

1ST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

Christian Answers to Real Life

WISDOM AND MATURITY

It is possible to be saved and immature. A person can accept Jesus as their savior but struggle to live like it.

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul continues to contrast the difference between spiritual maturity and spiritual immaturity—wisdom and carnality.



SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND IMMATURITY

I Corinthians 3:1-4 (CEV)

¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as **spiritual people**, but as **people of the flesh**, as **infants in Christ**. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?



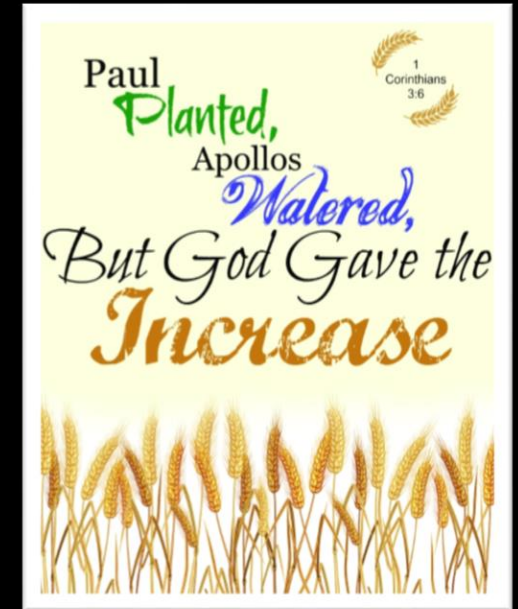
SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND IMMATURITY

	SPIRITUALLY MATURE	SPIRITUALLY IMMATURE
Motivation	spirit	flesh
Maturity Level	adult	infant
Food	meat	milk
Relationships	harmony	jealousy / strife
Lifestyle	new creation	merely human
Evidence	unity	division

A GOD-CENTERED PERSPECTIVE

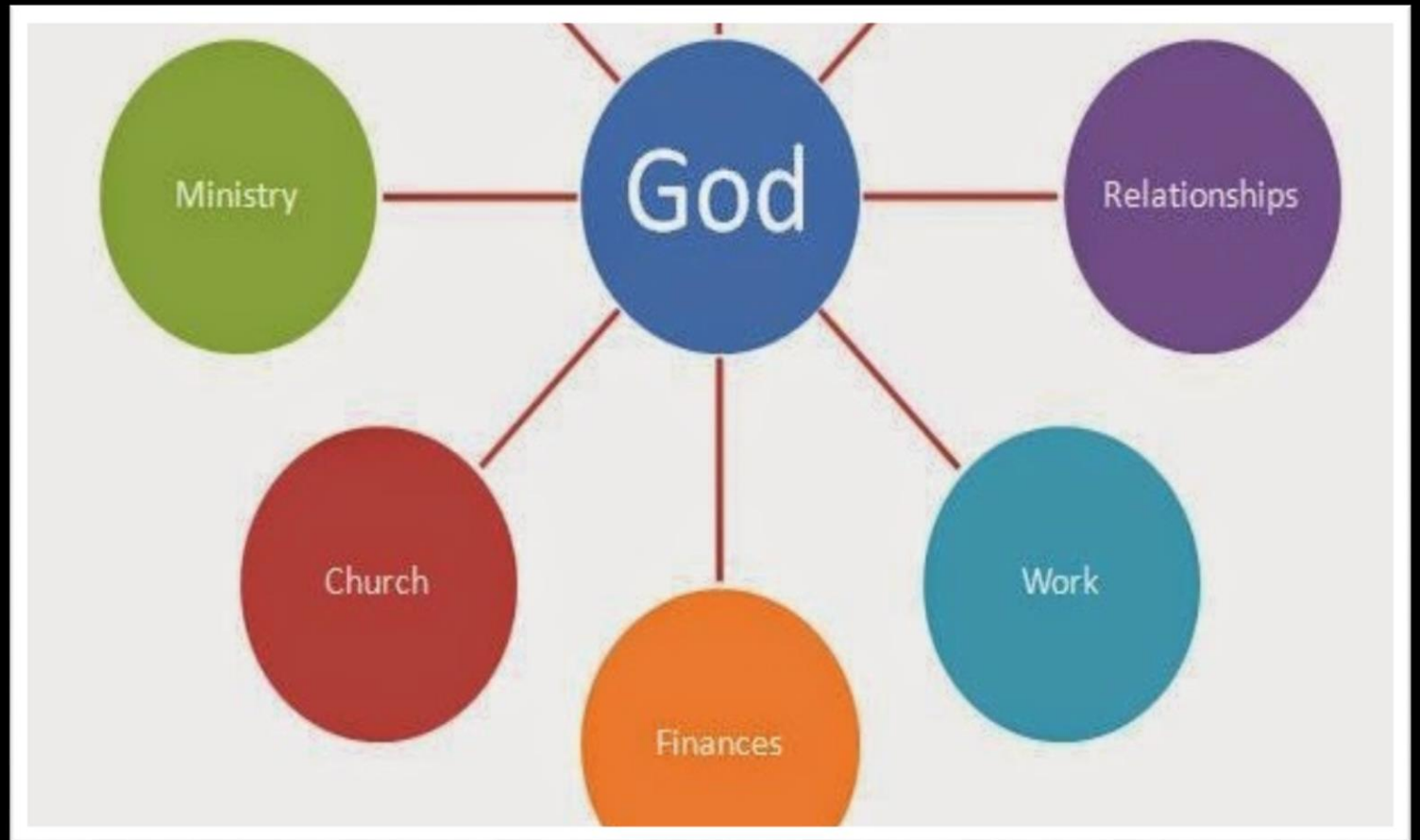
1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (CEV)

