

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 3:1-15

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY – PART 2

*HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Maturity, Carnality, Judgement, Fruitfulness, Discipleship**

#### 1 Corinthians 3:1:15

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 is envy, strife, and divisions* among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere men*? :4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I *am* of Apollos," are you not carnal? :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**.

## CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY

1.) They just won't grow up

v.1-2

1a.) Because they won't eat what they should

1b.) Because they don't have a very good diet

1c.) Because they can't keep things down

2.) They just won't play nice

v.3

2a.) Because their emotions get the best of them

2b.) Because their selfishness defines them

2c.) Because their jealousies surround them

## CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

3.) They just won't stop pretending

v.4-8

3a.) Because they have to be in competition

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

Remember "Superman Pajamas or Batman Underwear"  
They're kids' heroes and they wanna be just like em'

It's pretty sad when you're a grown man  
and you're still wearing your batman underwear or you slip into your underoos every  
night.

**There's a lot of grown-ups in churches**  
who are still wearing their capes to bed.

We've all seen this: "my mom can make better cookies than your mom."  
or "my dad can beat up your dad."

**(my favorite is Paul's - O ya, mine's Apollo)**

*"My Pastor's better than your pastor"*

Their story has to be bigger. They're situation was worse, look at me.

A mature Christian uses his  
**gifts as tools *to build with***  
While an immature Christian uses his  
**gifts as toys *to play with.***

## THEY JUST WONT STOP PRETENDING

### 3b.) Because they cant see the bigger picture

: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**.

Men can only plant, water, and wait.

#### James 5:7

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

### 3c.) Because they love being the center of attention

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

The word of God, the Bible is all-powerful.  
Once planted in the head and in the heart, that Seed, by design, will begin to grow....

**The Carnal Christian is the 'High Maintenance' Believer Among Us.**

They have a deep inner need to be at the center of everything. They have to be involved in everything, they have to be in the mix of everything. They can't function without attention because they don't know who they are – they've lost their Christ-centered identity.

Maybe you - being the center of everything hasn't worked out all that well for you – honestly, you're tired

**1 Peter 1:23-25**

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, :24 because *“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, :25 But the word of the LORD endures forever.”* Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

## CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY

### 4.) They hinder the work of the Kingdom

v.8-10

#### 4a.) By goofing off rather than getting to work

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

(he) **who (YOU)?** plants and (he) **who (YOU)?** waters  
(seasons come and go – and you're running out of time and resources)  
**Time, Resources and Opportunity are the Issues**

**Matthew 6:24**

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

**John 9:2-5**

And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” :3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. :4 **I must work** the works of Him who sent Me **while it is day**; *the night is coming when* no one can work. :5 **As long** as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Jesus – Please Don't Come Back Yet

(1) I haven't done anything for you yet (2) I've just been living for me  
(3) I've wasted my time, (4) I think I've buried my Time, Resources and Opportunities...

**Joshua 10:6-8,12-13**

And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us." :7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. :8 And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you.".... :12 Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." :13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.

## CARNAL CHRISTIANS HINDER THE KINGDOM

### 4b.) By wasting away God's personal calling

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

What's a field for? // What's a building for?

### 4c.) By having not gotten involved – resisted the work

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...**

Take heed

To examine, survey, to "plumb-line" the effort

I am always amazed and amused  
at "pastors" and "church planting pioneers" who say...  
"yes - we started a work here or there"

Not exactly, you took the building materials of the Bible because the Holy Spirit had been preparing a work to be done and you entered into what GOD was already doing!!!

# CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY

## 5.) They go about to build their own kingdom

v.11-15

### 5a.) But their foundation is cracked

: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.

These verses already assume that you're in the game,  
The challenge is - - what's your motive for showing up?

“Don't hide/bury your God-given abilities, energy, money, and  
passion”

#### Matthew 25:18-26

But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.  
:19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them....  
:24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. :25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.’ :26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant...

### 5b.) But they've forgotten about the Judgment to come

: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**.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:10-11

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. :11 **Knowing**, therefore, the **terror** (*phobos = exceeding terror, the greatest of fears*) of the Lord, we persuade men;

**Identify what it is that's separating  
you from a closer relationship with God.**

**Physically shut down those avenues that  
connect you to that person or those things.**

**Decide now to come back into a real and living  
daily relationship with Jesus from now on.**

**Publicly build your altar of commitment today  
while you still can recover from a life of apathy and carnality.**

Here's The Fix – Show Up to The Game, Event

**Make This Your Day of Dedication**

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*End of Study*

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