

Built to Serve
1 Corinthians 3:1-16

Building

ex. poorly built wall vs. youth wall building

Q. Is your life built well or built poorly?

Q. Is it characterized by Godly or worldly living?

Problem with Corinthians:

Worldly vs. Godly Living (vs.1-9)

- Worldly living characterised by immaturity, jealousy, fighting, selfishness, being people followers (1-4)
 - Distinction b/t “Immature” spiritually vs.1 (no blame) to “Characterized by” vs.3 (is blame)
 - Vs.1 word used for “immature” = infants, new believers, “not ready” – no blame
 - Vs.3 word used is “characterized by”, expectation of growth, become stagnant, blame
 - Focus is here on those who are choosing to live worldly and not grow spiritually
 - Results in lots of problems – disunity, jealousy, fighting...

In addressing this need for growth, Paul explains their need to be servants of God and live Godly lives.

- Godly living characterized by serving, recognizing our purpose, being God followers (5-9)
 - Paul clarifies what a “Servant” is like
 - “Table waiters” (5) = lowly character of service – no pedestals, God is the one who does all things! “through whom”

- Servants = None of us are important, only God = equally unimportant – “are one” –
- but our work is important – “purpose” (vs.8)
 - “Co-workers” (9) with God, there is reward for it and are called God’s “field, building”
 - Emphasis is that God will work through our efforts, but He is the Master!
- God is the one we ought to follow in every aspect of our lives
 - Note how many times “God” is written vs 6-9 – 2x God causes our growth, 3x who we are in God – servants, field building
 - we are built by the Master to be His servants = we are built to serve!
- That is the key to becoming Godly - if we do not serve we will not grow as deeply as God wants us to

How to Build (10-16)

- Upon the foundation of Christ, God’s power (11)
Ex. Building a wall (picture)
Q. Is your life really built upon Jesus? If not, your life will crumble. It cannot be built on \$\$, success, stuff...but also on experiences (no matter how painful) Ex. Zina Rimland early life in fear, on the run...never lost her faith. Why? Jesus was her foundation. When your life is built upon Jesus, it will hold
- Expecting others to keep building (10-12)
Expect others to add to what we do

Ex. DR – other teams will finish the work – joy. Not all about us!

➤ Using quality building materials (13-16)

Vs.12 – Gold silver stones = precious, hard to find, durable vs. Wood hay or straw = easy to find, not durable

- We are accountable to give God our best! It will cost more, more difficult, but will last. Our service to God must be quality service
- God reminds us, He works through us, “Temple” = “sanctuary” = presence
- God Himself is with us as we serve Him
- By serving, God will cause us to grow

Full Service Church

- Focus this series has been on Serving in God’s Way
- Our desire is that we would become a full service church – that everyone would serve God in some way and that God will grow our church.
- Insert “How Can I Serve?” – this week and next, ask you to look at this insert and tick off any areas that you feel called to serve. If serving already in an area, don’t mark box. But if wanting to serve more, do. If not serving anywhere yet, look at all these opportunities and prayerfully consider where God would have you serve.
- Add name / contact info. Hand them to pastor, deacon, or in the offering plate in the foyer on table. We will collect them and consolidate the data, forward to ministry leadership

Built to Serve 1 Corinthians 3:1-16

_____ vs. _____ Living (vs.1-9)

- Worldly = _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
being _____ followers (1-4)
 - “Immature” (1) vs. “characterized by” (3)

- Godly = _____, _____ our
_____, being _____ followers (5-9)
 - “Servant” & “through whom” (5)
 - None of us are ___i_____, only God is
 - We are built to ___s_____ together with God

How to Build (10-16)

1. Upon the _f_____ of Christ (11)
2. Expecting _o_____ to keep building (10-12)
3. Using ___q_____ ___b_____ ___m_____ (13-16)
 - We are _accountable_____
 - We are _God’s _____ Temple_____
 - God is _with _____ us_____