⁵ Apollos and I are merely servants who helped you to have faith. **It was the Lord who made it all happen.** ⁶ I planted the seeds, Apollos watered them, but **God made them sprout and grow.** ⁷ What matters isn't those who planted or watered, but **God who made the plants grow.** ⁸ The one who plants is just as important as the one who waters. And **each one will be paid for what they do.** ⁹ Apollos and I work together for **God**, and you are **God's** garden and **God's** building.



GOD-CENTERED LIFE

To live a healthy Christian life, God must be in the center and all things revolve around Him.



BUILDING ON CHRIST

I Corinthians 3:10-15 (CEV)

¹⁰ God was kind and let me become an expert builder. I laid a foundation on which others have built. But **we must each be careful how we build,** ¹¹ because **Christ is the only foundation.** ¹²⁻¹³ **Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire on the day of judgment.** Then everyone will find out if we have used **gold, silver, and precious stones,** or **wood, hay, and straw.** ¹⁴ **We will be rewarded if our building is left standing.** ¹⁵ But if it is destroyed by the fire, we will lose everything. Yet we ourselves will be saved, like someone escaping from flames.

BEMA JUDGMENT

The judgment seat (Gk., *bema*) of Christ is a day of evaluation for believers to determine rewards!

Romans 14:10-12

“For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat... So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:10

“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, **so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body**, whether good or bad.”



THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

The judgment of the Great White Throne is a day of sentencing for unbelievers.

Revelation 20:11-14

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

Revelation 20:11-14

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ **And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**



Take Care of God's Temple

1 Corinthians 3:16 (CEV)

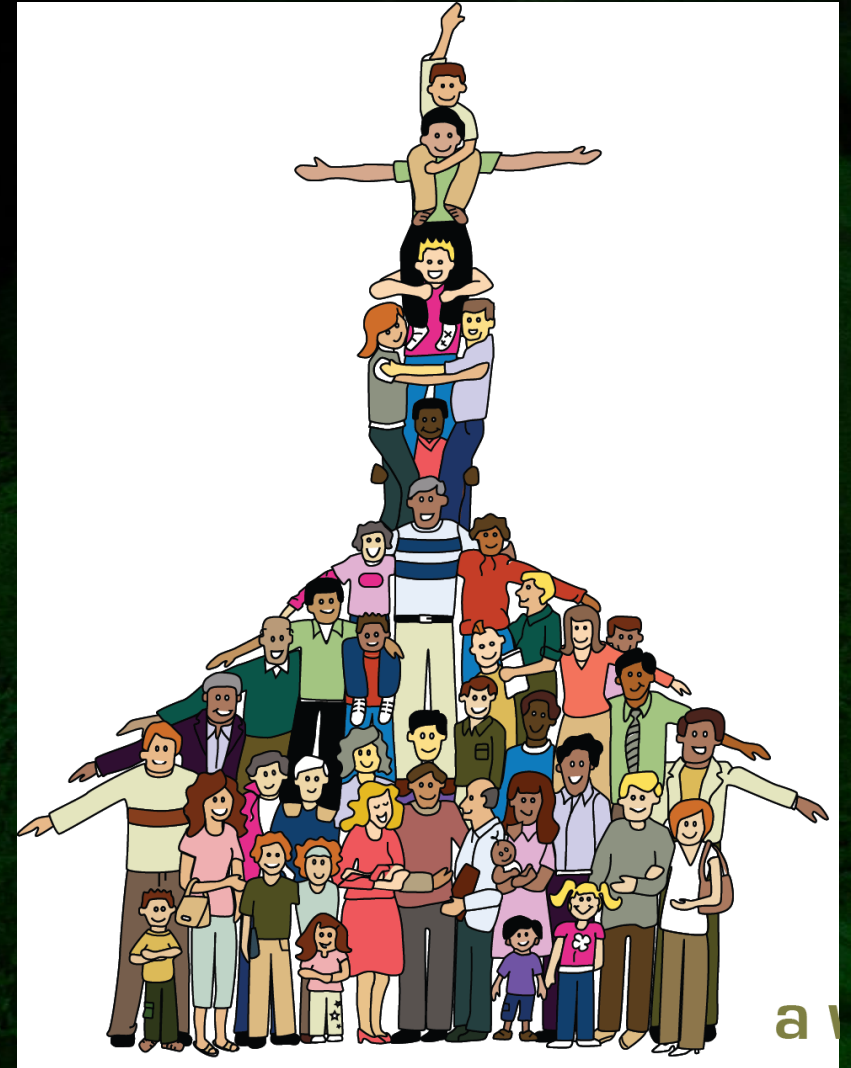
¹⁶ All of you surely know that **you are God's temple** and that **his Spirit lives in you**. ¹⁷ **Together you are God's holy temple**, and **God will destroy anyone who destroys his temple**.

