SMITH FOR CHRIST PUBLISHING · BEREAN DASHBOARD STUDY

1 Corinthians 3

God's Field, God's Building, God's Temple — O·I·A, integrated with the Deep Dive

OBSERVATION · INTERPRETATION · APPLICATION · 2026-11-15 · NASB 1995

"Seeking God diligently — examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so." — Acts 17:11

CHAPTER THEME

The church is God's field, God's building and God's temple, so the men who serve it are only servants and the only foundation is Christ. A day is coming when fire will show what each of us built — and meanwhile all things are ours, because we are Christ's.

00 The Text

1 CORINTHIANS 3 (NASB95), MARKED

HOW THIS STUDY IS MARKED — God — His character & actions · Command / instruction · Key repeated word · Sin / warning · Promise / blessing · Time / place / contrast

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

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

5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

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

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

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

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

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

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

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

17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS";

20 and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS."

21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,

22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you,

23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

Marked in the text

- **v1** "men of flesh" — Sin / warning
- **v1** "infants in Christ" — Time / place / contrast
- **v2** "milk to drink, not solid food" — Time / place / contrast
- **v3** "jealousy and strife" — Sin / warning
- **v3** "walking like mere men" — Sin / warning
- **v4** "I am of Paul" — Sin / warning
- **v5** "the Lord gave opportunity to each one" — God — His character & actions
- **v6** "God was causing the growth" — God — His character & actions
- **v7** "God who causes the growth" — God — His character & actions
- **v8** "each will receive his own reward according to his own labor" — Promise / blessing
- **v9** "God's fellow workers" — God — His character & actions
- **v9** "God's field, God's building" — Time / place / contrast
- **v10** "According to the grace of God" — God — His character & actions
- **v10** "each man must be careful how he builds on it" — Command / instruction
- **v11** "which is Jesus Christ" — God — His character & actions
- **v12** "gold, silver, precious stones" — Time / place / contrast
- **v12** "wood, hay, straw" — Time / place / contrast
- **v13** "the day will show it" — Time / place / contrast
- **v13** "the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work" — Sin / warning
- **v14** "he will receive a reward" — Promise / blessing
- **v15** "he will suffer loss" — Sin / warning
- **v15** "he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire" — Promise / blessing
- **v16** "you are a temple of God" — God — His character & actions
- **v16** "the Spirit of God dwells in you" — God — His character & actions
- **v17** "God will destroy him" — Sin / warning
- **v17** "the temple of God is holy" — God — His character & actions
- **v18** "Let no man deceive himself" — Command / instruction
- **v18** "he must become foolish, so that he may become wise" — Command / instruction
- **v19** "the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God" — Sin / warning
- **v21** "let no one boast in men" — Command / instruction
- **v21** "all things belong to you" — Promise / blessing (every occurrence)
- **v23** "you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God" — God — His character & actions
- **v3** "fleshly" — Key repeated word (every occurrence)
- **v10** "foundation" — Key repeated word (every occurrence)
- **v13** "work" — Key repeated word (every occurrence)
- **v16** "temple" — Key repeated word (every occurrence)

01 Observation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

KEY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6

"I planted, Apollos watered, but △God was causing the growth."

FIGURE · FIELD, BUILDING, TEMPLE

GOD'S FIELD 1 Corinthians 3:5–9	GOD'S BUILDING 1 Corinthians 3:9–15	GOD'S TEMPLE 1 Corinthians 3:16–17
		
Paul planted, Apollos watered — **God caused the growth**	Paul laid the foundation, another builds on it — **the foundation is Christ**	you (plural) are God's sanctuary — His Spirit **dwells in you**
each receives his own reward for his own labor (v8)	*the fire will test the quality of each work (v13)*	*destroy the temple, and God destroys you (v17)*

ONE PEOPLE, THREE PICTURES — EACH MORE SACRED THAN THE LAST

Every picture belongs to God ("God's field, God's building … a temple of God") — none belongs to Paul or Apollos.

The same people pictured three ways — each picture belongs to God, each names what God does, and each ends in a warning that grows sharper.

Setting. Paul writes from Ephesus (16:8) to the church he planted in Corinth (Acts 18). Chapters 1–4 answer the report from "Chloe's people" (1:11) that the church had split into camps behind favorite teachers (1:12). Chapter 2 ended with the natural man and the one who is spiritual (2:14–15); chapter 3 opens by telling the Corinthians that, for all their talk of wisdom, they are still infants.

