

“When Christians Stay Immature”

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Fractured: How God Restores A Broken Church

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Imagine this!

A 35-year-old man sitting in a high chair wearing a bib while someone feeds him baby food with a spoon.

Would you not immediately think that this man needs help?!

This is, in essence, what the apostle Paul is accusing the Corinthian church of! Being _____ (Eph 4:14).

I bet you can relate in some way. Circle the example you can relate to the most.

- The church hopper, the Facebook warrior, the resentful employee, the gossip circle, the neighborhood feud, the generation friction, resentment over a lack of appreciation, the worship style divide...

What is the result if spiritual maturity isn't pursued?

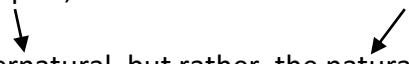
- Jealousy (v 3), conflict (v 3), witness is compromised (v 3), division (v 4), ministry becomes competitive (v 8)...

It's easy to see how such things can fracture a church. *So, let's guard against these things and more.*

1 Cor 3:1-9

Takeaways:

1. VV 1-3... The Corinthian church was not living “by the Spirit,” but rather as “mere humans” (V 3).

- In other words, not living according to the supernatural, but rather, the natural (1 Cor 2:14).

- *The application:* _____ to celebrate others' successes, to be self-controlled, and to have gospel-centered priorities... NOT to be jealous and to quarrel!

2. VV 5-7... This issue of *division* that the church was going through was serious.

- After all, Paul brought it up earlier, in chapter 1:12-13.
- *The application:* We must _____ this at NVC (Eph 4:3; Prov 6:16-19)!

TURN OVER

3. VV 6b-9... Regardless of what lane of grace we are all in, we have one purpose.

- That purpose is to *grow* God's people to spiritual maturity. (Of course, God does the growing. He invites us to participate. Wow!)
- *The application:* We are all priests and priestesses (1 Pet 2:9). How specifically are you _____ towards others' growth? (If you're just checking out Christianity, then we don't think any less of you!)

God grows His church through believers who choose Spirit-led living, guard unity, and _____ in others' growth.

Here Are Your Calls-to-Action for Spiritual Maturity

- ☐ **Set a wake-up alarm that has the title, "Be sensitive to the Spirit's leading."**
 - Galatians 5:16 – "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."
- ☐ **Use your *jealousy killer* weapon by naming the person whom you will send a text to, complementing them!**
 - Romans 12:15 – "Rejoice with those who rejoice."
- ☐ **Be attentive to someone speaking ill of another. Respond by speaking well of that person or changing the subject.**
 - Ephesians 4:29 – "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths..."
- ☐ **Search your heart for resentment. Then, pray. Then, ask that person for forgiveness before they come to you.**
 - Matthew 5:23-24 - "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."
- ☐ **Pray that the Lord will protect NVC from division.**
 - John 17:21 – "... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."
- ☐ **Ask your heavenly Father to give you more happiness and contentment regarding your lane of grace.**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7 – "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit [a unique measure and flavor of God's grace] is given for the common good."
- ☐ **Name the person you will influence to take their first – or next – step with Jesus. Pick them up for church next Sunday or growth group, say a quick prayer over them, share a Bible verse, ask them if they'd like to get baptized...**
 - Colossians 1:28 - He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

GOING DEEPER FOR "WHEN CHRISTIANS STAY IMMATURE" – 03.08.26

Go through this note sheet with your Growth Group and/or your family at the dinner table. Seek opportunities to also share this with your *oikos* network. Bring this note sheet to your work or school and discuss it with your workmate or schoolmate over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses. Pray with one another.