

Team Players

Week of Sept. 19th
1 Cor. 3:1-23

Ultimately, God uses his people to accomplish his purposes. It is foolish to elevate one above another. Instead, we should seek to participate in his work in whatever way he calls us to it, confident that work done for him will last and be rewarded on the final day.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4. In chapter 2, we saw that the Corinthians had the spirit of God in them, but here Paul accuses them of acting like those who don't have the spirit and acting like babies. Because of their jealousy and quarrelling they looked just like the unbelieving world. In what ways have you noticed believers looking like the world around us? In what ways do we need to have our perspective shifted by the truth of the gospel?
2. Read 1 Cor. 3:5-9. Paul corrects the Corinthians here by explaining that all believers are God's servants, serving at the pleasure of the King. God is the One who accomplishes His purposes and brings forth the harvest. How does this passage and the truth in Psalm 127:1 impact the way you see yourself and other Christ-followers?
3. Read verses 10-15. Jesus is the foundation of the church and Paul challenges each person to be wise in how they build upon that foundation. Many of the things we build with are things that won't last in the end.
 - What are some examples of things that might be burned up when tested by fire?
 - What could it look like practically to build with gold, silver or costly stones?
4. Read verses 16-23. Paul reminds the church in Corinth that they are God's temple, and God's Spirit dwells in them. He also challenges them to not be deceived by the wisdom of the world.
 - How can we rely more on the God's Spirit to unify us as believers and to be led by God's wisdom instead of the world's?
 - In a temple, there are many different types of beauty on display. The same is true within the church. How can we celebrate the diversity that God's created and be a voice of unity in our world?

Spend time praying in your breakout groups for one another and pray that we would see ourselves and one another through the eyes of Christ.

NOTES:

OTHER RESOURCES

READY TO GO DEEPER?

Unity and Diversity in the Church

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul uses the analogies of a field, a building and a temple. In 1 Cor. 12:12-30 Paul uses the picture of God's church as a body. What do these verses have to say about the importance of each part of the body? How can this picture help us value each unique part of His body?

In John 17:20-26, Jesus prays that His followers would be one as He and the Father were one. Read the passage and pray that this would be true of believers in our day.

New Testament Reading

From Oct. 1 – Dec. 31st we want to invite you to consider reading through the New Testament chronologically.

We'll provide a link here next week for the reading plan and extra resources.

Outside our Walls

Ark Valley

Please pray for the men at our Ark Valley campus. They are experiencing tremendous loneliness and isolation due to the COVID protocols. Pray that God would encourage their hearts and that God would use the Woodmen services, being broadcast on the TVs in the facility, to draw other men Himself.

DIVE IN ON YOUR OWN TO GET READY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

An Audience of One

1 Corinthians 4:1-21