



Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

For the Week of February 21, 2016



1 Corinthians 3

The Church and Its Leaders

1 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Sermon Outline

- In chapter 3 Paul concludes his argument regarding the church's divisions regarding their leaders by telling them to follow the Master rather than His servants.
- He also warns the teachers and leaders that they must be careful about how they are building the church because they will be judged for their work.

WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What are some things you should know how to do by now but do not? (Ex. – change your oil)
- What is your favorite saying or quote?

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. Where would you place yourself on the diagram seen on the back of this sheet with regard to your spiritual maturity?
2. What do you think you need to be doing to grow in your obedience to Christ?
3. Can you think of any areas of your thinking that are worldly rather than spiritual? (1 Cor. 3:3)
4. Why is it so important that we don't put others on a pedestal as the Corinthians did with Paul, Apollos, and Peter? (1 Cor. 3:5-7)
5. Paul's role was planting churches. What role(s) do you believe God has prepared you for in helping to build up the church? (1 Cor. 3:10)
6. What might it look like for someone to try to lay another foundation than Christ? (1 Cor. 3:11)

16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." 21 So then, no more boasting about human leaders! 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 of Christ, and Christ is of God.

7. What kind of things are done in the church that might be superfluous and "burned up" in the end? (1 Cor. 3:12-14)
8. Why does the world sometimes think that Christians are fools? (1 Cor. 3:18)
9. What does Paul mean when he says, "All things are yours" in verse 21? How can this protect us from competition or rivalries within the church?
10. What does it mean that we are heirs and co-heirs with Christ? (Romans 8:17)
11. What boundaries can you place in your life to protect you from worldliness?

WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group:

- Who has God placed in your life who does not know Christ?
- How can we pray for your spiritual growth tonight?
- What other prayer concerns do you have?

