

1 Corinthians 3
“It’s Time to be Holy”

“Are you prepared to let the Spirit of God search you until you know what the level and nature of sin is in your life— to see the very things that struggle against God’s Spirit in you? If so, will you then agree with God’s verdict on the nature of sin— that it should be identified with the death of Jesus? You cannot ‘reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin’ unless you have radically dealt with the issue of your will before God.” (Oswald Chambers)

Introduction:

1 Corinthians 3:1-3, “But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 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?”

1. If we continue to live under the influence of our fleshly nature:

2. The only way to be fed spiritual solid food is:

3. As long as jealousy and strife dominate our lives:

4. Christians are utterly to blame who do not endeavor:

1 Corinthians 3:4, “For when one says, ‘I follow Paul,’ and another, ‘I follow Apollos,’ are you not being merely human?”

1. There was absolutely no:

2. The Corinthians were allowing their personal:

+

1 Corinthians 3:5-9, “What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.”

1. We must be very careful not to:
2. Each vessel or minister has a specific assignment they are given:
3. All faithful ministers of Christ are one:
4. All faithful ministers of Christ are in partnership with God to:

1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, "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. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1. Paul understood that God had given him the blueprints for the foundation of their faith:
2. Ministers must be very careful that they do not build monuments to:
3. There is only one sure and certain foundation:

1 Corinthians 3:12-15, "Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—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. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."

1. There are those faithful ministers who build on the foundation of Jesus Christ with eternal materials:
2. There are those ministers who build on the foundation of Jesus Christ with temporal materials:
3. Fire always reveals:
4. There is a reward for those who build with eternal materials:

1 Corinthians 3:16-17, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple."

1. There can be no greater purpose for our lives:
2. There can be no more serious crime in all of eternity than:
3. "Christians are holy by profession, and should be pure and clean both in heart and conversation:
(Matthew Henry)

1 Corinthians 3:18-20, "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. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness,' and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'"

1. We are in great danger of deceiving ourselves:
2. We are far better off being thought of as simple by the world:

1 Corinthians 3:21-23, "So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's."

1. All things are ours because Christ has given us all things:
2. All things are ours:
3. All things are ours because we belong to Christ who belongs to God:

Conclusion: