

1st Corinthians Chapter 3

Feb 18, 2026

Chapter 1. The Church operates as many things. (School, Hospital, Business, Army, etc.) All these are necessary to minister to the needs of the Saints for growth in Christ character and God's mission in the world. Yet there is an enemy that works endlessly to disrupt, sabotage and even destroy the work in and of the Church. The only weakness in the Church that the enemy can exploit is the human mind. To be exact; the immature human mind. Immature in the ways of Christ. And the antithesis is also true; the more mature one is in the ways of men, the farther that one drifts, or can be pulled from God.

Verses 1-9: Paul repeats the statement about clicks, schisms, and groups going in different ways in the church because they have locked on to a certain leader, or teaching from that leader. But Paul clarifies that earthly leaders are for purpose, but the purpose is to lead us to God in Christ Jesus. The root of this problem is spiritual immaturity. The work is evolutionary. Jesus planted the original seed. (when viewed as a field or garden) Therefore, others who come after Him simply work in His Vineyard. Many different jobs are needed in the vineyard to ultimately bring forth the final product of harvest. But who causes the vine to grow? Who causes the grape to come forth?

Verses 10 -15: The work is also progressive and continuing. (when viewed as a building) Therefore, generations that come after simply build upon what has already been built. So, any doctrines, practices, or theology not rooted and grounded in the teachings of Christ will not stand. We must bring Christ Truth to each Generation in their world, in their language, and in their culture, not to accommodate them, but to meet them where they are. To connect, to communicate, then deliver the truth of Christ. When they believe and receive, then we labor to show by example and teach by the Holy Spirit to guide them to a mature life in Christ in the lives they live. It begins in Church life, then to Family life, then to community life. And if God calls, and sends, "to the utter most parts of the world."

Verses 16-17: We are God's Temple!!! God lives in us. In our Spirits, Hearts, Minds, and Bodies. That should be a very sobering statement. How then can the Temple be destroyed? Not with physical death, but in separation from Christ. You name the Ways.... How does Church division destroy our bodily Temples?

Verses 18-23: Scholars really do believe they know more about God than average church members. But many are as far from God as Satan is. Paul is not discouraging scholarship. He is stating the difference between scholarship based in secular derived knowledge and scholarship based in true Christ theology. In Christ, we are to be the masters of all things and not those things be masters of us. Just as Christ was. Yes, Jesus was crucified by men. Not because they had power over Him, but because He submitted to the authority and power of God His Father. As Paul told the Corinthians; "You belong to Christ just as Christ belongs to God. We would do very well to remind ourselves of the same.