

neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." 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."

TRUTH #3: It's a _____ .

1 Corinthians 1:2: "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy..."

KEY QUESTION: *What is the church?*

"Ekklesia, the Greek word translated 'church' in the New Testament, never refers to a building or a structure. An ekklesia was a gathering of people...for the culture at large, ekklesia meant a public assembly of citizens. It was used when they were 'called out' of the city to vote. But its Hebrew counterpart also meant the congregation of Israel constituted at Sinai and assembled before the Lord. It meant those whom He brought together and called by His name. The people of God. Nowhere in the New Testament does anyone say, 'Let's go to church,' nor is the church referred to as a building except as a metaphor. All references to the church, including the metaphorical 'body' and 'holy nation,' refer to God's people." **Charles Colson, *The Body*, 83-84.**

TRUTH #4: It's a _____ & _____ people.

1 Corinthians 1:2: "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy..."

- **A _____ people (v.2).**"...to those sanctified in Christ Jesus"
- **A _____ people (v.2)**"...and called to be holy..."

"Although they were the Christian church in Corinth, an inordinate amount of Corinth was yet in them, emerging in a number of attitudes and behaviors that required radical surgery without killing the patient." **Gordon Fee, 1 Corinthians, 4.**

"Thus, just as Paul is an apostle by divine calling, so the Corinthian believers are God's new people by divine calling, who as such are to reflect God's character. One might note in passing that this is *not* their strong suit; in too many ways they look far more *like* Corinth than they do God's holy people in Corinth." **Gordon Fee, 1 Corinthians, 33.**

TRUTH #5: It's part of the _____ church.

1 Corinthians 1:2: "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

TRUTH #6: It's made up of people who _____ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:2: "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Matthew 16:13-18: "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

KEY QUESTION: *What is the ROCK Jesus will build His church on?*

FINAL THOUGHTS

Has today's message caused you *to rethink* what you believe about the church? From today's message we've discovered **6 TRUTHS** about the church...

- It's started by a church planter.
- It's God's Church (it belongs to Him).

- It's a local gathering of God's people.
- It's a Sanctified and Saintly people.
- It's Universal in Scope.
- It's made up of people who call on Jesus.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Take some time for PRAYER at the beginning of your group.

1. What did you learn from Sunday's message on "Rethinking Church"? How did this message challenge and/or change the way you 'think' about church?
2. In light of Sunday's message, how important is it for Shadow Mountain Church to have a magnificent building? What is the purpose of a building for a church?
3. In light of Sunday's message, what do you think about the following statements?
 - "I'm going to church on Sunday"
 - "My church is located in West Jordan"
 - "I can't wait to start my own church"
4. In light of Sunday's message, is a person part of 'the church' if they attend a church service? In other words, how does a person become 'part' of the church?
4. Read Acts 18:1-18 together. What can you learn about the city of Corinth and the start of the Church of God in Corinth from this passage? Make as many observations as possible.
5. When Paul entered Corinth, what was his message? See Acts 18; 1 Corinthians 1:17; 2:1-5; 15:1-4.
6. From Acts 18:1-18 and the book of 1Corinthians, try to identify who was part of the church in Corinth (See Acts 18:7, 8,17; 1 Corinthians 1:1,11-17; 12:13; 16:15-17).
7. Paul describes the Corinthian Christians as those who are 'called to be holy' (1:2). Take a moment for personal evaluation. Does your life reflect personal holiness? Are you living a holy life, or do you have more of 'Corinth' still in you than you do the Lord's character?

PRAYER TIME – Be sure to set aside time to pray for each other.

NEXT WEEK – 1 Corinthians 1:4-8

SERIES: LIFE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Today's Message: "Rethinking Church"

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Pastor Cory Anderson / 09.27.09 / SMC

INTRODUCTION:

6 TRUTHS ABOUT CHURCH

TRUTH #1: It's _____ by a Church _____.

1 Corinthians 1:1: "Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God..."

- **One who is _____ by God** (Acts 9:15; 1 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:12).
- **One who is _____ to preach the Gospel** (1 Corinthians 9:15-18)
- **One who is _____ to reaching the lost by using all means necessary** (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).
- **One who is _____ in the power of the Gospel** (Romans 1:16-17)
- **One who is _____ with God's Glory** (Romans 15:14-22)

ACTS 18:1-18: "After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth..."

TRUTH #2: It _____ to God.

1 Corinthians 1:2: "To the church of God in Corinth..."

KEY QUESTION: *Why would Paul lay stress on who the church belongs to?*

1 Corinthians 3:4-11: "For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? 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 made it grow. ⁷ So