

Groups Discussion Guide

Sermon: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Pastor Doug Hankins

The Church United: Week 7

Passage: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23 - “ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled^[a] master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **11** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13** each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. **14** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you^[b] are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? **17** If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. **19** For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” **20** and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” **21** So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, **22** whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, **23** and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

Introduction - 1 Corinthians Week 6 Recap:

Last week Pastor David taught from the first half of 1 Corinthians chapter 3. He challenged us to *grow up* in our Christian faith. We need to know who we are, where we are, and what to do in order to be mature followers of Jesus Christ. This week Pastor Doug Hankins continues teaching through 1 Corinthians 3. In this passage, Paul moves from telling the Corinthians to “grow up” and instructs them to “build up” their lives in Christ.

Instructions: This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Getting Started** section. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Big Idea** section where you will read the key passage and answer suggested questions based on the sermon. Feel free to use some or all of these questions or add your own. Finally, in the **My Life** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together and a closing suggested prayer to pray.

Getting Started: Have you heard any reports on the Asbury Revival? What questions do you have? Do you recall other revivals that have happened in your lifetime? How were they different? How were they similar?

Big Idea:

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-23: How is the building of the church a great opportunity for teamwork? When have you seen this at work in the life of our church?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15: What is the key to a good spiritual foundation? Why does what we build with matter? What do you think Paul means when he says, "Build with care"?

Cross Reference: Ephesians 4:15-16: Paul also talks about growing and building in this passage. How is it similar to this passage in 1 Corinthians?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17: Are temples ordinary or extraordinary? Why do you think so? What warning do you see in these 2 verses? Why does he call us "God's temple?"

Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-23: Paul begins this section (vs 10) with grace and ends it with the importance of humility in the life of the believer. How would you describe each of these qualities and why do they matter so much for Christians? How are they counter-cultural? How does Jesus demonstrate these qualities? Who do you know who also demonstrates them to you or others? Give examples.

My Life: Think about what will last forever. Make a list. Where in your life are you building with the things that will endure? Where do you need to swap out the wood, hay, and straw for gold, silver and precious stones?

Conclusion: LORD, give us leaders who build up the church with great care and inspire us to follow their leadership. May we remember that as your sons and daughters your Holy Spirit dwells within us and we carry the Gospel of Jesus to the world.