

Give God the Glory

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 – Adult Group Leader Handout

Bible Passage

⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

Discussion Questions

I. God Appoints Each One (v. 5)

- a. Consider the spiritual leaders that God has used in your life over time. How has God used them differently? How have they each been good for you?
- b. *Imagine someone has just preached a great sermon, taught an insightful Bible study, or led an engaging discussion group, etc. You have been blessed by it, and you want to think and say things about their work that are accurate.*
 - i. What are some unhelpful or inaccurate things you could say?
 - ii. How can you give God the glory in the way you pray about it? Express your appreciation to them? Talk to other people about it?
- c. If someone praises you for your work, how can you respond biblically?

II. God Grows Each One (vv. 6-7)

- a. How can we balance this instruction to consider men as merely God's servants with the need to be discerning about who we listen to or read?
- b. When you talk about various Christian leaders, how can you guard your speech from either idolizing them or maligning one of your Lord's servants?
- c. *Think about your conversations after church each week.*
 - i. How can you ask questions that will prompt discussion about how the Lord is working (or causing growth) in their life?
 - ii. If they ask how you are doing, how can you give God glory?
 - iii. Why do these conversations sometimes feel fake or pretentious? We also want to talk about normal stuff. What is the issue, and how do we fix it?

III. God Rewards Each One (v. 8-9)

- a. *Think about the various ministries, gifts, abilities, and opportunities at Anchor.*
 - i. If you and someone else are at odds about something, what does it mean to be one? How should this affect the way you talk to and about them?
 - ii. How should the anticipation of God's evaluation (and reward) affect the way that we work? What about how we judge one another's work?
 - iii. If you don't like how something somewhere is being done, should you talk to them or to someone else? What factors should you consider?
 - iv. If someone says they are feeling "burnt out," what could you discuss?
- b. Why do we so often forget that everything is God's? How can we remind ourselves and one another of this in our conversations about church stuff?

Prayer Requests

- Ask for greater love so that we would appreciate and not despise God's servants.
- Pray for careful speech as we discuss preachers, teachers, and Christian leaders.
- Give glory to God for the work He is accomplishing through human means.
- Pray about your thoughts and words when you disagree with things.
- Rejoice in the magnificent plan of God as He works throughout the world and history.