

# Body by God

*Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body*

## God the Builder

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 3-4

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

For preschoolers there are few toys as educational and fun as Bob the Builder; with his "gang" of machines "building, digging and hauling on". With his gang Bob the Builder can fix it, or he can build it. In real life, however, we must turn to "God the builder", the One who ultimately builds and fixes things. Just like Bob, God uses His gang, who are His people, to build His kingdom in this world. The apostle Paul talks about this in 1 Corinthians 3-4. The Corinthians had apparently minimized God's role in the building, acting as if most of the credit belonged to their human leaders, such as Paul and Apollos. This resulted in a divided church, with some following Paul, or Apollos, or some other leader. The truth,

however, is that God builds the building, and grows the garden. Our part is to work alongside Him, and to do so carefully, so that when the day of appraisal comes, our work will stand the test. We must also maintain the view that God's leaders are servants through whom He works to build up His church, rather than heroes for us to worship. Their wisdom and ability come from God alone, and while they do have the privilege of passing God's wisdom on to His people, they are not in a higher class than the rest. In fact, as Paul says, we have all been filled up, and become like wealthy kings because of what God has done for us. Unfortunately, "ordinary" people in the church often act as if they



**Following God's principles will develop a church body that can glorify Him fully**

are inferior, and use false criteria, such as the leaders they follow, to allow them to feel better about themselves. This often leads to looking down on others' leaders, which is how some of the Corinthians tended to treat Paul. They failed to remember that there is only One who can build a life or a church—God the Builder.

## Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Corinthians 3-4

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)

1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4. How did Paul describe the Corinthians (v1, 3) and what had he expected from them (v2)? What showed they hadn't done this (v3-4), and what were the consequences (v1, 2, 3)?
2. From 3:5-9, in our work, or others' work for God, what is important to remember (v6-7)? What can each person expect for their work (v8), and why is it important to remember this, in light of the principle of v6-7?
3. According to 3:10-15 what part of God's building had Paul built (v10), and specifically to whom did this refer (v11)? How are we to add to this building (v12), and how will we know if it was done well (v13-15)? What promise is included (v15)?

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## I Corinthians 3-4 Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 3:16-17 what does each believer have a part in building (v16—"you" refers to the church), and why is this so significant (v16)? Based on 1 Corinthians 3:1-15, how could someone destroy this, and what will happen to them if they do (v17)?
5. From 3:18-20 what did the various groups think about themselves (v18), and why was this foolish (v18, 19, 20)? How does one truly become wise (v19), and why is this true?
6. According to 3:21-23 what truths about believers does Paul point out (v21, 23)? What difference should these truths make in our lives?
7. Read 4:1-5. How did Paul describe himself and other leaders (v1), under what standard did that place them (v2), and who would evaluate them (v4-5)? Why is it important to let the evaluation come from Him (v5)? How can we apply this?
8. In 4:6-8 of what does Paul remind them (v7, 8), and what does that really mean? What attitude did he want them to have (v6, 7), and how did he use himself and Apollos as an example of this attitude (v6—see 1 Cor 3:5-9)?
9. From 4:9-13 describe the lifestyle of the apostles. Since they were God's leaders, why do you think He allowed them to face these kind of things in their lives?
10. According to 4:14-17 how did many spiritual leaders relate to the Corinthians (v15), but how did Paul relate to them (v14, 15)? How did he want them to feel about his example (v16), and how had he demonstrated his feelings for them (v17)?
11. Look at 4:18-21. What was Paul willing to do because of his love for the Corinthians (v18-19)? How did he prefer to do this (v21), and how can we apply this?

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***"For the kingdom of God  
does not consist in words,  
but in power."***

***1 Corinthians 4:20***

***Celebration Fellowship***

*Reaching—  
Restoring—Raising Up*

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### ***Life Group Questions***

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship)*

1. Talk about how you celebrated Easter growing up. How has this changed, and why?
2. Discuss how the resurrection demonstrates that Jesus was neither liar, nor lunatic, but is, in fact, Lord. What impact does that have on your life today?
3. Describe life the way you think Jesus meant for it to be (abundant life). Why does this depend on a relationship with Him, rather than on just being as good as you can?
4. How have you seen Christ's power at work in your life recently? Share with the group why you think that happened, or is happening.
5. Let each person share a favorite promise from God's Word, and how it helps them experience the life Christ offers.
6. Talk about anything else from the sermon today that impressed you if you have time.