

## Properly Built Church

A church is a **family and matures together**. It has a mission, and it **should produce fruit**. A church needs a solidly built structure, meaning they are **well disciplined and have unity of purpose**.

We have talked about the natural man, and the spiritual man, and this portion discusses the carnal man. (JV Magee- “the unnatural man”, meaning that he is completely out of place.)

We also discussed how God’s Word and the Holy Spirit leading us to growth.

1 Corinthians 3:1–4 (ESV)

**3** But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup>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? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

\*\*\*How can you tell if someone is moving towards spiritual maturity? (a. They have a regular diet of the Word of God. B. They have a strong relationship with their church family. C. They possess spiritual discernment.)

\*\*\*What does it mean to be carnal? **Fleshly**. Going where your flesh leads.

Philippians 3:19–20 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Strife, division, bitterness, and gossip in a church are “tell-tale” signs of a carnal church.

### 1. Church Growth- (Growth of a church is God’s doing)

1 Corinthians 3:5–10 (ESV)

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

<sup>10</sup>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.

- Paul and Apollos were two servants doing their job with everyone else! (God was the giver of increase.) He grows the church when we serve as we should...
- a.) The theme here is that we work together to help each other grow! (We have our gifts, and assignments- for the maturing of the saints)
- b.) It is a humbling realization to understand that the only way a church flourishes is for God to be in control of that church.
- c.) A church that is led by immaturity struggles with “who gets the credit”, “who is in charge” and other selfish motives.

Romans 6:22 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

### **Sanctification and then eternal life!**

- Note in verse 9, this building is talking about this local church!
  - This is why we need more laborers. (More people sharing the gospel and helping with the growth process. Disciples.
  - Note: “Each one take care” how they build on it. (It is Christ's, do we love the work of the church, or is it just a routine of sorts.)
2. The opportunity of the church- We all are a part of building something good for God's glory! (Also, quite a responsibility and opportunity)

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- Some miss this, even while on the roles.

1 Corinthians 3:11–20 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—  
<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” <sup>20</sup> and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

- a.) A church is built on Jesus Christ, not on personalities.

- b.) It is grounded on the gospel. (Remember “neither cold nor hot, lukewarm”. “Lost your first love”.
- c.) Gold, silver, precious stones, or wood, hay, stubble. (The opportunity of being a part of something that lasts, and stands, and has a God-glorifying testimony.)
- d.) Many disciples, but **true disciples**.
- e.) Built on the truth of the gospel, not on personalities!
- f.) It is something that God values and done His way.
- g.) It is easy to see why people may feel that a church has “let them down”, or how it may really be so! (More than programs and flash, it is built on **spiritual growth and purpose**.)
  - Teachers, preachers, laborers. Think about your contribution! (It is a family)
  - There is a different wisdom in church than in business or in an organization. (**Discipleship, patience, prayer, sacrifice, love for each other and purpose.**)

### Conclusion

1 Corinthians 3:21–23 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup>So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, <sup>22</sup>whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, <sup>23</sup>and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

- We are doing church for God’s glory, God’s way.
- This requires all of us to mature , labor together, for one purpose.
- Do we value the opportunity that God adds us to? Share in the opportunity for something lasting? (Gold, silver, precious stones...)
- We must grow, and we must grow deeply!
- It is not what we think to build, but what we are told to build! (The gospel)