Who: Paul; Apollos; Cephas (v22); the Corinthians ("brethren," "infants in Christ"); "the Lord" who gave opportunity to each one (v5); God, who causes the growth, owns the field and the building, and dwells in the temple; "the Spirit of God" (v16); "any man" who builds (vv12–15), destroys (v17) or thinks himself wise (v18).

Structure:

- vv1–4 — **infants, not spiritual men:** milk, not solid food — "not yet able … even now you are not yet able" (v2). Jealousy and strife prove they are fleshly; "I am of Paul," "I am of Apollos" — "are you not mere men?"
- vv5–9 — **the field:** "What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants" (v5). Paul planted, Apollos watered, God was causing the growth (v6); the workers are not anything (v7) and are one (v8); each is paid according to his own labor. "We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building" (v9).

- vv10–15 — **the building and the fire:** Paul laid the foundation as a wise master builder "according to the grace of God" (v10); no other foundation can be laid — Jesus Christ (v11). Six materials (v12); the day, the fire, the test of "quality" (v13); reward (v14) or loss — "he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire" (v15).
- vv16–17 — **the temple:** "you are a temple of God," indwelt by the Spirit; whoever destroys it, God will destroy him; "the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are."
- vv18–23 — **wisdom and belonging:** become foolish to become wise (v18); the world's wisdom is foolishness before God — Job 5:13 and Psalm 94:11 (vv19–20). "So then let no one boast in men" (v21): all things belong to you — Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life, death, things present, things to come — "and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God" (v23).

Repeated words, with counts (NASB95):

- "God" ×13 (counting "God's" ×3 in v9) — vv6, 7, 9 (×3), 10, 16 (×2), 17 (×3), 19, 23. Plus "Lord/LORD" ×2 (vv5, 20).
- build-words ×6 — "building" (vv9, 10), "builder" (v10), "builds" (vv10, 12), "built" (v14).
- "any man" ×5 — vv12, 14, 15, 17, 18; "each" ×5 — vv5, 8, 10, 13 (×2).
- "wise" ×5 — vv10, 18 (×2), 19, 20; with "wisdom" (v19), "foolish" (v18), "foolishness" (v19).
- "Apollos" ×4 — vv4, 5, 6, 22; "Paul" ×3 — vv4, 5, 22.
- "work" ×4 — vv13 (×2), 14, 15 (always "man's work").
- "Christ" ×4 — vv1, 11, 23 (×2).
- "foundation" ×3 — vv10, 11, 12; "fire" ×3 — vv13 (×2), 15; "temple" ×3 — vv16, 17 (×2) (the KJV has a fourth: "which temple ye are").
- plant-words ×3 — "planted" (v6), "plants" (vv7, 8); water-words ×3 — "watered" (v6), "waters" (vv7, 8); "growth" ×2 — vv6, 7.
- flesh-words ×3 — "men of flesh" (v1), "fleshly" (v3 ×2); "mere men" ×2 — vv3, 4.
- "belong(s)" ×3 — vv21, 22, 23; "all things" ×2 — vv21, 22; "reward" ×2 — vv8, 14; "not yet" ×2 — v2.

Three pictures of the church: a **field** (vv6–9), a **building** (vv9–15), a **temple** (vv16–17) — each more sacred than the last, and each called God's.

Contrasts: spiritual ⟷ men of flesh (v1); milk ⟷ solid food (v2); planting and watering (men) ⟷ causing the growth (God) (vv6–7); the one foundation ⟷ what is built on it (vv10–12); gold, silver, precious stones ⟷ wood, hay, straw (v12); work that remains ⟷ work burned up; reward ⟷ loss (vv14–15); wise in this age ⟷ foolish (v18); "boast in men" ⟷ "you belong to Christ" (vv21–23).

Lists: jealousy and strife (v3; KJV adds "divisions"); the six materials (v12); the eight things that belong to you (v22).

Commands / warnings: "each man must be careful how he builds on it" (v10); "God will destroy him" (v17); "Let no man deceive himself" (v18); "he must become foolish, so that he may become wise" (v18); "let no one boast in men" (v21).

Old Testament quoted: Job 5:13 (v19) and Psalm 94:11 (v20). Paul's wording of Psalm 94:11 says "of the wise" where the Psalm says "of man" (NASB: "The LORD knows the thoughts of man, That they are a mere breath").

