

# God's Building: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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## Key Truth:

What we build into our lives is what we build into the Church.

The Church is built by God. He uses human sweat, human effort, human skill, human resources, and human lives to build His Church. We are privileged that he uses us. Sometimes we build good materials into the Church. Sometimes we use Bad Materials. But in the end, no matter what the quality of material, the Church will still stand. Nevertheless, it does matter how we build and what kinds of materials we use.

## DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 3:9-17** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on what it means to be **God's Building**.

## DIG IN

### 1. We are God's builders. (1 Corinthians 3:9-15)

The apostle Paul laid the foundation of the church with his ministry to the Gentiles, which is the irreplaceable foundation of Jesus Christ. Today, there are once-Christian churches and denominations that have replaced the foundation of Jesus Christ with cultural relativism and even immorality. What are some other "foundations" upon which we sometimes try to build the church?

Why is it dangerous to make anything other than Jesus Christ himself the foundation of the Church?

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:12-14:** Paul points out that is possible to build the church with seeming imperishable (gold, silver, precious stones) and perishable materials (wood, hay, straw). What are some practical examples of perishable materials? Imperishable materials?

Beyond individual rewards at the Judgment Day, in what ways is the church stronger now when we build with imperishable materials?

### 2. We are God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

**Read Matthew 16:18:** God's building, or temple, is built by Jesus Christ, inhabited by the Holy Spirit, and protected by God. This makes the Church unique from any other human assembly. In what specific ways is the Church "set apart" (holy) because of these unique characteristics?

**Read 1 Peter 2:5-9:** The "living stones" of God's holy temple are especially created to join together with other "living stones." As the Holy Spirit indwells his people, he inhabits the temple. In what ways does the individual believer possess and important role as a "living stone" in the Holy Spirit's temple?

In what ways are you given greater confidence in your faith knowing that the Church, God's holy temple, is protected by God himself?

## DO

As we get to know the Church's **Foundation**, its **Materials**, and its **Inhabitant**, we develop skills as God's builders. Choose one of these three to work on this week. Share your plans with the group.