



1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. **2** I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, **3** for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? **4** For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

Paul now returns to an earlier problem of chapter one. Divisions within the church are symptomatic of what?

What does Paul mean when he says, "merely human"? What is he implying that Christians can be?

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. **7** So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. **8** He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. **9** For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Paul is not about drawing further attention to himself, or any other teacher. Who should get the credit for the work that is done in the church?

If God is the one who truly gives the growth and makes things happen, do we do anything? How can we balance being open to God's work and leading while still finding ways to "plant" and "water"? How can we be receptive without being passive?

Do you see it as a privilege to be God's fellow worker?

How do you react to hearing that you are God's field and God's building?

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **11** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13** each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. **14** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Christ is the one sure foundation. What is he the foundation of?

*Read and discuss these passages that relate to Christ as the foundation: **Ephesians 2:18-22** and **Luke 6:47-49**.*

What of this world will last that is not built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ?

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? **17** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. **18** Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. **19** For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," **20** and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." **21** So let no one boast in men. For 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 Christ's, and Christ is God's.

In the Old Testament, the temple represented the dwelling place of God. What then does it mean for you to be God's temple?

*The people had been boasting about their associations with Paul or Apollos or Cephas, while they should have been boasting in their association with God. God dwells in us and we "are Christ's, and Christ's is God." Read and discuss **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**, to see the way we are prized by God.*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?