

**Women's Bible Study – Autumn Ridge Church**  
**1 Cor. 3 - Unity in Leadership**  
**02/01/17 ~ Juli Fischer**



**1 Corinthians 3**

I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 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? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

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

Babies are cute. This is Eliana, my granddaughter that lives in Sitka, Alaska. She loves her milk! It is heartwarming and heart melting to get pictures of her.

But adults acting like them are not. Like this picture. Not cute.

That is the idea of chapter 3. Paul is telling the church that they are like adults drinking from a bottle and they need to grow up. Here is what he says.

1. 1 Cor. 3:1-9

Paul laments that they are **not spiritual**. In the first verse they are called people of the flesh, behaving in a human way, and being merely human. The word flesh is used as "unredeemed human nature."

**Gal 5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.**

But he also calls them **are brothers**. They were believers and Paul recognized them as such.

He knows they **are childish** by jealousy and strife. He says:

I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 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?

What are they jealous of and having conflicts over? The personalities and gifts of the teachers were causing strife. What then is Apollos? This question is asked in a disdainful manner to diffuse the personality of the person. Apollos was known to be eloquent, and able to quote readily from the OT.

**Acts 18:24, Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.**

Paul was clear in stating in 1 Cor. 2 that "his speech was not in plausible words of wisdom". Paul was saying that neither of them were God. They were **NOT GOD**. He did not say what they did was not important, however he did say it is God that deserves the praise. What does matter is that God is the one who causes the growth.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

**Are Servants.....**leveled at the playing ground. That is what we all are. But whether we plant or water, they are both valuable and necessary, but it is really about God and what He does. Our various gifts all are a part of the planting and watering and we are to encourage each other in that. We are to help each other succeed!

We are all servants. Equal in value to the process of growing people in the faith. Child care workers, teachers, kitchen workers, preachers, the people that pray, the missionaries we are all servants together for the gospel.

Common denominator in these verses, and what brings it together is GOD.

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**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. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 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. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

1. Verses 10-17

- How do we know if our work is **wood or gold?** Are we doing something for our own benefit? Are we acting out of jealousy? Are we helping others succeed?

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 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. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

- Parable of rich fool in Luke 12 reminds us we need to be rich toward God. Parable of the talents reminds us we are accountable to God for the gifts he has given us.  
**Rich toward God? What are you rich toward?**
- Church is very important. Don't be involved in any destruction of it.

**Building up? Tearing down?**

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**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. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

1. Verses 18-23.

Following people will ultimately get you in trouble. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. We are not of John Steer, or Dan Farm, or John Piper, or, or Beth Moore, or Mother Teresa, anybody. We are of God! And if any leaders think they are wise, or they start bragging about how wonderful they are, beware. All we have and are is a gift from God.

Just remember, babies are cute. Adults drinking milk from a bottle are not.

**Women's Bible Study is a ministry of Autumn Ridge Church, Rochester, MN**

**Questions: [ouren.jennifer@autumnridgechurch.org](mailto:ouren.jennifer@autumnridgechurch.org) or call 507-288-8880**