The **local church** (the local gathering of believers in Jesus Christ) is described as God's temple and we are warned to take good care of it!

The Bride of Christ

The Bible describes the church as the bride of Christ. (Rev. 21:2, 9; 2 Cor. 11:2)

Some people casually and carelessly criticize the church, forgetting that they are talking about Christ's bride.



Wise Before God

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

¹⁸ Don't fool yourselves! If any of you think you are wise in the things of this world, you will have to become foolish before you can be truly wise. ¹⁹ This is because **God considers the wisdom of this world to be foolish.** It is just as the Scriptures say, "**God catches the wise when they try to outsmart him.**" ²⁰ The Scriptures also say, "**The Lord knows that the plans made by wise people are useless.**" ²¹⁻²² So stop bragging about what anyone has done.

In Christ

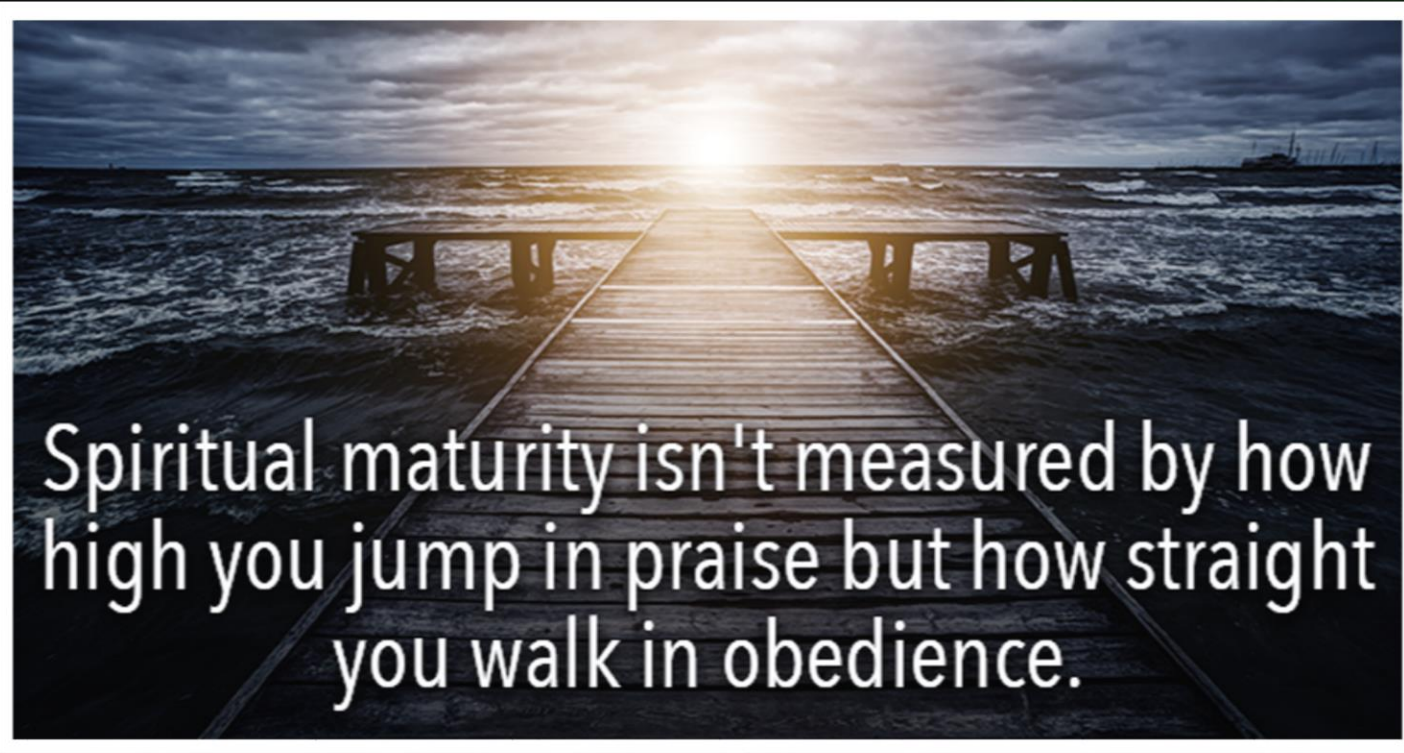
1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Paul and Apollos and Peter all belong to you. In fact, everything is yours, including the world, life, death, the present, and the future.

Everything belongs to you, ²³ and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.



Living TRUTH



Spiritual maturity isn't measured by how high you jump in praise but how straight you walk in obedience.

THE LETTERS OF PAUL