

LESSON 6: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-23

Founded on Christ

1. What characteristics of “worldly” people do you find in verses 1-4?
2. How can these Corinthian Christians who are not yet ready for “solid food,” who are “still worldly,” who are “mere men” (vv. 1-4), be at the same time filled with the Holy Spirit (2:12)?
3. Why are divisions among God’s people always evidence of the world’s presence in the Church (vv. 3,5-9)? Why is unity within the body so important? (See Romans 15:5-6.)
4. In verses 5-9, who unites the Church, and for what purpose? How is Christian unity demonstrated in verses 8-9? How should the spiritually mature person respond to issues which divide the Church?
5. Who is the building (v. 9), who is the foundation (v. 11), and of what materials should the building be constructed (vv. 12-13)? What kind of building are you (v. 16)? What does it mean to you to say Jesus Christ is the foundation of your life? What should motivate you as you build the foundation of Jesus Christ in your life?
6. What is the purpose of a temple? For Paul's understanding of the meaning of a temple, see Exodus 25:8 and Ezekiel 37:27-28.
7. What is the universal test of a Christian’s life (v. 13)? Can you share how you have been tested, and the consequences of those tests? How does Paul indicate that your work as a Christian does not affect your salvation? (See also Ephesians 2:8-10.)

8. What happens when you build with the wrong materials (v. 15)? How then will you be saved, and in what condition?

9. Who is on your side (v. 17)? What does this tell you about how important you are to God?

10. What is the “wisdom of this world” (see Isaiah 5:21), and why should it be abandoned (vv. 18-20)?

11. What does Paul mean by writing, “all things are yours” (vv. 21b-22; see also Romans 8:32)?

12. What is Paul's analysis of the spiritual state of the Corinthian believers? How has this impacted the Gospel which he preached to them?