Time words: "not yet able … even now you are not yet able" (v2); "still fleshly" (v3); "the day will show it" (v13); "in this age" (v18); "things present or things to come" (v22).

Terms of conclusion: “So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything” (v7); “So then let no one boast in men” (v21).

Shape of the chapter: a nursery (1–4), a field (5–9), a building site on the day of fire (10–15), a sanctuary (16–17), and an inventory of everything the believer owns (18–23). It begins with men who say “I am of Paul” and ends with “you belong to Christ.”

Chapter theme (my words): The church is God’s field, God’s building and God’s temple — so the men who serve it are only servants, the only foundation is Christ, and the day is coming when fire will show what each of us actually built.

02 Interpretation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

KEY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 3:15

"If any man's work is burned up, ⚠ he will suffer loss; but ☆ he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

FIGURE · THREE KINDS OF MEN

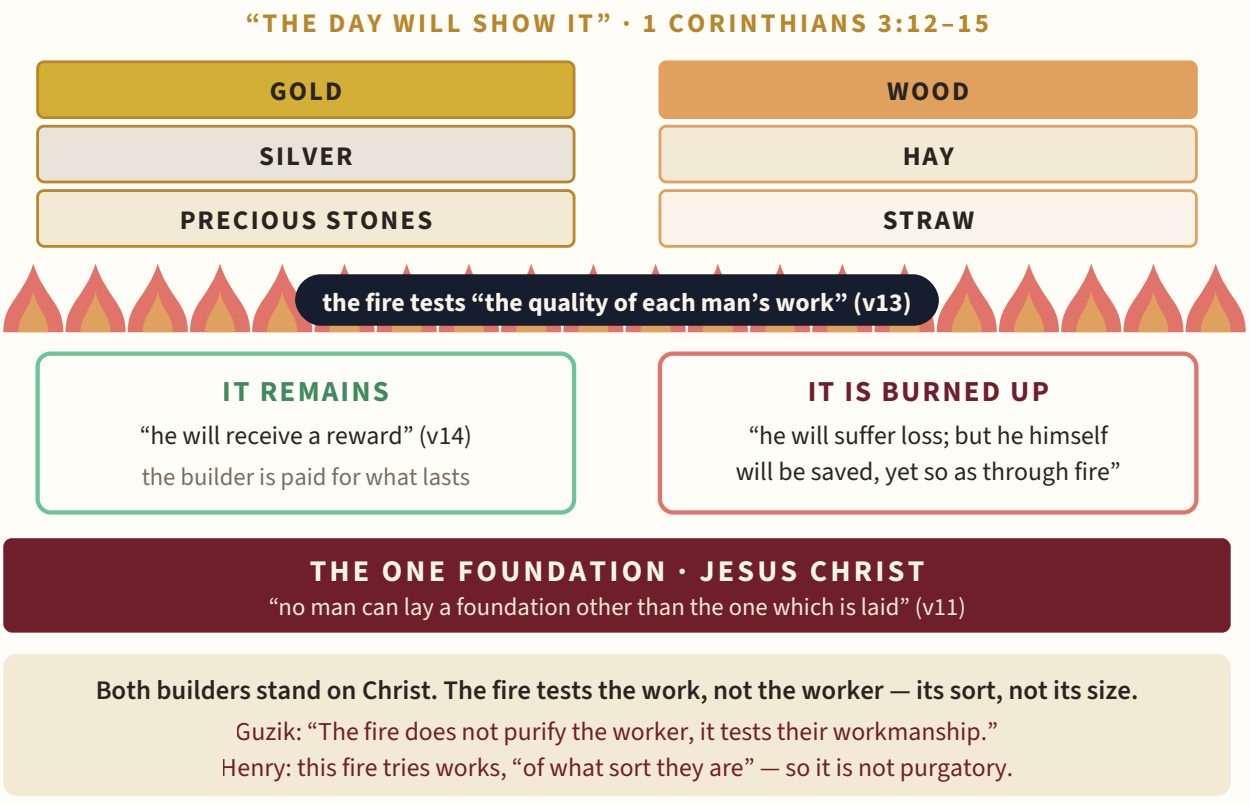
1 COR 2:14–3:4 three kinds of men	THE NATURAL MAN 2:14	MEN OF FLESH 3:1–4 · "infants in Christ"	THE SPIRITUAL MAN 2:15
THE SPIRIT	has not received the Spirit (2:12, 14)	has the Spirit — called "brethren" (3:1)	has received the Spirit from God (2:12)
THE FOOD	God's things are foolishness (2:14)	milk, not solid food; "not yet able" (3:2)	wisdom spoken to the mature (2:6)
THE SIGN	cannot understand them (2:14)	jealousy and strife; "I am of Paul" (3:3–4)	appraises all things (2:15)
THE WALK	lives as what he is: a natural man	"walking like mere men" (3:3)	grows up to solid food (3:2)

