

Paul's First Letter to
the Corinthians

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

*For no one can lay a foundation other than that
which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

- 1 Corinthians 3:11

Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading and Summary – 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
- Class Discussion:
 1. *The building*
 2. *The Day*
 3. *The Spirit*
- Outline and Lesson

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—
¹³ 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. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

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

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

1st Corinthians -- 3:10-23

Summary Statement

In Corinth Paul skillfully laid the only possible foundation, Jesus Christ, but it is up to others to build upon it while taking care how they build it since God's judgement Day will reveal whether that work of building the church is of value and the worker is rewarded or suffers loss. Paul makes plain that the Corinthian church is God's temple, his Holy spirit dwells in them, that His temple is holy, and anyone destroying it will be destroyed by God. He warns the Corinthians not to be self-deceived by worldly wisdom because it is folly with God who turns it against the wise. There is no basis for boasting in men for all good things in Christ belong to them and they belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**Discussion
Question #1**

In verses 10 and 11, Paul refers to building upon the foundation which he skillfully laid. What is this foundation and what is the building being constructed? Who are the builders who are cautioned to build with care? Read these verses to gain insight into who the builders are: 1 Co 12:7, 12–31; 14:12.

**Discussion
Question #2**

Read these verses: Romans 5:1; John 5:24; Romans 8:1; Romans 8:33; Romans 14:10–12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 6:1–6; Matthew 6:16; Matthew 6:18; Matthew 10:41–42. Paul mentions “the Day” in verse 13. What do these passages, together with 1 Cor 3:12-15 tell us 1) about the Day; 2) about reward and loss; 3) about why the one who suffers loss will nevertheless be saved but through fire?

**Discussion
Question #3**

In comparing the Spirit's indwelling activity in Corinth with His indwelling of the temple in the OT, the word "you" is used three times in verses 16-17. It is plural (y'all, the spirit dwells in y'all). What does this tell us about what God's Spirit indwells? How is this indwelling of the Spirit qualified and narrowed down in 1 Cor. 6:19?

Building With Care

I. The Foundation vv10-11

- A. Skill v10a
- B. Care v10b
- C. Exclusivity v11

II. The Day vv12-15

- A. Testing vv12-13
- B. Reward v14
- C. Loss v15

III. The Temple vv16-17

- A. Dwelling v16
- B. Destruction v17

IV. The Wise vv18-20

- A. Deception v18
- B. Folly v19
- C. Futility v20

V. The Possession vv21-23

- A. Boasting v21a
- B. Belonging vv21b-23

I. The Foundation vv10-11

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- A. Skill v10a
- B. Care v10b
- C. Exclusivity v11

II. The Day vv12-15

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- A. Testing vv12-13
- B. Reward v14
- C. Loss v15

III. The Temple vv16-17

- A. Dwelling v16
- B. Destruction v17

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IV. The Wise vv18-20

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- A. Deception v18
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V. The Possession vv21-23

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A. Boasting v21a

B. Belonging vv21b-23