

1 Corinthians 3

Sectarianism Is Carnal

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able;

³ for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and ^[a]behaving like *mere* men?

⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I *am* of Apollos," are you not carnal?

Watering, Working, Warning

⁵ Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

¹⁷ If anyone ^[b]defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

Avoid Worldly Wisdom

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness";

²⁰ and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

²¹ Therefore 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 things present or things to come—all are yours.

²³ And you *are* Christ's, and Christ *is* God's.

1 Corinthians 4

Stewards of the Mysteries of God

¹ Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human ^{tribunal}court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

⁴ For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the ^{secret}counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Fools for Christ's Sake

⁶ Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be ^{inflated}puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

⁷ For who ^{makes} makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

⁸ You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

⁹ For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle ^{to}to the world, both to angels and to men.

¹⁰ We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but you *are* wise in Christ! We *are* weak, but you *are* strong! You *are* distinguished, but we *are* dishonored!

¹¹ To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

¹² And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

¹³ being defamed, we ^{endure}entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

Paul's Paternal Care

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*.

¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

¹⁷ For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

¹⁸ Now some are ^{inflated}puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.

¹⁹ But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.

²⁰ For the kingdom of God *is* not in word but in power.

²¹ What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?