



First Corinthians

Instructions to the Church

1 Corinthians 1:2 (NIV) To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:

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1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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1 Corinthians 2:12 (NIV) We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

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Instructions to the Church

I. Inspection of God's House vs.1-9

1. What He Found vs.1-4

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (NIV) ¹ Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as 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 men? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

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I. Inspection of God's House vs.1-9

1. What He Found vs.1-4

1 John 4:20 (NIV) If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

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I. Inspection of God's House vs.1-9

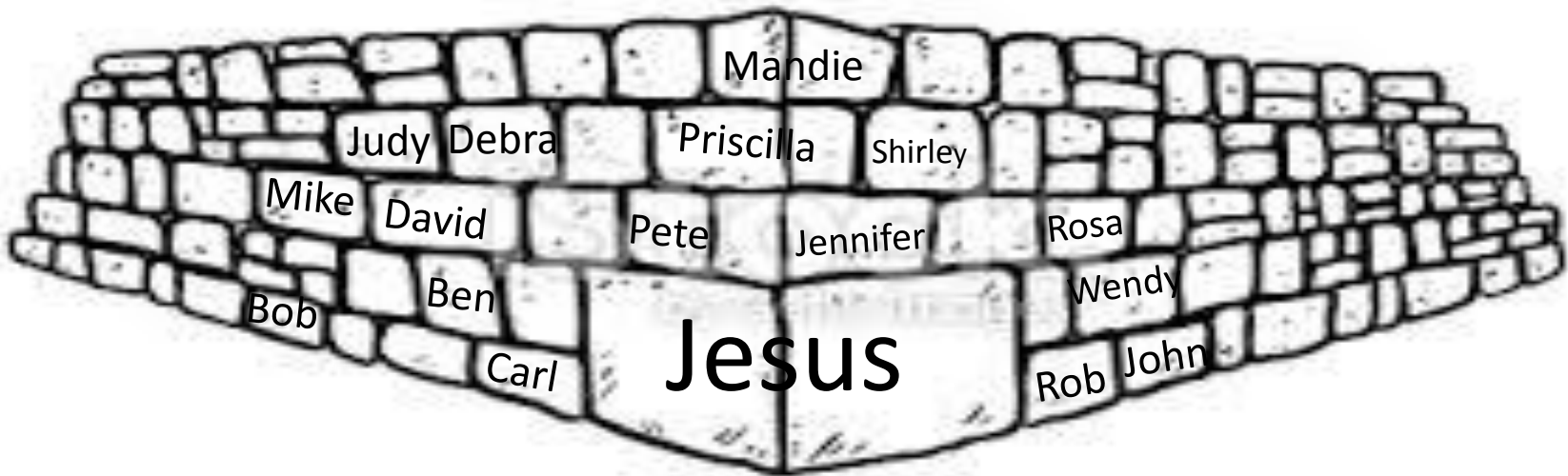
2. What He is looking for vs.5-9

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (NIV) 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 made it grow. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

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II. The Foundation and the Builders of God's House vs.10-15

A. The Foundation of the House vs.10-11

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.

¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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II. The Foundation and the Builders of God's House vs.10-15

B. The Builders of the House vs.10-11

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (NIV) ¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his 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 man's work.

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II. The Foundation and the Builders of God's House vs.10-15

B. The Builders of the House vs.10-11

¹⁴ If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

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II. The Foundation and the Builders of God's House vs.10-15

B. The Builders of the House vs.10-11

Matthew 25:14 (NIV) "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

Matthew 25:19 (NIV) "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

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II. The Foundation and the Builders of God's House vs.10-15

B. The Builders of the House vs.10-11

Matthew 13:23 (NIV) But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

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II. The Foundation and the Builders of God's House vs.10-15

B. The Builders of the House vs.10-11

5 Purposes of Your Life

1. Planned for God's Pleasure
2. Formed for God's Family
3. Created to be like Christ
4. Shaped for Service
5. Made for a Mission

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III. The Attitudes of the Workers of God's House. vs.16-22

1 Corinthians 3:16-22 (NIV) ¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

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III. The Attitudes of the Workers of God's House. vs.16-22

A. Worldly Attitude vs.18-19

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he 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"; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

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III. The Attitudes of the Workers of God's House. vs.16-22

A. Worldly Attitude vs.18-19

Job 5:13 (NIV) He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away.

Psalms 94:11 (NIV) The Lord knows the thoughts of man; he knows that they are futile.

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III. The Attitudes of the Workers of God's House. vs.16-22

B. Humble Attitude

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV) I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

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III. The Attitudes of the Workers of God's House. vs.16-22

B. Humble Attitude

"He is the wisest man who knows himself to be very ill-equipped for the study of wisdom."

"They would doubtless have become excellent scholars if they had not been so fully persuaded of their own scholarship."

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III. The Attitudes of the Workers of God's House. vs.16-22

B. Humble Attitude

"He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not is a fool; avoid him. He who knows not, and knows that he knows not is a wise man; teach him."

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III. The Attitudes of the Workers of God's House. vs.16-22

C. Kingdom Attitude vs.21-23

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 (NIV) ²¹ So then, no more boasting about men! 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 of Christ, and Christ is of God.



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