

GOD'S BUILDING

The True Gospel
Joins People
Together In Christ

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

GOD'S BUILDING

I CORINTHIANS 3:1-23 (NKJV)

¹ 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 are* 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?

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I CORINTHIANS 3:1-23 (NKJV)

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.

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I CORINTHIANS 3:1-23 (NKJV)

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,

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I CORINTHIANS 3:1-23 (NKJV)

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. ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

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I CORINTHIANS 3:1-23 (NKJV)

¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are. ¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "*He catches the wise in their own craftiness*"; ²⁰ and again, "*The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.*"

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I CORINTHIANS 3:1-23 (NKJV)

²¹ Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--all are yours. ²³ And you *are* Christ's, and Christ *is* God's.

GOD'S BUILDING

Problem of Carnality - (3:1-4)

- ✦ **Many of the Corinthians had not developed a spiritual, (mature) mind - (2:6,14; 14:20; Mat 16:23)**



1 Corinthians 3:1
(NKJV)

¹And I, brethren,
could not speak to
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in Christ.

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Problem of Carnality - (3:1-4)



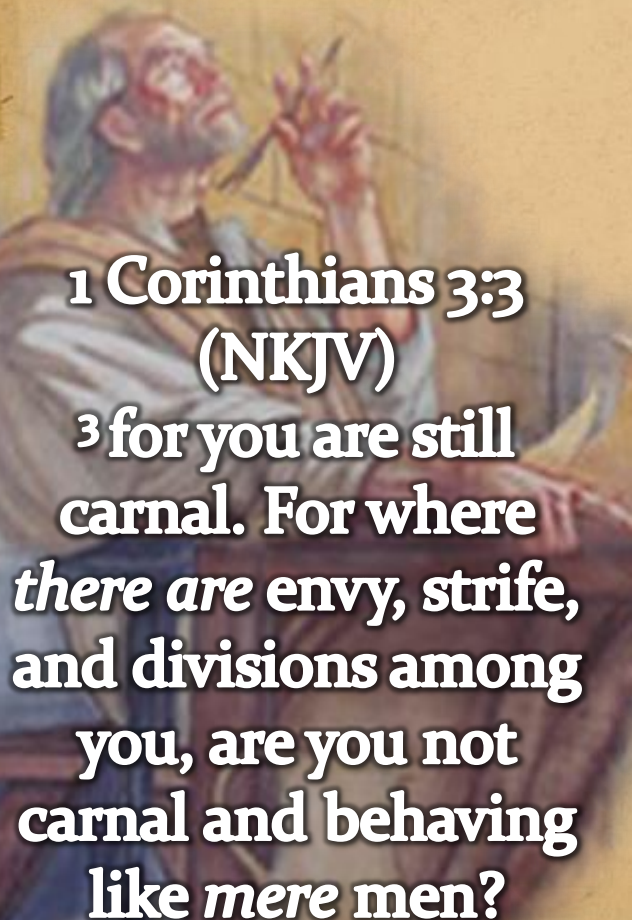
**1 Corinthians 3:2
(NKJV)**

**²I 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;**

- ✦ **Many of the Corinthians had not developed a spiritual, (mature) mind** - (2:6,14; 14:20; Mat 16:23)
- ✦ **They were undeveloped like babes** – (*They could only bear the simple, rudimentary principles*) – (John 16:12; Heb 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2)

GOD'S BUILDING

Problem of Carnality - (3:1-4)



1 Corinthians 3:3
(NKJV)
3 for you are still
carnal. For where
there are envy, strife,
and divisions among
you, are you not
carnal and behaving
like *mere* men?