Paul still calls the middle group "brethren" and "in Christ" — and will not let them stay there.

Fee, quoted by Guzik: "Remaining worldly is not one of the options."

Read down each column: Paul's natural man and spiritual man from chapter 2, with the Corinthians in between — they have the Spirit but are living on milk and acting like mere men.

FIGURE · THE BUILDING AND THE FIRE



Two builders on the same foundation: on the day, the fire shows what sort of work each built — one is rewarded, the other loses his work but is saved, as one escaping a fire.

Context. Guzik outlines the chapter in three parts: carnality in the church (vv1–4), how to regard leaders (vv5–17, with the church as field, building and temple), and how to glorify God (vv18–23). The thread is the factions of 1:12 — the Corinthians had turned servants into celebrities. Henry: "We should take care not to deify ministers, nor put them into the place of God."

Is there such a thing as a "carnal Christian" (vv1–4)? Here our teachers differ, and I want my men to hear both. Paul calls these people "brethren" and "infants in Christ," so Guzik treats them as genuine believers in a fleshly condition, quoting Redpath: "The carnal Christian is a child of God, born again and on his way to heaven, but he is traveling third class." He sees three kinds of men across 2:14–3:3: natural, spiritual and carnal (see the figure). Sproul, preaching Romans 8, attacks the teaching that a man can be in Christ with "The self ... still on the throne" and no real change: "The idea of a carnal Christian is as far away from the Apostolic teaching as one can get" — "a deadly theology" that "creates a false sense of security." Where they agree: Paul is describing a condition to be rebuked and outgrown, not a category to rest in. Guzik, quoting Fee: "Remaining worldly is not one of the options."

Two words for flesh. *Sarkinos* (v1) is "made of flesh" — common human weakness; *sarkikos* (v3) is "fleshly" — Guzik: "the one who can and should do differently but does not." The KJV's "carnal" for both hides the shift.

Milk and solid food (v2). Guzik: "The difference between milk and solid food is one of degrees, not kind" — "There are not two gospels." God did not withhold the meat; the Corinthians had filled up on the "junk food" of eloquence

and human wisdom. Henry: a minister must teach as his hearers can bear — yet "babes in Christ should endeavour to grow."

What are Paul and Apollos (vv5–9)? Not "who" but "what": *diakonoi*, servants — "through whom you believed, not on whom you believed" (Guzik). Planted and watered are aorists, God's growing is imperfect: men take turns; God never stops working. Spurgeon: "Let your mind be set upon the Master and not upon the servants." Sproul: "Some of us can plant. Some of us can water. … When we plant and water, God will bring an increase." Reward is by labor, not results — Hodge (in Guzik): the faithful laborer in obscurity "will meet a reward far beyond" the man with great visible results.

The foundation and the fire (vv10–15). There is one foundation, Jesus Christ, already laid. Spurgeon: "It is not a question of comparison, but of monopoly." Guzik reads gold, silver and precious stones as temple materials (1 Chr 22:14, 16; 29:2) — fine building stone, not jewelry — and wood, hay and straw as cheap materials that cannot survive fire. The fire shows the *quality* of a man's work, not its quantity; Moody: converts "ought to be weighed as well as counted."

How the fire has been read:

- **The judgment of believers' works for reward** (Guzik, Henry, and most Protestant readers). "The day" is the Lord's coming (4:5; 2 Cor 5:10). The fire tests the work, not the worker; the man whose work burns loses his reward but "he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire" — Spurgeon: "as a man flies out of a burning house."
- **Purgatory.** Roman Catholic teaching has used vv13–15 for a cleansing after death. Guzik rejects it: "The fire does not purify the worker, it tests their workmanship." Henry gives three reasons: the fire is figurative (no real fire consumes doctrines), it tests works rather than punishing sins, and it tests apostles too.
- **Who are the builders?** In context, first those who build the church — teachers like Paul and Apollos; Guzik: "first application to Christian leaders … but the application extends to all servants of God." Henry reads the wood and stubble mainly as corrupt doctrines and inventions built on the true foundation.

