

2. We must _____ the proper _____ (3:10-11).

1 Corinthians 3:10-11: “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-5: “When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”

3. We must be _____ how we _____ on the foundation (3:10-13).

1 Corinthians 3:10-13: “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.”

USING THE RIGHT CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

- Don’t use materials that are of _____ such as “Wood, hay or straw” – like the so called ‘wisdom teachers’ of Corinth (1:17-25).
- Use materials that are of _____ such as “Gold, silver or costly stones” – like the O.T temple (1 Chron. 22:14-16; 29:2; 2 Chronicles 3:6).

KEY QUESTION: *Why the emphasis upon the quality of construction materials?*

1 Corinthians 3:12-13: “If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.”

4. We will be _____ by the _____ of our Work (3:12-15).

1 Corinthians 3:12-15: “If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his 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 man’s work. ¹⁴ If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.”

➤ **Work Survives = _____ (v.14).**

1 Corinthians 3:14: “If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.”

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20: “For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰ Indeed, you are our glory and joy.”

➤ **Work Does not Survive (Burned up) = _____ (v.15).**

1 Corinthians 3:15: “If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.”

5. We will be _____ if we destroy God’s _____ (16-17).

1 Corinthians 3:16-17: “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”

Ephesians 2:19-22: “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

1 Peter 2:4-6: “As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

Wise and godly Pastors and Leaders build a church God's way by following the master plan outlined in the Word of God.

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Announcements: Are you looking for a place to serve @ SMC? Check out our "*Front Door Ministries*" to get involved with one of our teams (Cleaning, Food table, Resource table, maintenance or set up/take down). For more info contact Pastor Cory @ 801-673-7622.

Questions: If you don't have time to go through all the questions don't worry about it. Just enjoy doing what you can as a group.

Prayer: Take time to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and teach.

1. In I Corinthians 3:1-17 Paul refers to himself and other leaders and pastors as '*servants*' and '*fellow-workers*' with God. What other metaphors does he use to describe the rigors of church leadership (See 2 Timothy 2:1-7, 24)?

2. In 1 Corinthians 3:1-17 Paul refers to the church in Corinth as God's 'field/farm' and 'building/temple' (esp.v.9). How does Paul define the church? How is this view of the church different than some who place so much emphasis upon a physical structure?

3. From the following passages, reconstruct a picture of the church (1 Corinthians 3:9-17; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; Hebrews 4-10).

4. The Bible teaches that the church (people who know Jesus) is a 'spiritual temple' (1 Cor.3:16-17). How does this truth relate to our culture with its emphasis upon 'temples'?

5. How has 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 changed your understanding of a Pastor's role? In light of this, what can you do to support and encourage your leaders? (See Hebrews 13:7, 17).

6. What does Paul mean when he says that a pastor/leader who builds a church using combustible material (poor quality material) will suffer loss and yet still be saved, but '*only as one escaping through the flames*' (See 1 Cor.3:15)?

7. What is the 'foundation' of the church according to 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; 2:1-5; 15:1-4? How does this foundation compare with the 'foundation' of the predominate church of our culture?

Pray for each other and for the Pastors and leaders of SMC.

SERIES: "Life in the Father's House"

MESSAGE: "Building A Church God's Way: A Strong Word to Pastors & Leaders"

1 Corinthians 3:9-17 / Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 01.10.10

INTRODUCTION:

1 Corinthians 3:9-17: "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his 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 man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. ¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple"

1. We are God's _____ on His _____ (3:9).

1 Corinthians 3:9: "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

"Paul shifts the image to that of a building in which God now becomes the one who lets out a contract for a construction project and serves as the building inspector. God inspects to see that it was built correctly, according to specifications, and without fraud and will disburse due rewards and fines. The competence of each servant in carrying out the tasks may vary, and God will reward and punish the difference in quality. That appraisal awaits God's final judgment since God alone can properly assess the work. The ultimate evaluations of leaders belong to God, not to those they lead." **David E. Garland, 1 Corinthians.**

"That's not all. Church leaders are spiritual construction workers. In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul likens ministers to master builders who follow a set of biblical blueprints, laboring in partnership with God to construct a building – the church....Wise builders follow the blueprints precisely; the slightest deviation from the architect's plans in the early stages can result in a tottering monstrosity by the time construction is completed. God's Word is the blueprint for spiritual construction, and only those who follow it exactly are building anything that will stand firm." **John MacArthur, Jr. The Masters Plan for the Church, 16.**