- ✦ **Many of the Corinthians had not developed a spiritual, (mature) mind** - (2:6,14; 14:20; Mat 16:23)
- ✦ **They were undeveloped like babes** – (*They could only bear the simple, rudimentary principles*) – (John 16:12; Heb 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2)
- ✦ **The proof that they were yet carnal was the existence of divisions in the church** – (*envies, strife & division*) – (1:11; 6:1-8; 11:18; Gal. 5:20; James 3:16)

GOD'S BUILDING

Problem of Carnality - (3:1-4)



1 Corinthians 3:4
(NKJV)

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

- ✦ **Many of the Corinthians had not developed a spiritual, (mature) mind** - (2:6,14; 14:20; Mat 16:23)
- ✦ **They were undeveloped like babes** – (*They could only bear the simple, rudimentary principles*) – (John 16:12; Heb 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2)
- ✦ **The proof that they were yet carnal was the existence of divisions in the church** – (*envies, strife & division*) – (1:11; 6:1-8; 11:18; Gal. 5:20; James 3:16)

GOD'S BUILDING

The Foundation of God's Building - (3:5-15)



1 Corinthians 3:5
(NKJV)

5 Who then is Paul,
and who is Apollos,
but ministers
through whom you
believed, as the Lord
gave to each one?

- ◆ **Who was Paul and Apollos?** - (5; 1:10-12; 4:1,2; 2 Cor. 4:5-7)
- ◆ **God works through the word** - (5,6; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Thes. 2:13,14)
- ◆ **The unity of those who preach the truth** - (*They preach the same gospel – working in the same field – they were building on the same foundation* - 8,9; 1 Cor 4:17; 12:13; Eph. 2:19-22; 4:1-6,11-16)

God's BUILDING

The Foundation of God's Building - (3:5-15)

Philippians 2:14~16; 4:1

1 Thessalonians 2:19~20


Galatians 4:11



Work

**Planting &
Watering**

**Building upon the
foundation**



**Each "builder" will be
rewarded according to his
own labor – (8-15)**



Christ

God's BUILDING

The Foundation of God's Building - (3:5-15)

John 15:1~10

Romans 11:17~22

1 Corinthians 9:27; 10:12

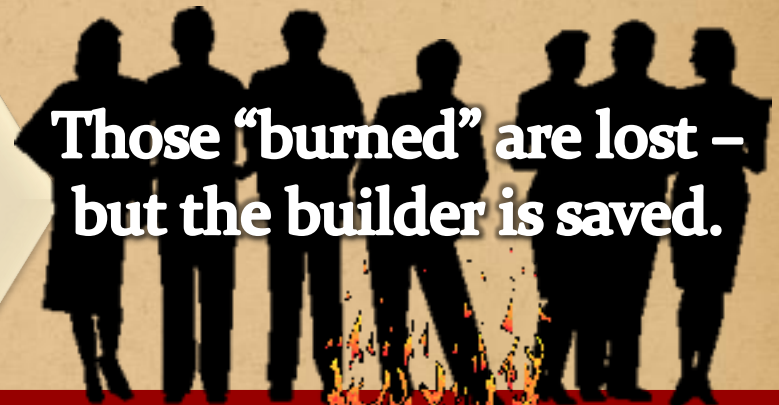
Work

**Planting &
Watering**

**Building upon the
foundation**

**Those "burned" are lost –
but the builder is saved.**

Christ



GOD'S BUILDING

The Danger of Defiling God's Building - (3:16,17)



1 Corinthians 3:17
(NKJV)

¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

- ♦ **The temple is the church, i.e. God's building** - (16,17; 9; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-10)
- ♦ **Those causing schisms in the church at Corinth were guilty of defiling the temple** - (17; 1:10-12; 3:1-4; 5:1-8; 11:17-21; 14:21; 15:12)

GOD'S BUILDING

God's Building Not of Human Wisdom - (3:18-23)

1 Corinthians 3:18-23 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, *"He catches the wise in their own craftiness"*; (Job 5:13)



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God's Building Not of Human Wisdom - (3:18-23)

1 Corinthians 3:18-23 (NKJV)

²⁰ and again, "*The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.*" ²¹ Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--all are yours. (Romans 8:28-39)

**Not in the
builders, but the
foundation**

GOD'S BUILDING

God's Building Not of Human Wisdom - (3:18-23)

1 Corinthians 3:18-23 (NKJV)

²³ And you *are* Christ's,
and Christ *is* God's.

**They belonged to God in Christ
– not Paul, Cephas or Apollos**



GOD'S BUILDING

No Room For Sectarianism In
God's Building

The Foundation of God's
Building Is Jesus Christ
The Danger of Defiling
God's Building

God's Building Not of
Human Wisdom

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

God's BUILDING

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