

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 6 - On Divisions in the Church - [1 Corinthians 3:1-23](#)

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

1CO 3:1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. [2] I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. [3] You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? [4] For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

1CO 3:5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. [6] I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. [7] So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. [8] The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. [9] For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

1CO 3:10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. [11] For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, [13] his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. [14] If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. [15] If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

1CO 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? [17] If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

1CO 3:18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. [19] For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness" ; [20] and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." [21] So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, [22] whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all are yours, [23] and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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58. Why did Paul call the Corinthians "mere infants"? ([3:1-3](#))
59. What were the Corinthians like? ([3:3-5](#))
60. What traits did the Corinthians have that made them worldly? ([3:3-5](#))
61. How did Paul want his readers to view both Apollos and himself? Why? ([3:5-7](#))
62. What is each Christian worker's purpose in ministering to others? ([3:8](#))
63. How is the person who plants like the person who waters? ([3:8-9](#))
64. Who were the "fellow workers" who worked together on the Corinthian "field" or "building"? ([3:9](#))
65. What made Paul and Apollos equals under God? ([3:9](#))
66. What is the foundation of the church? ([3:11](#))
67. What is like either gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw? How? ([3:12-14](#))
68. What happens to the person who builds in others' lives? ([3:13-15](#))
69. What important fact had the Corinthians failed to appreciate? ([3:16](#))
70. Why should we abandon the world's idea of wisdom? ([3:19](#))
71. Why were the Corinthians to stop boasting about the individual leaders they followed? ([3:21-23](#))