

Letters to the Church (1 Corinthians)

1 Corinthians 3 – Generations Church Student Handout

“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
— 1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV)

OVERVIEW

Paul’s letter to the Corinthians calls believers to examine who they are building for, what they are building with, and how they are representing the One who laid the foundation—Jesus Christ.

I. PERSONAL SELF-AWARENESS

“I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it.”
— 1 Corinthians 3:2

Paul opens by addressing believers who were saved but still carnal; they were driven by jealousy, division, and pride.

The issue wasn’t just division; it was carnality – living according to the flesh.
Carnality will consider things like title or position; Spirituality is about surrender.

We must always consider our “meter” – do our daily lives reflect more carnality or spirituality?
Are our decisions influenced more by our flesh or by the Holy Spirit?

Reflection:

Do I know where I am on the spiritual or carnal scale?

What areas of my life are still led by the flesh rather than the Spirit?

II. PUBLIC SELF-AWARENESS

“Let each one take care how he builds upon it.”
— 1 Corinthians 3:10

Paul challenges the church to consider how they are building on the foundation of Christ.

The foundation is perfect, but the materials we build with *will be* tested by fire.

Building Materials (v.12):

Gold, silver, and precious stones represent enduring, eternal values.

Wood, hay, and straw represent temporary, worldly values.

Questions to Consider:

What am I building with my life?

Am I building with eternal materials or with what will burn away?

How am I stewarding the costly foundation Jesus laid with His own blood?

III. RADICAL RELINQUISHMENT

“If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.”

— 1 Corinthians 3:18

Paul calls believers to reject worldly wisdom and embrace the wisdom of the cross. Becoming “foolish” in the world’s eyes is actually the path to true wisdom in God’s eyes.

The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

The cross of Christ is the true wisdom of God.

All that we have – our gifts, our life, and our future belongs to Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

Can I truly approach God with open hands and say, “Lord, any wisdom or ability I have is Yours. Use it for the good of others and for Your glory”?