



HAMMERING IT OUT

Studies in 1 Corinthians

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Grow Up! 1 Corinthians 3-4



Authentic Christianity is hammered out in the details of life.

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 God’s mission

There is nothing wrong with a child acting their age, but when an adult acts like a child they are often told to “Grow up!” Similarly, as Christians the stage of infancy is normal, but after a while it is time to grow up. The Corinthian church needed to do just that, because they had remained too long in the beginning stage as believers. This was obvious from their actions. Being full of jealousy and strife, they were divided, as if they were still “mere men”. To change this Paul first told them to stop following their Christian heroes, like Apollos or himself, and instead to follow Christ alone. God caused their growth as they followed Christ and were built on Him as the foundation. He told them, though, to be careful to build quality works on His foundation be-

cause their rewards would be based on this. Next, Paul told them to fulfill their calling from God. As a church they were literally the “temple of God” and His Spirit dwelt in them. It was a serious offense to tear down the church, and God promised to destroy them if they did. The calling of Christians is also that of servants of Christ and stewards of His mysteries. A servant merely does what his Master tells him to do, rather than acting like he is in charge. As stewards Christians are responsible to pass on to others the sacred trust of God’s plan and way of working. This was somewhat a mystery in the Old Testament, but now His way of salvation, the gospel, has been clearly revealed. Thus, our job is to share this message, allowing nothing, including disunity, to impede

this. Finally, to grow up believers must fight against the conceit that caused the disunity at Corinth. They acted as if they had gotten God’s gifts on their own and that they were superior to others. It seemed as if they even thought themselves above the apostles, not needing them. This was antithetical to the apostolic teaching and example. They had suffered the loss of everything for Christ, and other Christians should follow the example of these “fathers” in the faith. Since they weren’t Paul promised to come to them in either gentleness or severity—their choice. They needed to “Grow up!”

Study Questions for 1 Corinthians 3-4

(For answers go to http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study_questions)

1. Read 1 Cor 3:1-4. How did Paul characterize the Corinthians (v1, 3) and what showed this (v3-4)? What approach had he taken with them (v1-2) and what does this mean?	
2. From 3:5-9 how did Paul describe himself and Apollos (v5, 9)? What were their roles (v6-7) and God’s promise (v8), what was God’s role (v5, 6, 7, 9) and how do the 2 relate? What was Paul’s point (v7)?	
3. From 3:10-15 what was Paul’s job and how did he do it (v10)? What warning does he give (v10) and why (v13-15)? What is the only foundation (v11) and what goal should we have for building on it (v14)?	

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

<p>4. In 1 Cor 3:16-17 what kind of “building” are we as the church (v16) and who inhabits us (v16)? What must we avoid (v17) and why (v17)? How is Paul saying that we can we “destroy” the church (see v1-4)?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 3:18-23 what was the real cause of division at Corinth (v18)? Why is this dangerous (v19-20) and what is the application (v21-22)? Why is this foolish (v22-23)?</p>	
<p>6. Using 4:1-5 how did Paul want to be viewed (v1) and what did that mean for him regarding God (v2, 4-5) and them (v3, 5)? What will the Lord do when He returns (v5)?</p>	
<p>7. From 4:6-8 to whom had Paul 1st applied these principles (v6) and why (v6)? What reality is stated (v7) but what did they think (v7)?</p>	
<p>8. In 4:8-13 how did the Corinthians view themselves (v8) and how did this contrast with the apostles (v9-10)? Describe the condition of the apostles (v11-13). What does this mean to you?</p>	
<p>9. Read 4:14-17. Why did Paul not write these things and why did he (v14)? What was his relationship to them (v15) and what did he recommend (v16)? How did he follow this up (v17)?</p>	
<p>10. According to 4:18-21 how had some reacted to Paul (v18) and what was his response (v19, 21)? Of what does the kingdom of God consist (v20) and what does this mean?</p>	
<p>11 Review 1 Cor 3-4. In order to grow up spiritually 1) who are we to follow and why (3:5-11), 2) what calling should be our focus (3:16, 4:1-2), and 3) why must we fight against conceit (4:6-10)?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—*The Right Response (Romans 12:9-21)*

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Open by talking about how our actions show what we really believe. Give some examples. (Like, how the speed we drive indicates what we believe about the speed limit.)
2. Read Rom 12:9. What is “love without hypocrisy” in this verse? How does “abhorring what is evil” relate to love, and how does it relate to Rom 12:1-2—the “right view”?
3. Discuss what “character” is. Why would living in genuine love in all situations lead us to be a person of good character—why would it “put sin to death in our lives”?
4. Talk about the difference between “choosing” and “changing” when it comes to living in authentic love. Using 1 Cor 3:18 describe how this process works.
5. Which of the 3 responses—passionate towards our brothers and sisters in Christ (v10, 13), persistence in our spiritual work (v11), or perseverance in hope (v12) - are most difficult for you. Why is that, and how can you work on that?
6. Discuss the contrast between reacting and responding. When it comes to our critics (enemies, opposition) which do you typically do? Talk about ways to respond more often.
7. If time permits, talk about anything else meaningful from the message.