The temple (vv16–17). *Naos*, the sanctuary, not *hieron*, the temple grounds. The "you" is plural: the church together is God's dwelling; 6:19 applies the same word to each believer's body. Guzik: "The physical temple was the picture; God's dwelling in us is the reality." The same verb *phtheirō* is used twice — whoever ruins God's temple, God will ruin. Henry thinks Paul has in view false teachers whose loose doctrine would corrupt the church, while allowing that faction itself is in view; either way, "it matters to God how we treat His holy temple" (Guzik).

Two kinds of wisdom (vv18–20). Guzik hears sarcasm: of course the Corinthians thought themselves wise. The way to wisdom is to accept being a fool to the world. Paul quotes Job 5:13 and Psalm 94:11, changing the Psalm's "man" to "the wise." Sproul: "The fool is the person who has no reverence for God," and "A person can have unbounded knowledge and not have wisdom." Henry: "self-flattery is the very next step to self-deceit."

All things are yours (vv21–23). Why boast in a man? You don't belong to Paul — Paul belongs to you, and so do the world, life, death, the present and the future. Guzik: death "is our servant, not our master!" — like the angel who led Peter out (Acts 12). Henry: death "is the kind messenger that will fetch you to your Father's house." Spurgeon: "Death is ours, then, so we will not fear it." And the anchor: "you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God." Henry: "All things are ours, upon no other ground than our being Christ's."

Word study (Greek):

- **spiritual — *pneumatikos* (G4152):** belonging to and led by the Spirit (v1; 2:15).

- **of flesh — *sarkinos* (G4560):** made of flesh; ordinary human weakness (v1).
- **fleshly — *sarkikos* (G4559):** marked by the flesh in conduct; KJV "carnal" (v3 ×2).
- **infants — *nēpios* (G3516):** a baby, one not yet able to speak; opposite of "mature" (2:6).
- **milk — *gala* (G1051); solid food — *brōma* (G1033):** v2; compare Heb 5:12–14.
- **gave to drink / watered — *potizō* (G4222):** the same verb in v2 (Paul) and vv6–8 (Apollos).
- **jealousy — *zēlos* (G2205); strife — *eris* (G2054):** two of the works of the flesh (Gal 5:20).
- **servants — *diakonos* (G1249):** one who serves another, a table-waiter; a minister (v5).
- **planted — *phyteuō* (G5452):** aorist, a finished act (vv6–8).
- **was causing the growth — *auxanō* (G837):** imperfect — God's continuous work (vv6–7).
- **reward — *misthos* (G3408):** wages, pay (vv8, 14).
- **fellow workers — *synergos* (G4904):** co-laborers (v9).
- **field — *geōrgion* (G1091); building — *oikodomē* (G3619):** tilled land; a structure being built (v9).
- **master builder — *architektōn* (G753):** the head builder; our "architect" (v10).
- **foundation — *themelios* (G2310):** vv10–12; compare Isa 28:16; Eph 2:20.
- **straw / stubble — *kalamē* (G2562):** stalks left after harvest — fuel, not building stock (v12).
- **evident — *phaneros* (G5318):** visible, out in the open (v13).
- **test — *dokimazō* (G1381):** to assay metal by fire and approve what passes (v13).
- **remains — *menō* (G3306):** abides, survives the fire (v14).
- **suffer loss — *zēmioō* (G2210):** to forfeit, be fined (v15; Matt 16:26).
- **temple — *naos* (G3485):** the sanctuary itself — as opposed to *hieron* (G2411), the temple grounds (vv16–17).
- **destroy — *phtheirō* (G5351):** to ruin, corrupt — twice in v17, the sin and its judgment.
- **foolish — *mōros* (G3474):** v18; the word of 1:18–27.
- **craftiness — *panourgia* (G3834):** "ready for anything" — unscrupulous cleverness (v19; 2 Cor 11:3).
- **useless — *mataios* (G3152):** empty, futile (v20; Ps 94:11 "a mere breath").
- **boast — *kauchaomai* (G2744):** to glory, brag, rest confidence (v21; 1:31).

