

Great Expectations and Sincere Disappointments

TEXT- 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Theme: Spiritual Growth is Stunted by
Carnality

The Theme of 1 Corinthians

∞ The Gospel is God's Mysterious Wisdom
Proclaimed through His Spirit

Review

Theme of 1 Cor 2:6-16

God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ can never be discovered by Human means!

- ◆ God's Wisdom is not humanly discovered
- ◆ God's Wisdom is Divinely Obtained

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

[1] But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

[2] I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, [3]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? [4] For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? [5] What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.

1 Corinthians 3:1-9



[6] I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. [7] So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. [8] He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. [9] For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. (ESV)

Road Map



1. **The Problem: Carnality**
2. **A Mature perspective**

The Problem: Carnality



Isa 55:8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Personal preferences caused factions within the church

◆ This issue first raised 1 Cor 1:10-17

1 Cor 6:20 says that we are “bought with a price.”

The Problem: Carnality



Still of the flesh

- ◆ Ver 1-2 they were not “spiritual people”
- ◆ “And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh.”
- ◆ “Flesh” = Carnal Man

The Problem: Carnality



Ver 3 “For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?”

Corporate sins affect the church body as well as personal growth.

A Mature Perspective



What then is Apollos? What is Paul?

- “Who” identifies the person.
- “What” identifies the mission or work

Ver 5 “Servants through whom you believed...”

- There was no status of celebrity for a servant.

Ver 5 “...as the Lord assigned to each.”

- John 13:16

A Mature Perspective



Ver 6 “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”

Ver 7 “So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

Ver 8 “He who plants and he who waters are one...”

- They all are working toward the same goal.
- God is not an God of anarchy, but a God of unity.

A Mature Perspective



Ver 9 “For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building”

➤ “Fellow workers” Could be translated “co-laborers in God’s service.” (New Bible Commentary)

“The emphasis is on laboring together, not alongside God, who is the supreme Lord and Master, but alongside one another.”

(David Jackman, Commentary on 1 Corinthians)

A Mature Perspective



“You are God’s field, God’s building.”

“God is the owner; we are the work-force. But the church itself is the field that God owns and in which he sets his laborers to work. So then every Christian is a part of God’s field, and God’s building.”

(David Jackman Commentary on 1 Cor).

Open your eyes and see the work that God is doing!

Application and conclusion

The Corinthians allowed their intelligence to blind them to the truth that had been shown them by Paul and Apollos.


Christianity is rooted in a personal relationship with the Creator

Our trust must only be in Christ and His Word

I must not allow my life to cause division among my brothers and sisters.

- Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Application and conclusion



Have you allowed anything or anyone to come between you and the Gospel of Christ?

Have you allowed anything or anyone to cause you to break fellowship with another believer?

The remedy: a repentant heart and a willing spirit.

