

<p>Bible Text English Standard Version</p>	<p>Observations What does the text say?</p>	<p>Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p>Applications What does it mean to me?</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 3:1-23</p> <p>The Church and Its Leaders</p> <p>1 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? 4 For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?</p> <p>5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.</p> <p>10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s</p>			

First Love

Lesson 3

1 Corinthians 3

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<p>work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.</p> <p>16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.</p> <p>18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"[a]; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."[b]</p> <p>21 So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas[c] or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.</p>			
<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>a: 1 Corinthians 3:19 Job 5:13 b: 1 Corinthians 3:20 Psalm 94:11 c: 1 Corinthians 3:22 That is, Peter</p>			
<p>Summary:</p>			

As believers, we are called to build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ as we share our faith with the world. The things we do to further His kingdom mark our lives with significance.

Consider the following verses in light of your efforts to build. Which one stands out to you? Why?

Luke 6:47-49

47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: **48** he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. **49** But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

James 2:15-20

15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **18** But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! **20** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

Reflecting with the Holy Spirit

Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- In the gospels of Mark and Luke, Jesus tells us, “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” That means using your affection, your will, your intellect, and your muscle to serve the Lord in various ways. In what ways will you build on Christ’s foundation in your life this week using each of these things?
 - Heart (affection, emotion):
 - Soul (will or choices):
 - Mind (intellect):
 - Strength (muscle or physical work):
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit, produce a new work of creativity that reflects this theme. This could be a poem, a melody, a photograph or perhaps a painting.

Prayer Requests