Key insights to carry (from the Deep Dive):

1. **The chapter keeps moving the spotlight to God** — thirteen times in twenty-three verses.
2. **Made of flesh is one thing; fleshly is another** — weakness versus a chosen pattern (vv1, 3).
3. **Where the teachers part ways** — Guzik keeps the "carnal Christian" category; Sproul rejects it as a settled state; both say no one may stay there.
4. **Men take turns; God never stops** — aorist planting and watering, imperfect growth (vv6–7).
5. **Paid for labor, not results** (v8).
6. **Not comparison, but monopoly** — Christ the only foundation (Spurgeon, v11).
7. **The fire tests the work, not the worker** — its sort, not its size; not purgatory (vv13–15).
8. **Naos, not hieron** — we together are God's sanctuary (v16).
9. **The punishment matches the crime** — ruin God's temple and God ruins you (v17).
10. **The slogans turned inside out** — Paul is yours; you are Christ's (vv21–23).

Cross-references: 1 Chr 22:14–16; 29:2; Job 5:13; Ps 25:9; 94:11; Isa 5:1–7; 28:16; Matt 16:26; Acts 12:6–11; 18:1–11, 24–28; 1 Cor 1:10–13, 18–31; 2:6, 14–16; 4:5; 6:19–20; 2 Cor 5:10; 11:3; Gal 5:19–21; Eph 2:19–22; Heb 5:12–14; 1 Pet 2:2, 4–6; Rev 4:10–11.

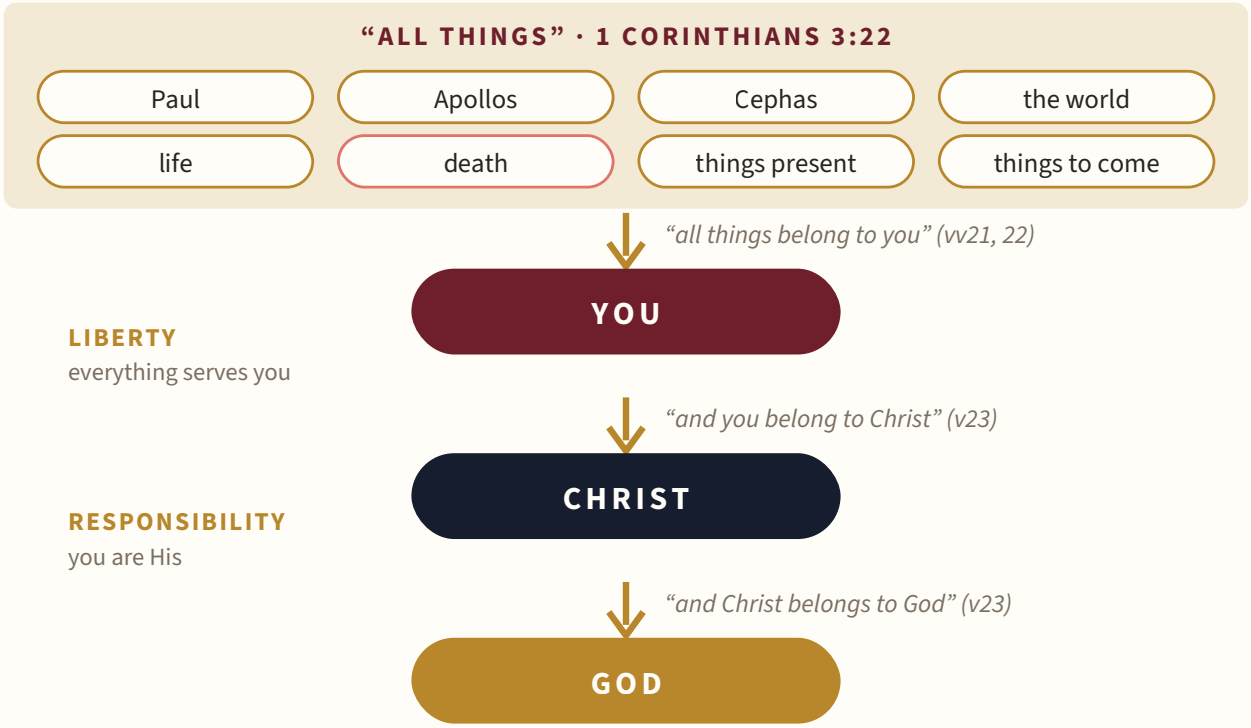
03 Application

HOW DOES IT CHANGE ME?

