

Growth in God's Field: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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Key Truth:

In God's field, spiritual effectiveness comes with spiritual growth.

In this passage Paul expresses subtle amazement that after all this time, the Corinthian Christians are still spiritual infants. Their lack of unity is not a result of outside influences, but of their own stunted spiritual growth. Because they've failed to grow spiritually, they could not understand or apply Paul's teaching, which led to spiritual ineffectiveness. Believers who are called to produce fruit in God's field are challenged to grow spiritually, not only for their own well-being, but for the sake of Christ's body and God's glory.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 3:1-9** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on experiencing **Growth in God's Field**.

DIG IN

1. The Marks of Spiritual Infancy. (1 Corinthians 3:1-4)

While it is natural for new Christians to be spiritual infants, they should not stay that way. Believers who have been Christians for a while who have not grown are stunted in one or more of the following areas: developmentally (remaining a "natural" person), theologically (not growing deeper than the elementary principles of the faith), and behaviorally (not living according to the clear teaching of Scripture).

What are some specific instances in which you've seen these marks? How have you exhibited them?

Of these three areas of deficiency (Developmental, Theological, Behavioral) which do you think is the most prevalent problem in the American church today? Why?

Read Romans 12:2: We can say that spiritual transformation is the key to spiritual growth and health. In what ways does the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God promote **Developmental, Theological, and Behavioral** growth?

2. Growth in Spiritual Maturity. (1 Corinthians 3:4-9)

Read vv. 4-9: In these verses we saw three areas where spiritual transformation occurs to bring about spiritual maturity: from *follower to servant*, from *competitive to cooperative*, from *divided to united*. Which one of these areas challenges you the most? Explain your answer.

Do you agree with the assertion that the essential ingredient in precipitating this transformation is TRUST? Why or why not?

In what ways are you challenged to grow in your trust for God and his Word, or in your trust of God's people?

DO

Think of one thing you can do this week to promote your own spiritual growth in the area of development, theology, or behavior. Share that with the group now.