

## 1 Corinthians 3 New American Standard Bible

### Foundations for Living

And I, brothers *and sisters*, could not speak to you as spiritual people, but *only* as fleshly, as to infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to consume it*. But even now you are not yet able, <sup>3</sup>for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like *ordinary* people? <sup>4</sup>For when one person says, “I am with Paul,” and another, “I *am* with Apollos,” are you not *ordinary* people?

<sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. <sup>7</sup>So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. <sup>8</sup>Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s <sup>[d]</sup>field, God’s building.

<sup>10</sup>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 person must be careful how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup>For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, *or* straw, <sup>13</sup>each one’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 one’s work. <sup>14</sup>If anyone’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet *only* so as through fire.

<sup>16</sup>Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? <sup>17</sup>If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

<sup>18</sup>*Take care that* no one deceives himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. <sup>19</sup>For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God. For it is written: “*He is the one who catches the wise by their craftiness*”; <sup>20</sup>and again, “The Lord

knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are useless.”<sup>21</sup> So then, no one is to be boasting in people. For all things belong to you,<sup>22</sup> 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,<sup>23</sup> and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

1. What questions were provoked within you?
2. Did anything confuse you?
3. Did anything move you emotionally?
4. Did God instruct you to do something?
5. Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

### **Paul's observations and insights**

1. Paul’s objective is to get this church gathering, proactive in equipping themselves with the truth, so that they can fight the battles of life with the power of God’s word.
2. It doesn’t matter what the battle is, the victory always comes in the same way. We need to understand what the will of God is in that situation and then do it.
3. Paul is frustrated by their lack of understanding regarding the truth they know about God.
4. To receive the spirit from the world is to believe a lie regarding the truth about God.
5. When you receive the truth about God you receive the Holy Spirit in you.
6. Are you a spiritual person? If you are still uncertain it is because your spirit has little influence in your life affairs.
7. Spiritual people know the promptings that operate within ‘the who they are’. They know that they are spiritually alive and they know that they are connected to God, and when your knower knows, you really know!
8. A fleshly person is still being controlled by their natural being, they are driven by their senses, they are led by their soul and not their spirit.
9. What they think, what they feel and what they do, is driving them. God has very little impact within their lives.
10. ‘To be an infant in Christ’ is to have very little understanding of the ways of God and how He works things out in your life.
11. There is still a great dependency, this is fine at the start of your journey as a Christian, but there is an expectation on you, from God, to grow and develop.

12. To be unable to receive from God is a problem to God, because it means, although you are connected to Him, you fail to receive His amazing blessings for you.
13. You are not able to trust and believe the promises He has made to you.
14. The blessings are sure enough and the promises have been made, but the means God has given for you to receive are not being adhered to and so you cannot receive.
15. The works of the flesh show themselves eventually. Jesus said 'the root of the tree will always bear the fruit of its' kind.'
16. Reconnection to God is supposed to graft us into His character so we produce His good fruit.
17. This church was fighting each other and hurting one another, 'walking like mere men' is to live according to your old ways and not the new ways of God in you.
18. Their dispute was their allegiance to Paul or Apollos. Sadly they had missed the point that we are connected to God through Jesus Christ and no-one else.
19. The role of leaders is to serve the people with God's freedom revelation and the glory of this freedom belongs to Jesus and no-one else.
20. Once the truth has gone into your spirit it is God's grace that makes it grow in you to bring about victory.
21. Being part of the body of Christ means, through Jesus we are connected to each other and together we are connected to God.
22. Team work to bring about God's victory.
23. Once a foundation of truth has been laid in you, it is then that you build on it. To lay another foundation will bring confusion and confusion is of the devil.
24. Jesus Christ is the foundation we have laid, it is God who will build on this.
25. As you journey through life as a Christian, your life will take shape if you are building from the inspirations and promptings of your spirit, as it is being taught by the Holy Spirit within you and what you build will be good.
26. But if you are building with your fleshly ways, the ways you lived before you were a Christian, when you are tested you will be burnt up, meaning under trials you will crumble, as the man who built his house on the sand.
27. Build according to the flesh and your work and life will be consumed. Build according to the Spirit and your work and life will stand the test of fire, both in this life and at the judgement to come.
28. So the unfruitful Christian will have little to show for his life as a Christian, little to take with him into eternity, although his spirit will be saved and welcomed into the Father because of the cross.
29. You are a temple of God, heaven has made your body a temple so as your spirit is in you, so is the Holy Spirit within your spirit, sharing in the life you live – Isaiah 66 verse 1.

30. To destroy your temple is to neglect it, to let it go into ruin by neglect and abuse.
31. The temple of God is holy and God has made in you a holy temple to live in so He can be with you.
32. The cross cleansed your temple to make a place in you for God to dwell.
33. Self-deception is the greatest deception of them all and there are many kinds of deceivers who have come into the world to deceive you, so that your temple falls into decay and neglect.
34. Trusting in human wisdom is foolish compared to trusting in God and His wisdom.
35. An example, love your enemies – why? Because it keeps your heart free from sickness and suffering.
36. God understands the reasoning how to be wise and how to evaluate a situation, but the wise always work from a prejudice or a preference and that is why human wisdom is unfruitful. God has no such prejudice.
37. Don't trust in men, trust in God. God has provided everything we need to live and to die, it has already been given. We enter into it by faith, trusting in God's promises.
38. If we belong to Christ then in Him we belong to God, so there is no need to be afraid, because He is with us and all will go well for us.