KEY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 3:23

"and ☆ you belong to Christ; and △ Christ belongs to God."

FIGURE · THE CHAIN OF BELONGING



Guzik: "All are yours: This is Christian liberty. And you are Christ's: This is Christian responsibility."

Follow the arrows down: everything belongs to the believer, the believer belongs to Christ, and Christ belongs to God — so no one has reason to boast in men.

Sin to confess — the fan club in me. "I am of Paul," "I am of Apollos" (v4). Every age has its versions: my preacher, my program, my sponsor, my denomination, my way of doing recovery. Paul calls that fleshly — not a matter of taste. And he says the proof of the flesh isn't bad doctrine; it's jealousy and strife (v3). Lord, I confess the times I've measured men by whether they were "mine," and the times I've wanted men to be loyal to me instead of to You.

Example to follow — a servant, not a celebrity. "What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants" (v5). I plant, somebody else waters, and only God makes anything grow (v6). That takes the pressure off. When a man I've walked with relapses, it isn't mine to own as failure; when he stays sober, it isn't my trophy. I do my part faithfully and let God do His. Sproul said it plain: "Some of us can plant. Some of us can water."

Promise to trust — the hidden laborer is seen. "Each will receive his own reward according to his own labor" (v8) — not according to results. Some of the men I serve will never stand on a stage. A man faithfully praying for his cellmate, a man showing up to group one more time, a man caring for a sick wife — God pays for labor, not applause.

Warning to heed — what am I building with? There is one foundation, Jesus Christ (v11), and every one of us is building something on it. "Each man must be careful how he builds on it" (v10). The fire won't ask how big it was; it will test the "quality" of it (v13). A ministry built on my personality, my cleverness or my need to be needed is straw. A life built on the Word, prayer, honesty and love for Christ is stone. I want to be weighed, not just counted.

For the men I walk with — you are not just a building; you are a temple. "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (v16). For a man who has spent years treating his body and his mind like a trash can — with a bottle, with a screen, with whatever numbed the pain — this is the news that changes the way he sees himself. And Paul's "you" here is plural: God lives in us *together* — the group, the fellowship, the church. Gossip, division and contempt don't just hurt people; they tear at God's house (v17).

Promise to trust — even death is yours. "All things belong to you … life or death or things present or things to come" (vv21–22). For anyone facing a hard diagnosis or the end of a sentence that seems to have no end: death is not your master; in Christ it has become your servant — Henry calls it "the kind messenger that will fetch you to your Father's house." "And you belong to Christ" (v23) — that is the whole title deed.

Questions for the table (from the Deep Dive):

1. If someone watched how I handle conflict in the group, would they call me spiritual, or say I'm "walking like mere men"? (3:1–4; Gal 5:19–21) *Paul's proof of the flesh was not doctrine but jealousy and strife.*
2. Whose name have I been wearing like a badge — a preacher, a sponsor, a program, my own way of doing things? (3:4–5; 1:12) *Through whom you believed, not on whom you believed.*
3. Where am I frustrated because I want to water when God called me to plant — or want to make the growth happen myself? (3:6–8) *Planting and watering are done; growth is God's continuous work.*
4. What am I building on Christ right now with gold, silver and stone — and what with wood, hay and straw? (3:10–15; 2 Cor 5:10) *The fire tests what sort, not how much.*
5. How does it change the way I treat my brothers at this table to know that together we are God's temple? (3:16–17; 1 Pet 2:5) *Whoever ruins God's temple, God will ruin.*
6. What would it mean for me to believe this week that even death belongs to me because I belong to Christ? (3:21–23) *Henry: death is "the kind messenger that will fetch you to your Father's house."*

Worship. The field is His, the building is His, the temple is His. He gave the growth when nobody saw it; He laid the foundation in His Son before I ever picked up a brick; He lives in His people as in a holy house. All things are ours — and we are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Prayer. Lord God, You give the growth; I only plant and water. Keep me from boasting in men, including myself. Make me careful how I build, so that what I do for You will survive the fire. Remind me and the men I serve that we are Your temple — that Your Spirit lives in us — and that everything, even death, belongs to us because we belong to Christ. Amen.

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