

Session #2
Important Lessons for the Church of God about the Church of God
1 Corinthians 1-16

Some important foundational truths:

- [1] We are more like the Corinthians than any of us wants to admit.
- [2] We need to learn the lessons from the Corinthians more than we may realize.
- [3] We need the foundations from 1 Corinthians more than we might anticipate.

So notice some of the Basic Truths from 1 Corinthians for the Church of God.

1A. Truths about the Word of God – 4:1-6

“Do not go beyond what ‘stands written’”

2A. Truths about the Church of God – 1:1-3:17

1B. It is – by God’s declaration – the Church of God – 1:1-2

1C. It is called the ‘church of God’ – 1:1-2

1D. 1 Cor. 1:2 – *“to the church of God”*

2D. 2 Cor. 1:1 – *“to the church of God”*

3D. 1 Th. 2:14 – *“imitators of the churches of God”*

4D. 2 Th. 1:4 – *“among the churches of God”*

5D. Acts 20:28 – *“shepherd the church of God – He purchased”*

2C. It is called the ‘tillage field/garden/farm of God’ – 1 Cor. 3:9 (3:5-9)

1D. The Farm Belongs to God – 3:9 – *“of God – Tillage Field”*

2D. The Workers Belong to God – 3:9 – *“of God – Fellow Workers”*

1E. They – as mutual servants – have separate God-given jobs – 3:6a-b

1F. They are mutually servants of God
– fellow servants – 3:9

2F. One is assigned the task of Planting – 3:6a
 (“as God gave opportunity”)

3F. Another is assigned the task of watering – 3:6b
 (“as God gave opportunity”)

4F. Both Are Part of the Owner’s Overall Plan

2E. They are nevertheless nothing but servants – 3:5

3D. The Growth Belongs to God – 3:6

(“he was continuously causing the growth”)

1E. The Owner is the One Who Brings the Growth – 3:6

2E. The Owner Should be Our Focus – Not the Servants – 3:7

3E. The Owner Holds Servants Personally Accountable – 3:8

3C. It is called the 'building of God' – 1 Cor. 3:9 (3:10-15)

Three things to keep in mind as we look at this passage:

- [1] The Building in this Metaphor is the Church of God – 3:9
- [2] The Owner of this Building is God – 3:9
- [3] The Founder/the one who laid the Foundation is Paul – 3:10

1D. The Foundation – 3:10a, 11

1E. The Laying of the Foundation – 3:10a

2E. The Reminder Concerning the Foundation – 3:11

2D. The Caution/Warning – 3:10b, 12-15

(The Primary Point of this Paragraph)

1E. The Caution Stated – 3:10b

2E. The Caution Elaborated Upon – 3:12-13

3E. The Caution Illustrated/Applied – 3:14-15

4C. It is called the 'temple of God' – 1 Cor. 3:16-17

1D. The Church is 'by quality' Temple of God – 3:16

2D. The Church – as God's Temple – is Holy – 3:17b

3D. The Church's welfare is of grave concern to God – 3:17a

5C. It is called the Flock of God – 1 Peter 5:2

1D. The Flock belongs to God – not to you/me – 5:2

2D. The Flock is an allotment from God – 5:3

3D. The Flock's Ultimate Shepherd is Christ Himself – 5:4

6C. It is called the Household/Family of God – 1 Timothy 3:1-16

1D. The Church is called God's Household/Family – 3:14-16

2D. The Church's leaders must lead well their households – 3:1-13

7C. It is called the Body of Christ – Ephesians 1:22-23

2B. *It is ALL Of/From/Centered on the Person of Jesus Christ* – 1:1-10

3B. *It is All God Produced* – 1:4-9 – 4 Divine Passives

1C. We are 'called' by God – 1:9

2C. We are 'graced' by God – 1:4

3C. We are 'enriched' by God – 1:5

4C. We are 'confirmed' by God – 1:6-8

4B. *It is Put Together by God* – 1:26-31

1C. The Fact of God's Choice ("*God has chosen*" – 3x) – 1:26-28

2C. The Nature of God's Choice – 1:26-28

3C. The Reason for God's Choice ("*boast {only} in the Lord*") – 1:27-31

3A. Truths about the People of God – 1:1-2; 1:18-2:5; 2:6-3:4; 12:1-31; 13:1-13

- 1B. They are a Holy People – and they ought to act like it – 1:1-2
 - 1C. “*called saints*” – 1:2
 - 2C. “*in the state of having been sanctified in Christ Jesus*” – 1:2
- 2B. They are a Spiritual People – and they ought to act like it – 2:6-3:4
 - 1C. They are spiritual people – 2:6-16; 12:13
 - 2C. They should act like it – 3:1-4
- 3B. They are an Eschatological People – and they ought to live like it – 2:6-16
- 4B. They are a ‘Set Apart’ People – and they ought to behave like it – 1:18-2:5
 - 1C. They are to focus on God's Wisdom - Not Man's – 2:1ff.
 - 2C. They are to rely on God's Power - Not Man's – 1:18-31
 - 3C. They are to seek God's Directives – Not Man's – 12:1-31
- 5B. They are a Loving People – and they ought to act like it – 13:1-13

4A. Truths about the Ministry of God

- 1B. It is Family Oriented – 4:14-21; 16:15-18
 - 1C. 1 Cor. 4:14-21
 - 2C. 1 Cor. 16:15-18

- 2B. It is Gift Oriented – 12:1-14:

One must make a clear distinction

- [1] Between what emanates from God driven gifts
- [2] & what emanates from Man driven agendas

- 3B. It is Servant Oriented
 - 1C. 1 Cor. 3:ff.
 - 2C. 1 Cor. 4:1ff.
 - 3C. 1 Cor. 16:15ff.

- 4B. It is Self Oriented (in the right sense)

There are some very important lessons to be learned:

- [1] I can't change you; but I can change me
- [2] I can't affect what the rest of the church does; I can affect what I do
- [3] I can't wait until everyone/someone else does; I must do myself