Does this help us work together as a church? How?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

18. What does verse 21 tell them to stop doing?
19. It is human nature to prefer some leaders over others – why is this wrong?
20. Paul is making the point that it doesn't matter who the leader is – we need to remember the most important person in the church in God. Do you think we have something to learn from this? Does this have something to do with spiritual maturity?

## Summary of the problems and solutions:

This chapter reveals 3 problems of the church in Corinth and suggests three solutions:

Problem 1: Immaturity

Solution: Like a Building we need to build on a strong foundation (Jesus) and with good materials (eternal values instead of earthly ones)

Problem 2: Divisions

Solution: A Field has workers who do different tasks like planting and watering, but it is God who makes it grow

Problem 3: Boasting

Solution: We all make up a Temple - everyone plays an equal part in this holy structure, filled with the Holy Spirit.

## Optional extra

Read 1 Corinthians 1: 10-17. Do you learn anything else from this passage? What does it tell us about the Corinthian church?

## Worship & Witness

- Be honest with yourself – what thoughts and behaviour reveal your spiritual immaturity?
- What can you do to become more spiritually mature?
- Remember it is God that makes it grow – let that be a challenge and an encouragement.