

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 3:1-10

- After speaking to the Corinthian Church about the differences between the saved and unsaved person, how one has the Spirit of God living within them therefore their able to discern what is of God and what is not. While the unsaved person doesn't have God's Spirit inside of them so they are left to determine right from wrong based on their own personal belief system, and that leads to confusion and discord.

V1-10

- In this chapter Paul is going to paint a picture of what the local church is supposed to look like and what it is supposed to accomplish. In these first four verses he will explain how the Church is a family and the goal for every family member is maturity.
- **V1-4** Paul in the last chapter has already shared how there are two kinds of people in the world > the **natural** (unsaved) and the **spiritual** (saved). Here he explains that there also are two kinds of saved people > mature and immature. Remember in **Ch 2** we were told that God's Spirit does two things for the believer > **1. He searches** all things allowing us to dive deeper into the will and plans of God **V10**, **2. He teaches** us God's wisdom helping us to know what is pleasing and displeasing to God **V13**.
- In allowing the Spirit of God to search for us the will of God, and then teach us His wisdom we then cannot help but to grow in God's grace and His mercy. This produces a maturity that insulates and protects us from indulging in things that will either sidetrack or hinder what God wants to accomplish in all of our lives.
- So Paul in telling the Corinthian Church that he couldn't speak to them as spiritual people (mature) but as carnal people (immature) like babes in Christ. A babe in Christ is a person just saved, and much of Christianity they are unaware of so you expect them to have attitudes and perspectives that are still governed by their flesh.
- Because of their immaturity Paul says he had to feed them a liquid diet one that doesn't include solid foods, like an infant. For if he tried to introduce meat, he says they could not digest it, now the language suggests that they should be able to handle it by now, but because of their lack of growth they're still in the baby stage.

- To prove it he shares their current state of bickering about the factions in the church that he's already addressed. **V3** Paul lists three things that are sure to stunt any believer's growth, and send you down a path of carnality instead of maturity. **1. Envy, 2. Strife, 3. Division**, these are things that Satan loves but God hates.
- For what is the opposite of **envy**- Love, **strife** and **division**- unity, and where love and unity reside spiritual growth is sure to follow, which is what the Church should be producing. Which is why at the end of **V3** Paul reminds them that in behaving like this they are reverting back to their old nature and not pressing into their new nature acting like "**mere men**" well what should we be acting like? (God's disciples), this again proves that believers have a higher calling than what the unsaved world does.
- **V5-7** he goes from the Church is a family and the goal is maturity, to the Church is a field and the goal is quantity. He begins by saying that no one person is above anyone else, that despite their position or role we should never exalt anyone in the Church. He uses Apollos and himself as prime examples, saying we are the tools from which God used to bring Jesus to you, but we are not the One you believed on for salvation, as we may have planted, or watered, but God is Who saved you.
- **V8-10** to combat the Corinthian desire to divide amongst the leaders Paul reminds them they are all on the same team > "he who plants and he who waters are one". Although all work together each one is rewarded individually, and notice the reward is not given according to gifts, talents or outward success, but the person's labor.
- The work we put in to do God's will never goes unnoticed by The Lord, some of us just getting to Church is hard, others its not so difficult, some may walk right out the door and you are here, but others it's a hike, it takes some effort, maybe because of distance, or little kids, or our bodies not cooperating, whatever the reason, God sees your labor and He will reward it accordingly scripture says.
- He beautiful thing is we are told that we are God's workers, as He gives us an amazing opportunity to work with Him. Were also told we are God's field, and His building, and God wants to use us to do work with Him on God's people, and in doing so we help to stabilize God's building. Notice we see a picture of both a farmer planting and watering, and a builder laying a foundation that is going to last forever.